

February 23, 2015 PCO Meeting Minutes

Christy Fitzpatrick Burns read the PCO missions statement.

Christy explained the new fundraiser – Shoebox Recycling. The organization provides boxes to the schools and the school collects gently used shoes. We get 50 cents per lb. The company gives the shoes to vendors in poverty stricken countries. This fundraiser ties in nicely with our Fair Trade mission. They tell us where the shoes end up. Please spread the word to friends and family. Kids to adult sizes. The money raised will be used for the Lower School AgRecycle composting program. The Upper School already participates in the AgRecycle program.

A middle school event is planned for spring. Luau theme, for 7 and 8th graders. 7-9pm, games, snacks and music. Permission slips will be sent home.

Update from Mr. Aglio- Start Up weekend was awesome. It was a 54 hr competition based around an education business idea and judged by a panel. South Fayette won. It was great exposure for ECS.

ECS is hosting a Rethinking conference this weekend. Educators in the community will come and observe classes and then meet on Saturday to discuss ECS's unique way of educating.

Pgh Action Against Rape (PAAR) - ECS will do a needs assessment with PAAR so they know our environment and what type of classes are needed for middle schoolers at ECS. They'll speak at the next PCO meeting.

Perfect Pitch- May 3 from 4-5pm at the Carnegie Music Hall. We're partnering with Edgewood Orchestra and will have the 4th graders sing. Charge is \$10/ticket. Pre-game music in the lobby at 3pm.

The Website is finished! It's up and running.

Get Outside Campaign – Laura Micco (Science Coach). Laura presented to the PCO and announced that they're gathering data on the number of outside hours that students are experiencing. This will help to provide structure, tools and support to the ECS community. In August ECS staff was trained by Pgh Parks and Conservatory. This was also an opportunity for teachers to brainstorm on how to get outside and teach outside.

Winter Guidelines – when the temperature feels lower than 25 degrees students will have an abbreviated hike and outdoor experience. Each grade level will have a bin with extra hats and gloves. Staff is trying to communicate with families more, for example in the Weds Word there's an outdoor picture of the week. Check out Twitter- #ecsgetoutside.

We're collecting data on outdoor experiences via a Google doc.

Q- Is it easy for teachers to log?

A- The Upper School has adopted more quickly. Logging will also show which classes go out more than others. We'll review data to provide feedback on how to get out more.

Laura mentioned that they're working on a Turtle Park restoration. Planting shrubs and bushes and removing invasive plants.

Comment from a parent – kids at the Upper School have limited space in their lockers as there are two kids per locker. This doesn't allow for the kids to easily store an extra pair of shoes at school.

Earth Nite – Laura mentioned that this is a big event. It will be a real carnival this year with games. PCO can do anything – bake sale, uniform resale, etc...

Mini Grants – Dave mentioned that 11 proposals were submitted. Overall they were great submissions. He said they have \$3000 to use for the year. The mini grant committee would like to put projects that aren't funded in the Weds Word incase families would like to fund them. Out of the eleven submitted, 8 were recommended to be funded. A motion was made to approve the mini grants recommendations. All were in favor.

Summary of grants:

- 1) Pedal Power Work Station – stationary bikes for 2nd grade for kids to burn energy- \$44.00
- 2) Invention Convention- 1st grade team asked for \$259 for the Invention Convention. Mini Grant Committee recommends \$250.00
- 3) Food Allergy Awareness Week – help spread the word about allergies to students. Not recommended.
- 4) Raised Beds- D. Meyer and J. Porter - requested \$487, committee recommended \$250. Proposing to do scientific experiments with soil.
- 5) Mr. R- Lights for musical shows. Requested \$249.99, committee recommends granting \$250.
- 6) Keystone Test Prep – Algebra, 8th grade requested \$105, committee recommends funding in full
- 7) AgRecycle - Lower School composting program – requested \$500, committee recommends funding \$250.
- 8) 5th grade musical – requested \$550, committee recommends \$250.
- 9) Girl Scout gift bags- 5th grade, used to talk about peer pressure, body image. Dave said the execution was unclear and the proposal wasn't structured enough. Not recommended to fund.
- 10) Story Board Project- 6th grade writing and creating. Anti-bullying program for the Lower School to be delivered to the younger grades. Requested \$250, will fund in full.
- 11) Memory Day Celebration – 2nd grade. Pillow cases for memory day. Not recommended for funding, as there's not a strong connection to the curriculum and doesn't benefit students at large.

Total requested - \$3023, \$1650 recommended to fund.

Question about the Treasurer's Report – what's the actual balance that we can use?

Kerry Fogarty, PCO Treasurer, not in attendance and will need to talk to her about it. PCO is looking to move to Quick Books for easier record keeping. Ryan and Marla will meet to figure out budgeting and how to best allocate funds in the account.