

Kruse PTO Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, September 13, 2016

Agenda Items

- **May PTO Minutes:** The PTO approved the May 2016 meeting minutes.
- **Buddy Bench:** Apparently, Kruse is not on the list to receive a free “Buddy Bench” this year after all. So there is no need to decide whether we want to pay for the concrete slab this bench would have required.
- **Yearbook Coordinators:** Kruse has three Yearbook Coordinators signed up this year! Molly Schaeffer agreed to return to this project again as well as two new volunteers.
- **Walk-A-Thon:** There is a kickoff meeting for the PTO Walk-A-Thon fundraiser on September 30th and the event takes place on October 21st. We are waiting on a Health Kids “Wellness” grant (Kara Thompson is writing the grant). If we receive the grant, kids will get T-shirts for the Walk-A-Thon. It is too late to submit a T-shirt design this year, but we can still get a text design.
 - Parents suggested having a Pajama Day to go with Dr. Seuss Week this year, since Pajama Day seems to be one event kids liked from the old Read-A-Thon fundraiser.
- **Lego Robotics:** Lego Robotics is coming back to Kruse! Mr. King has agreed to lead this activity. Parents pay for students to participate in Lego Robotics. Parents mentioned that there have been behavior problems with kids participating in Lego Robotics at people’s homes in the past. Also, Kruse will need to find room in the building for a table to be set up with Lego Robotics supplies. The PTO could pay for competitions to help support this club similar to the way PTO does for Odyssey of the Mind.
- **Kruse PTO Budget:** The current Kruse PTO budget was approved.
- **Warren Garden Budget Request:** PTO received a \$200 budget request for Warren Garden. However, the Cub Scouts offered to pay to cover this cost during the PTO meeting, so PTO agreed to let Cub Scouts take over. The Cub Scouts may be able to help with maintenance too.
- **Budget Audit Required:** The PTO treasurer, Sarah Walsh, asked for and received a volunteer to help with a Kruse PTO budget audit.
- **Eco Week:** The PTO invited parents to discuss Eco Week at Kruse. Many questions and concerns were raised. Here are some of the comments from the meeting:
 - Background:
 - Eco Week used to be a three day/two night experience for Kruse students.
 - For the last two years, the format of Eco Week has changed so that it has involved one all day trip to Pingree Park on Monday, followed by two other field trips on Tuesday and Wednesday (e.g. Learning Center in

Greeley, etc.). On Thursday and Friday, there have been onsite learning activities at Kruse.

- Pros:
 - Parents commented that overnight Eco Week used to be a culminating experience for kids at Kruse that parents and kids looked forward to.
 - Parents want their younger children to have the same experience as their older siblings and be able to go to Pingree Park.
 - Parents liked the hikes and other physical preparation kids were challenged to do to get ready for Eco Week in the past.
 - Other PSD elementary schools (e.g. Shepardson, a STEM elementary school), still go to Pingree Park. These schools feel that Eco Week at Pingree Park ties in with the PSD curriculum.
 - A PSD counselor attended the meeting and mentioned the social and emotional standards the Pingree Park Eco Week experience ties into.
- Cons:
 - One concern about the old format of Eco Week is the anxiety that some kids felt about being away from home for so long. It seemed like there were some kids who weren't ready to be away from home for so long.
 - The old overnight Eco Week was \$120 and the new non-overnight format is \$60.
 - Since Kruse has not gone to Pingree Park for the last two years, we have lost our reserved week. Kruse would have to pick a different week (maybe in September) to attend.
 - 5th grade teachers went to a lot of time and effort planning the new format of Eco Week. One idea is to create a Survey Monkey survey about Eco Week to try to get feedback from a larger proportion of Kruse parents than what we have heard from in the past.
- **Primary Basketball Hoops:** Mr. Woods asked for and received help covering costs to reinstall primary basketball hoops that were taken down when the playground was remodeled.
- **Fit Club/Running Club:** The Kruse Fit Club/Running club starts tomorrow.
- **Traffic Problems:** The start and end times of TR Paul Academy of Arts and Knowledge (TPAAK), the school next door to Kruse, are causing traffic problems. TPAAK does not have a dedicated parking lot. TPAAK parents park along the street and across the street from the school in a shopping area parking lot. TPAAK kids and parents run across the street and Kruse PTO parents are concerned about safety issues. Traffic is snarled enough with just one school in the area, but with two elementary schools that have similar start and end times, it is a real problem.
- **Next PTO meeting:** October 4, 2016