

## January 19, 2024 PTO Meeting Minutes

1. Welcome and call to order at 8:30am, by Kennedy Peters, PTO President.  
15 people in attendance + 8 board members and additional speakers.

Kennedy read our mission statement and listed our PTO accomplishments since the last meeting in December. *Accomplishments included:*

*Sunshine Committee catered Chicken Salad Chicken on January 3,  
\$5,000 donation to the TCA Annual Fund,  
Fleece jackets purchased during the flash sale were distributed,  
Magazine subscription for the library were ordered,  
Teachers were gifted \$100 to spend on Amazon for their classroom,  
Decoration committee filled the school with holiday decor.*

2. Speaker: Mrs. Curtis, Librarian  
Restarted junior librarian for 6th graders by helping with one class and helping with putting away books. Still need volunteers to shelf read in the library (look through each shelf to make sure all spines are facing out and are in order).
3. Mrs. DeMeyer, TCA Central Principal  
Magazines in a waiting room are important instead of screens because reading comprehension is going down. Our screens distract us from the things that are more important. She would hate to lose a generation of readers and comprehension because they're on their screens too much. Using screen time as a reward is also not a great strategy.

She's talking to 6th grade today about the comfort zone and the courage zone.

4. Sonja Wittleder, TCA Board of Directors (BOD)  
The BOD is like the lighthouse for the TCA ship to stay the course via the TCA Core Values. President Dr. Thomason is the captain of the ship. The board is a governance board - at the top overseeing with only one employee (the president) versus a working board. The strategic plan is very important and the BOD works with Dr. Thomason to create or tweak it. The cabinet heads will report to the BOD. They also look at the turnover rate for teachers and parent surveys. They determine the policies and the administration implements the policies.  
Last year they created the Digital Health Policy, and the administration implemented it this year. It was the biggest transition for the high school. Only 2 suspensions have occurred (which is a 3rd offense), and they have had feedback from students and teachers on how well it was rolled out. There have been deeper conversations happening, kids playing chess, and more face to face interaction. They gave the responsibility to the students to keep the phone but not use it (see it/hear it) during school hours.

She also said that we rely on the parents for their time, talent, and treasure. If you have friends who have a hard time volunteering, you can find a friend to share that responsibility.

In case any of you would be interested in being a board meeting, there is a meeting on January 23rd for an information meeting.

1. Business:

- a. Minutes for December **Approved**
- b. **Staff Appreciation Month:**
  - i. Still looking for a 2nd or 3rd grade parent for 4/30/24.
  - ii. We need gift cards for teachers/staff during SAM. Any amount is fine, and they can be for anywhere.
- c. Debi and finance at North put all the orders in for the \$100/classroom gift, and we've been sorting through them. We are hoping to distribute next week or the week after.
- d. **Fundraising:** Our next fundraiser is Tuesday at Chipotle from 4pm - 8pm. The online ordering instructions will come from the room moms.
- e. **Finance:** We have approx. a 44K budget, and we gave \$5,000 to the Annual Fund in December. \$66 of that was matched.
- f. **Funds Request:** The PTO board on the behalf of the front office is requesting a microwave to replace the broken one in the Teacher's lounge (cost is \$149.99) - Approved
- g. February 8 is the next Sunshine Committee lunch.

Next meeting is February 9 with board candidates and Dr. Thomason  
One sweatshirt and two t-shirts raffled for parents.