PTO votes and other updates:

To see a list of current volunteer needs, along with a description of each one, click here: [https://docs.google.com/document/d/1hh6ltqky8fdtYlIeNCJKSVzqzheoidSEuTMChMCdTY0/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1hh6ltqky8fdtYlIeNCJKSVzqzheoidSEuTMChMCdTY0/edit?usp=sharing). To learn more and to sign up, contact either Pete (text 651-894-4983 or email petertgaffney@gmail.com) or Selena (text 651-208-6256).

PTO values: As a group, we collectively came up with this list of policies/values that we’d like to see the PTO adhere to:

- Assume positive intent
- Open, two-way communication
- Recognize different viewpoints, respect everyone’s truth
- Galtier is a diverse school but PTO is overrepresented by white parents. Remember to step outside our own perspective to include all kids.
- Embody this phrase: “There is no such thing as other people’s kids.”
- Send PTO agendas home before each meeting
- Send PTO minutes to all families
- Being part of the PTO does not mean you have to come to meetings. There are many ways to participate.
- Communicate to ALL parents/guardians and teachers what we do and how
- We are all ambassadors of Galtier who can bring in resources and/or offer suggestions

PTO approved the following funding decisions:

- To use the new $620 earned from recent lemonade stands as a new grant fund.
- Funding $30 for 4th/5th classroom potluck.
- Motion to stop paying for the external PTO website, saving us about $220/year. We may decide to later reinstate it if we feel the SPPS site does not cover our needs, and if someone steps up to improve and manage the external site.
- Funding up to $2200 for a field trip for all students to see a play at the Children’s Theater. We agreed to let teachers opt out if they wish, and we agreed to softly ask parents if they would like to contribute toward the cost of their kid’s ticket ($5). We expect the actual cost will be far less than $2200.
- Funding $150 for Mr. Ratcliff to purchase a rigorous curriculum “Designing a Better Paperclip” (reverse engineering aligned with 4th grade science).
- Funding $2000 for a teacher-initiated STEM field trip.
School Improvement Committee: This group of 3 parents and 3 teachers will meet independently of the PTO and discuss concerns parents have about the school, kids, etc, to discuss solutions and communicate directly to the PTO and administration. Right now we have 2 parents (Selina Gant and Clayton Howatt), so there is an opportunity for one more parent to join. We did not discuss the teachers who are involved. There will be another opportunity for parents mid-year when we rotate members of this committee. Pete Gaffney will put this opportunity on the volunteer need list. Another next step is to circulate the volunteer need list widely.

If you are willing to drive kids to school whose bussing is unreliable, talk to Ms. Hendrix. Our enrollment has dropped because families are switching to schools where they don’t need to bus.

Decision about how to distribute mini-grants to teachers was tabled until next month. By then, we need to get teacher feedback. With their input, we’ll vote on whether to grant all or partial funds up front to all classrooms and allow them to spend the money as they see fit, or to ask teachers to fill out a request form prior to receiving the funds.

Meeting minutes:

WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL! Introductions and opening until 6:00 (Carrie)
- Membership intros
- Group brainstorm - We collectively came up with this list of policies or values that we’d like to see the PTO adhere to:
  - Assume positive intent
  - Open, two-way communication
  - Recognize different viewpoints, respect everyone’s truth
  - Galtier is a diverse school but PTO is more represented by white parents. Remember to step outside our own perspective to include all kids.
  - Embody this: “There is no such thing as other people’s kids.”
  - Send PTO agendas home before each meeting
  - Send PTO minutes to all families
  - Being part of the PTO does not mean you have to come to meetings. There are many ways to participate.
  - Communicate to ALL parents/guardians and teachers what we do and how
  - We are all ambassadors of Galtier who can bring in resources and/or offer suggestions

Question: how are we getting information out about all the things parents are doing to bring in resources, like lemonade stand?
  - Kristin: we should add more people to the Gator Gals group because it’s informal.
Danielle: it’s not a platform to communicate things formally to all Galtier families

There are 3 facebook pages: Gator Gals, Galtier PTO and Friends, and the Galtier Community School page.

