

A2 STEAM PTO Community Meeting NOTES

Meeting Date:	October 11, 2021
Meeting Time:	7:00 PM
Format:	Zoom https://bit.ly/PTOConnect Meeting ID: 944 8923 1307; Passcode: [REDACTED]

How to make a motion:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1U7UkvTRFmPYKAQSo7S5LZXUQHYSnoN52/view?usp=sharing>

Agenda Items

- **Intros, Aimee & Carrie**
- **Housekeeping** - please check your zoom name and make sure it represents your name (not kids or pets!), add preferred pronouns, and add your child's/children's grade level(s) - example: Carrie Bank, she/her, grade 6
- PTO community meeting dates for the school year (skip Dec.):
 - 2nd Monday of each month at 7pm: ~~9/13/21, 10/11/21,~~ 11/8/21, 1/10/22, 2/14/22, 3/14/22, 4/11/22, (final meeting) 5/9/22
- Motion to approve previous month's minutes (which will be posted on the PTO page of website)
 - <https://www.a2schools.org/domain/3853> - then click on Meetings & Minutes on the left
 - Moved & seconded (Bulkley, Chawla) (are we supposed to vote? Not that we can do so in an informed way)
- Welcome and Introductions by the Board, Principal (Meg) and Assistant Principal (Alison) (from board: Carrie, Aimee, Sonia, Candace, Amanda, Ms. Emily,) The STEAM army :) appreciate you ALL
- Update from Meg & Alison
 - Funky COVID year. Still figuring out what events we can do.
 - Virtual expo, Dec 9 (Thurs). Evening. Live speakers plus website with virtual portfolio.
 - Winter Arts market, date TBD
 - THANK YOU for the tent (donated, plus continual donations for picnic tables). Kids might be able to eat outside all winter.
 - Hired two more Teaching Assistants. Starting later this month (significant onboarding).
 - Will be hiring new middle school English/ELA or a year-long sub. (Know anyone?)
 - Fire alarms: quite a few unexpected in addition to drills. Smoke alarms (3 extra) / cause is known and parts are on order.
 - Parent-teacher conferences are specific to teachers. Read teachers' correspondence for Google Form/ signup genius. Taking place throughout the month.
 - Last week of the month, "spirit week" with themes each day
 - A2Steam, no Halloween costume parade (no Halloween). Friday will be pajama day (or maybe funny hat/hair day). Details will be in newsletter
 - Oct 20, Wed, early release
 - Oct 29, Fri, half day (dismissal at 10:47am) [two the entire year]. Lunch will be served, grab & go

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- Break out groups of parents: choose your room
 - Share a subject you'd like to hear about at a PTO meeting.
 - i. Josh wants to join the PTO.
 - ii. Volunteer opps for parents & how they can get more involved. Can post to website (and we'll talk about this more)
 - Share something you've learned about school since it began this year.
- Treasurer report - Candace
 - Books are now up to date through Sept 30, 2021. (CONGRATS!).
 - Blg \$ but some of this is pass-through funds. (\$ we're holding for various groups, eg the solar fund is \$25K)
 - Exceeded our goal for Fall dues! Almost 1,000\$ over, which takes pressure off for rest of year <fundraising>.
 - Ad hoc picnic table fundraiser going well, in just a few hours at \$910. Just doing some shopping online, figuring out what's approved. (Note-- this also means, Meg, your emails are being read!)
 - We had several events this fall that came in under budget or didn't happen (\$1200 budgeted for things and now it's floating out there;
 - Candace moves that we transfer \$700 (originally \$1200) into a COVID fund to be used at admin discretion, including things like emergency buy picnic tables, heater thing for tents?, equipment that went home to families, licenses for reading A-Z, for hay bales/sit upons)
 - i. Save some of the \$ for an in-person thing in spring?
 - ii. Or an online Fall thing?
 - iii. Bring it up at this meeting (done!) and now we'll vote at the next one
 - Q re: pass through accounts, email Candace

Question re: why WeAreA2Steam was canceled/ COVID rules would have required contact tracing etc.

- Lost & Found update - Carrie
 - So many sweatshirts!
 - Carrie pulling them out, 3-3:30pm to back patio. People can "shop" for their own stuff. Little success today but will try again tomorrow (maybe people hadn't seen the email yet) <Each day this week>
- Picnic Table/Tent update - Carrie (see above, already at \$900, looking to buy 8 tables at \$215 each)
 - <https://a2steamppto.square.site/>



- Parent Volunteer Opportunities:
 - https://drive.google.com/file/d/1iFWnoQJcXP_Du_RA1SXQD3PihTc4wpL/view?usp=sharing (Do we have volunteers for any of the items yet?)
 - Most needed ASAP:
 - i. Restaurant nights coordinator 1/mo?
 1. Community understand what this means? Ask a restaurant to donate back a % of the proceeds from a designated evening

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2. For ex, every first Tuesday, that restaurant donates back whatever percent (from sales to our folks). Sometimes it's "bring in this flyer" or something.
 3. We need a person who's willing to be a connector/ find connections. Start with one place! (Nagomi has kind of said they'd be willing/ they already do with Logan so we'll need to work around that)
 4. From previous meeting, someone volunteered (she ran it at another school). She posted to FB (Adrian). Maybe someone else too? Carrie will follow up with her! :)
 5. Can be take-out!
 6. Doesn't have to be restaurants! Booksweet, other. Panera also does this.
 7. Washtenaw Dairy (Amanda will ask her!). She gave us 150 ice cream cones at half price... (Get principals to scoop ice cream?)
 8. Ahmed Lachheb knows El Harissa folks! & Tienda La Libertad!
- ii. Room parents! (hopefully 2 per elementary classroom and 1 per middle school homeroom, some specials. Contact Kelly Pennuto if you're interested.

