

GUES Mid-Summer PTO Meeting – July 23

Those attending included: Susan Davison, Audra Branson, Shana Fields, Vangie Goddard, Karen Allen, Becca Creed, Calee Lyons, Chiara Porter, Windi Potter, Desi Rice and Caroline Roberts.

1. 2019-2020 Calendar

- a.) Review Calendar – (See attachment) We discussed that our goal is to have some new and different fundraisers this year and to try to have a calendar that is rolled-out at “Meet the Teacher” so parents know what to expect and could possibly sign-up when they first arrive at school.
 - a. Kona Ice Truck will be one of our newest fundraisers. They give 30% back to the school and will help promote the truck coming by giving gift certificates for free snow cones for the teachers to give away ahead of the truck coming. These will be for a “behavior trait of the month.” The snow cones range in price from \$2-\$5. Right now, we have two dates scheduled but we may add in more. We also have a “free day” scheduled in May as a reward for testing. (flyer is attached)
 - b. Schedule fundraisers at this point include: Kona Ice Day (September), Jog A Thon (November), Christmas Store (December), Presidential Coin Wars (February), Dodge Ball Tournament (March), Kona Ice Day (April).
 - c. Giving Back – one of the things we hope to instill in the GUES Students is a sense of giving back to the community. We will plan to have a GUES Food Drive in November. Also, with the Coin Wars we will donate a percentage of the earnings to a charity and the winning class can pick the charity.
- b.) Additional ideas –
 - There was a suggestion to offer parents a “Fundraiser Buy-In” for \$20 for the year to skip the normal catalog fundraisers. We inquired about how much the “Variety Product Catalog” fundraisers bring in and it is estimated they make \$8,000, which is worth keeping. Some of the others like the Yankee Candle ones don’t do as well.
 - We discussed the struggle with Halloween and how some miss it but for the most part it causes a lot of stress. Last year, we did not allow students to dress up, and instead had a fall party ahead of Fall Break. Mrs. Davison will discuss it with staff when they first return to get final opinions. We will make a decision at our next meeting.
 - A suggestion was made to add a concession stand to the Dodge Ball Tournament, including selling pizza, popcorn, candy, drinks, etc.
 - We discussed possibly adding a Dance in January (tentative Jan. 9) after school. Dress would be casual and Mrs. Branson said she may have someone to DJ the event.
- c.) Goals for Fundraisers
 - **Build an Outdoor Walking Track (Grant \$\$)** – As we continue to meet goals throughout the year by filling out the TSET Grant we hope to meet the requirements needed to get the money in place that it would take to do the track. The TSET Grant is from the Oklahoma Tobacco Settlement and GUES could get up to \$10,000 in grant money if we meet a myriad of healthy school standards over the course of 2019-2020.
 - **Water Bottle Fillers in each wing (\$1,300 each installed)** – We would like to use the Jog-A-Thon as a target for this fundraiser and then possibly have them installed over Christmas break.

- **Additional Chromebook Carts for Each Team (\$5000 each)** – This can be evaluated once school starts and we see how the computer situation works out.

3. **Theme for GUES**

- a.) School and T-Shirt Theme – We discussed coming up with a theme that would work toward team building and unity. We will have a lot of new staff/teachers this year. We tossed around a couple of ideas and landed on “TEAM GUES.” The thought was not to target it just toward sports but the idea of TEAM being whatever you make it – academic, sports, camping – basically working together toward a common goal. We talked about whether or not it would be important to stick with Bluejay Blue for the color or even have the Bluejay on the shirt. There were pros and cons to both sides. A couple of things we want to accomplish with the shirts:
 - 1.) We want it to be something the kids want to wear regularly
 - 2.) We want to get them printed in time to sell at “Meet the Teacher” and in time for the staff to receive them when they come back to school.
 - 3.) We want to have days throughout the year that they can wear their shirts and have special gifts (i.e. smelly pencils, piece of candy, etc.) to greet them in the drop off line just to boost morale.
 - 4.) We want the price to be something everyone can afford.
- b.) Pricing – We want to be able to do them as gifts for the GUES Staff and then sell them at Meet the Teacher for \$8 and sales after that will \$10.
- c.) Design – Shana Fields has pricing from Oklahoma T-Shirt Company for non-profits/schools for \$6 a shirt on the “District” Style shirts (soft material). She will work on a design or we can have them design it for \$30. She will work on getting them approved as a vendor in the next week and then work on the design and we can look at colors from there. The turn-around time for printing is about 7-10 days.

