

Forest PTO Meeting, Thursday, September 17, 2015
Music Room

Principal's Report

• Updates

- New Admin Intern Shalinda Sherrod
- Great start to the school year
- Grab & Go Breakfast program
- Giving it 3 weeks to see how its going
- Kids missing warm breakfast
- Communication
- Weekly voicemail (Goes out Sunday afternoons)
- Newsletter –Highlight School Info, Grade level information will come from teachers
- Parent Handbook – Took Calendar out as it can become out of date quickly
- Monthly Calendar sent home every month

• Take Charge of Education (Target)

- Program will end May 14, 2016

• Conferences

- 20 minutes matches what other schools are doing.
- Online sign up starts Friday 18th

• Arrival/Dismissal

- Concerned about keeping students safe. Staff wants to make changes to the arrival and dismissal process. Hard to keep unwanted people out of the building.
- Parent pickup and sign out in gym. Kids grouped by grade.

• Finance Items

- Teacher Reimbursements: Need to accept funds from the PTO as a donation and then request a check through RAS. Teachers will not be reimbursed for tax.

• 10 Year Anniversary

- Friday, Sept 25th from 6:00 – 8:00
- Short program at 6:30
- Previous 3 principals will be in attendance
- Thank you for the t-shirts
- Mrs. Lutz, working on the School cheer with the 2nd, 3rd & 4th graders. Kids welcome to the program to perform cheer.
- Kids will get their new shirts for the Anniversary. Teachers will then recollect them and keep them until the Walk-a-Thon then they go home with the kids

• Feedback & Questions

- What are we doing to retain higher advancing students and how to keep them challenged. New curriculum helps to keep kids in flexible groups. Response to intervention will help both students who need help and kids who need to be pushed.
- Robbinsdale offers many enrichment opportunities that Forest will try to incorporate back into the school.
- Stamina reading. Reading to self
- All schools have the same curriculum.
- Being more transparent on the curriculum, what the district is doing, what Forest is doing.
- How can you get the info out to the parents.
- Partial departmental Groups in 4th & 5th Grade. Helps kids be more independent and gets them ready for Middle School.

Officer's Reports

• Co-presidents

- PTO Overview and Mission
- Fundraisers – why we have them and what we pay for.
- PTO Monthly Meetings
- 6-7 Forest Music Room
- Agendas & Meetings Minutes – posted to PTO section on Forest website

Treasurer

• Budget Update

- 2 big fundraisers Walk-a-thon and Spring fundraisers
- Author visit in the Library? Is there Grant money or money from the district?

Business Topics

- Fitness for Forest
- Sept 18 - Kick off (envelopes sent home with students)
- Oct 1 – Fundraising envelopes due
- Oct 2 – Walk-a-thon (last day to return envelopes)
- Students to wear t-shirts
- Families invited to walk with students meet in classroom
- Walk begins at 2:00
- Oct 9 – Results & prizes at assembly

Volunteer Opportunities

- Several families signed up on Open House night – thank you!
- Email was sent out this morning

- Event Coordinator assigned will reach out to volunteers
- Coming up
- Scholastic Book Fair – Oct 1st, 6th, 8th (Beth & Melissa)
- Setup 3:00-4:00
- 2hr shifts
- Tear Down 8:00-9:00
- Special Persons Day – Oct 23rd (Katie Wencker)
- Fall Festival classroom parties – Oct 30th (Classroom Teachers)

- Playworks
- Put on agenda for October.