

Tilden Middle School PTSA General Meeting
November 13, 2019, Tilden Media Center

Celina Schmidt called the meeting to order at 7:06pm and welcomed all in attendance.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Irina LaGrange noted that marking period 1 just concluded. Parent/teacher conferences were well attended but there is not a simple way to make the process equitable and fair. Some parents had long wait times and others did not and Mrs. LaGrange is open to feedback about how to improve the process.

Mrs. LaGrange thanks those supporting the Tilden's Day of Caring event which is coming up soon. Also, an idea for the 8th grade trip this year is to go to Dave and Busters and to see a movie. See her if you have an 8th grader and have other ideas.

She gave an update about the co-location school and that it should be done by the end of May. When the fire marshal gives his/her blessing, then you can come by and see the school. Further, she discussed the brick idea for the courtyard area. Families would be about to buy an engraved brick for the courtyard and the money goes to the school.

Mrs. LaGrange mentioned that there was a community incident on Tuesday but that the school became aware of it on Wednesday November 13th. A student brought an item to school that shouldn't be there. Police were called once the school was aware of the incident and they were at the school all day. No one was hurt. The school treats these incidents very seriously. She is available if you have questions.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Celina Schmidt provided the minutes from the last meeting and asked that members review for edits. No one asked for edits. A motion to approve the minutes was made and the minutes were approved.

Celina reminded the group that the volunteer notebook is located in the front office and that everyone that is volunteering should sign in so that we can keep track of volunteer hours.

She briefed the group on upcoming events and mentioned that the flyer highlights all of these:

-11/27 Tilden's Day of Caring still needs volunteers and donation items.

-12/5 Candle Making event is a fun event where you make three candles. Link was provided on a handout for sign up.

-Barnes and Noble Book Fair is coming up and that a sign up genius will be coming out soon for gift wrappers and students can earn SSL hours between the hours of 9am-3pm. Online sales to support Tilden from 12/7 – 12/12. It is a great event and we get a percentage of the profit on anything you purchase in the store.

-12/10 DineOut at MOD Pizza and the event goes all day long.

-12/18 Staff Appreciation Desserts – Sign up genius will be coming out and items can be dropped off the day before or morning of.

-1/7/20 Chipotle and Tutti Frutti DineOut from 5-9pm

-1/14/20 Guest speaker from the Expressive Therapy Center will be presenting and will give us resources/strategies to help our middle schoolers on how to handle stressors, anxiety, social pressures, etc.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Michele Wisniewski reviewed the budget and covered funds brought in and expenses going out. She highlighted that there was a good turnout for the Silver Diner dine-out night, and it brought in almost \$600 between the dine-out and recent EWDW earnings. We also received money from Amazon Smile, about \$3000 from direct donations, and approximately \$8300 from membership dues. She also mentioned that we should receive money from the book fair soon, which did well. The PTSA is doing well financially at this time. The Profit & Loss Budget Performance worksheet was disseminated. No questions were asked about the treasurer's report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

MCCPTA NEWS

Natalie Shelton gave an update. Celina, Joanne and Natalie attended the MCCPTA meeting. There were two resolutions they supported. Resolution 1 – To support amending absence policy for 3 absences for civil actions/responsibilities. Also, there was a student that spoke in support of this resolution. Resolution 2 had to do with advocacy priorities. They supported access for all students. Natalie also mentioned that there is a Board of Education hearing on 11/18/19 and please try to attend.

MEMBERSHIP & DIRECTORIES

Rika Darby mentioned that we have 288 parent members, 74 student members and 54 teacher members. Direct donations were 30% of the money brought in. Directories will be disseminated on 11/20/19. The number of members is close to where we were last year which was way up from years prior. That being said, we could always use more members.

BOOK FAIR

Nikki Boisture who ran the book fair could not attend tonight's meeting so Celina Schmidt updated the group. A reminder that we need a lot of volunteers to make it run so thank you to all that helped. The sales were almost \$900 more than last year, and the PTSA will get around \$1000 this year from the sales.

SPIRIT WEAR ITEMS

Traci Moran told the group that the PTSA had flannel pants and socks with an updated logo for sale. The online store would be open from 11/13 – 11/17. If you order during this time, the items will be received by 12/20 and that they will be delivered to your children at school. A flyer was provided with a link and information of how to order.

Celina Schmidt stated that we had more magnets for sale and that she had ordered PuraVida string bracelets in the school colors. Further, that the bracelets will arrive before the holidays and will be available for purchase. We will update everyone once they arrive.

RESTAURANT DINEOUTS

Deborah Berger stated that we made about \$285 from the California Tortilla and Baskin Robbins dine-out. She reminded the group that the MOD Pizza dine-out on 12/10 was all day long (most of the dine-outs are for a short window of time) and that Chipotle and Tutti Frutti was coming up on 1/7/20.

TILDEN'S DAY OF CARING

Chair Mary Bittle Koenick reminded the group the event will take place on 11/27/19. Sign up genius has been sent out and to please sign up. Looking for speakers from non-profit organizations to come speak to the students for an hour between the hours of 9am-12pm. Please let her know if you know of anyone that could speak to the students.

Donations are needed by Monday next week and then people will go out and shop for what is still needed in order to have all the materials for the event.

CLUSTER UPDATE

Deborah Berger updated the group and mentioned that Tilden will be knocked down after this school year. After rebuilding (Stage 1), Northwood will come in temporarily for two years. Good news is that stage 2, which includes athletic fields etc, will be funded. Woodward will be up and running by 2025. Further, the cluster priority is that both schools (Woodward and Walter Johnson) be held to the same level or rather stated same equity and parity. They are still fighting for a 7th elementary school.

Jim Bradley said that enrollment projections have been consistently off – sometimes as much as 450 students. The county is looking at all school boundaries and that the WJ Cluster is requesting that they use accurate data. Voting on the Capital Improvement Plan will happen at the end of the month. Hearings will be held later and a final vote in May.

NEW BUSINESS

Celina Schmidt briefed the membership on the MemberHub transition. Next year, every MD PTA will be mandated to use member hub to track membership and file tax forms, etc. It can also be used as a communication platform. Since Tilden Listserv is a yahoo group and yahoo groups is changing soon and will be deleting information, we are considering using MemberHub as the PTSA's method of communication. People would be able to join and pay for membership, sign up geniuses could reside there, spirit wear could be ordered and paid for there so it would be like a one stop shop for all things PTSA. If we go that route, it would be a transition over time. There was some discussion about whether or not we would continue to use AtoZ as a means to communication and/or to print our directory but no decisions were made.

PARTING THOUGHTS

Celina Schmidt reminded everyone to sign in so that we could have accurate attendance. Further, that there were handouts about spirit wear and upcoming events at the back table.

Celina moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:52pm.