4. **Meet the Teacher and Other Opportunities**

- a.) **Photo Booth** – Mrs. Carpenter suggested having a Photo Booth in the entryway at Meet the Teacher, similar to what she made last year in the 5th grade Wing. Everyone agreed it was a big hit and would be great to have it this year as a school-wide opportunity. We think it would be a good way to get people attached to the GUES Facebook page to post their pics from the booth as well.

b.) **Sign-up Sheets**

– Our goal is to get parents engaged with PTO early this year and have sign-up sheets at the PTO table during “Meet the Teacher.”

- Snack Shack/Popcorn
- Parent/Teacher Dinners
- Jog-A-Thon
- Christmas Store
- Christmas Cocoa & Cookie Bar
- Dodge Ball Tournament
- Presidential Coin Wars

5. Additional Ideas to Discuss/Grant Targets

a.) Spell-A-Thon, Jeopardy or "Are you Smarter Than a 5th/6th Grader" – These are some fun ideas we may want to plug in during the school year for assemblies.

b.) Healthy Cooking Challenges in the classrooms; submissions of recipes for newsletters and healthy recipe cookoff with kids – All of these will be things could be things we ask the teachers to look at as part of the requirements we will need to qualify for the grant. At some point PTO may be asked to help with the cooking challenges. Another suggestion was made to possibly create a GUES Cookbook with the submissions made throughout the year.

c.) "Caught Doing Good" Bucket with drawings on Monday mornings to promote good behavior during the week – This was an idea that was shared at the end of last year, but something we would like to start early in the year. This would be in addition to "students of the month" but just another way for people to keep looking for the good that is happening around GUES. Any teacher/staff member can nominate any student (doesn't have to be in their class) Drawings would be every Monday to help students be reminded to keep "being caught doing good" throughout the week. Someone suggested that teachers/staff hand the tickets to the students to turn in to help them have the responsibility of turning them in.

d.) PTO or "Guthrie's 'Famous' People" doing some of the morning announcements – This idea was stolen from Fogarty, when they did Penny Wars. They had PTO come in and announce who was ahead each day. We are looking to expand that to maybe once every couple weeks to have someone in the community come in and do announcements (i.e. – police chief, firefighter, musicians, veterinarians, pastors, restaurant owners, etc.)

e.) Remind101 that everyone signs up for during Districtwide Enrollment – We would like to have a way to capture a majority of the phone numbers and be able to do push notifications for events. We would create databases for "schoolwide," "5th grade only" and "6th grade only." Mrs. Davison is going to visit with Mrs. Carpenter about how this could be captured during Enrollment or Meet the Teacher.

f.) "GUES What We Need" Monthly Supply Sheets – (See attachment)

g.) GUES Newsletter – We began these at the end of last year and will continue these this year.

h.) Redo Teacher's Lounge – At the end of last year we discussed possibly redoing the teacher's lounge to make it a better gathering place. Feedback during this meeting was that most 5th teachers don't use the lounge and gather in classrooms in that wing. 6th Grade teachers don't use it much either unless PTO has something in there. We discussed seeing if there might be a better space to redo if we were going to spend energy redoing something. The staff was going to look and see what rooms were unused.

FUTURE MEETINGS – With a lot of new teachers coming on board and some parents showing interest that could meet "after school," we will look to hold our first PTO meeting next year at 3:45 p.m. – Date to be determined. We will see how attendance does meeting after school and evaluate.