Today's email includes who still needs; coordinating for supplies, activities. Kelly is sending out ideas, too, to make it easy!

Can also fundraise for teacher gifts, for specials teacher gifts.

Grade	Room #	Elem/Middle/Special	Teacher Name	Teacher Email
Y5	104	Elementary	Jackson, Tamyka	jacksona@aaps.k12.mi.us
2	201	Elementary	Ideson, Stephannie	idesons@aaps.k12.mi.us
2	202	Elementary	Essenberg, Brigid	essenbergb@aaps.k12.mi.us
2	203	Elementary	Talmdage, Katie	talmdagek@aaps.k12.mi.us
3	301	Elementary	Waanders, Allie	waandersa@aaps.k12.mi.us
4	402	Elementary	Bertelson, Heather	bertelson@aaps.k12.mi.us
5	501	Elementary	Myrick, Erica	myricke@aaps.k12.mi.us
5	503	Elementary	Stowe, Amanda	stowea@aaps.k12.mi.us
6, 7	MS-7	Middle - ELA	Haddas, Karen	haddas@aaps.k12.mi.us
6, 8	MS-8	Middle - SS	Smead, Nathan	smeadn@aaps.k12.mi.us
7, 8	MS-13	Middle - SS	Toon, Rachel	toon@aaps.k12.mi.us
1, 6		Middle - Math	Stearns, Jack Bednar, Aimee	stearnsj@aaps.k12.mi.us bednara@aaps.k12.mi.us
4, 5, 8	STEAM LAB	Specials - Tech & Eng	Van Loo, Sarah	vanloos@aaps.k12.mi.us

Can we highlight room parents in the directory?

- Family mentors - new family matching with experienced families? How can we help the new families connect?
 - We're interested in matching newer folks w/more experienced ones, looking for ways to get this started. Ideas?

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- Unsure how to match; could use Google forms for new vs. 2+ years. Match by ages? Geography? Looking for suggestions.
- “Mentor” families at every grade level...
- 2 google forms. Even just getting emails connected.
- Would be nice to be able to group by neighborhoods.
- Map of where people live, so you could find folks to carpool with, etc.
- Something in windows, “We are a proud STEAM family”
- Things we’ve done in the past month:
 - Staff appreciation bags (fizzy water and a couple snacks)
 - Fall fundraiser
 - Lost & Found
- Spirit Wear update - Aimee
- Staff snack bar: could use salty/crunchy snack, and cold coffee. Also almost out of protein bars. Proceeds go to staff appreciation. Cold coffee costs more than \$1/can (so that doesn’t work unless we change prices?)
 - Could parents bring/donate?
 - Ashini handles right now, brand loyalty and allergens. We have three items: La Croix, Cliff Bars, assorted full size candy bars.
 - Is there an opportunity to do refrigerated stuff? Tejal works for Dannon (?) and has coupons etc, can get with you offline. Q re: staff access/refrigerators is to Meg.
- We’ll also reach out to stock the staff lounge sometimes!
- Late Nov/early Dec, coffee cup w/hot choc bomb in it, something like “you da bomb”?, doesn’t have to be food but food seems to be easy. Anyone have a source for hot chocolate bombs? Not homemade. TeaHaus is a STEAM family, but maybe out of budget.
- How are the sit upons coming - Aimee. We have all the tape we need!

8:01pm!

- Questions?
- Next Meeting: November 8, 2021; 7:00 PM

Vivian & Lottie, cleanup club (esp important b/c lunch outdoors). Donations of gloves and grabbers wanted. Meetings etc. Other supplies: trash bags?

Motor Moms & Dads: <http://www.motormomsanddads.com/>

Supposed to strengthen learning, parent volunteers who want to do this OUTSIDE-- would be allowed. (Volunteer opportunity! You volunteer some dedicated hours each week, get trained, create schedule to go to Y5, K, 1 classrooms)

Room parents: end of year gifts; holiday gifts too? Definitely an option. We never require anyone to give or room parents to organize something, but that’s a fine choice. Amount recommended is to be \$5/less per student

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Spirit wear: there are supply chain issues. Unsure when it will happen next. Odd color things are ok :) . There are a few vintage things in the Phoenix Nest, and if you post on FB can maybe find hand me downs, Candace will start a FB swap thread. :)

Present: 30

Candace B, Carrie B, Josh Kelley, Tejal Wilson, Joelle Greene, Meg F., Alison E, Krista Campeau, Lauren Wallner, Farah Ammous, James Luxon, Rachel Davis, Sonia C, Robin F, Amanda C., Emily B, Ashini Harris, Melissa Scott, Hazel (Hyejeong Song), Aimee B., Krista Takacs, Veronica Falandino, Ahmed Lachheb, Blair Beuche, Tian Gu, Ryan Burns, Elisa, Sonalee Shah, Mi, Atul