Financial update- Amy - 6:00 - 6:10

- Fun pie charts!
  - Primarily money goes toward field trips and teacher grants. Mini grants have been for teachers to request funds, e.g. gear or field trips or classroom supplies.
  - Missing from this list is where funding comes from. Part is grants like the REad a Thon. And a number of smaller fundraisers throughout the year. We should have this info available all the time.
  - The budget incorporates estimated income.
  - Wege Foundation is a family foundation and a family member has to recommend the grant. Last year we got $12,500 for grants. We’re not eligible without the special initiative and our contact there is maxed out for his allotted funds. On Feb 1 he will sign for Galtier. Our chances of getting the same amount is comparable to last year. And we’d probably get the check some time in April. Clayton thinks we should apply for it for next year, and just not receive it this year so we can get on a yearly application cycle. We spent about $7800 on field trips last year, and made up the rest on arts funds. We can write the grant for beyond field trips. If we get this money every year we don’t have to worry about funding fields.
  - “Staff support” are things PTO can do for teachers, it does not refer to a person/role. Concern is that teachers don’t have enough support to be able to manage kids.
  - Selina: this is why we want to continue the School Improvement Committee, to give a space for a conversation that is healthy and solution-driven. In the past we’ve just put on band aids and run around trying to fix things, but last year we formed a small committee to discuss how children can do well, and what kind of support they need. We meet once a month and give an update to the PTO. Sometimes there are trends that PTO can recognize. The group is meant to recognize all voices so they feel heard. We only met once last year and we walked out feeling relieved like we should have started a long time ago. Best to keep it small, to talk about solutions. Taking kids out of the school is not a solution.
  - Question: what is the process for getting people involved in that? Selina: we need to get input from teachers. Ideal is to have a first meeting prior to the next PTO meeting. Clayton and Selina will remain on it, and there is an opening for one parent, and there will be a rotation sometime midyear.
  - Pete will put this opportunity on the volunteer list.
  - Clayton: the value of the group is that parents may not be here or present but this provides a vehicle to discuss concerns that might be hidden.
  - Concern is how to get more money for more bodies to help in the classrooms.
Updates and votes 6:10- 6:40

- Enrollment and staffing: current and open positions (Carrie/Sharon)
  - Difficult to say because it changes every day. Yesterday was 213, and today we are at 206. There are family needs, and housing needs is the biggest reason for fluctuation. We just need to make sure we stay above 200. Next Friday Sept 22 is when they will ding us for enrollment numbers to see if the district gave us too much money. So by next Friday we need to be above 200. If parents ever find out about housing opportunity like rental, let Sharon know.
  - Kristin: can any parents help drive kids if they are not feeling safe on the bus. Have parents ready and willing during the winter for when the busses are delayed.
  - Open positions: We just filled a 3-hour lunch position. He does before and after school care so it fits well. We have another opening for a TA 2, so that's for special education, and Ms. Hendrix has interviewed a couple people so far. To pass the paraprofessional test, you need 2 years of college. It seems discriminatory to just help out in the lunch room.

- School Improvement Committee - announce it as a resource for parents, its members, and the chance to get involved when members rotate. (Selina)
  - See conversation above

- Vote- Should we give the $150/teacher and staff upfront instead of using a request form? (Amy)
  - What is the context for what has happened in the past? Did teachers use all the funds?
  - Ms Windom: we don’t know about the process and/or teachers feel weird about asking
  - Dawn: as a teacher I spent thousands of dollars and it would feel more respectful if I got a lump sum in the beginning of the year instead of having to ask for it.
  - What if they needed more? They come to PTO but we’d be out of funds in that line item.
  - Kristin: The process isn’t about disrespect.
  - Anna: the idea came out of a desire to trust teachers to spend the funds the way they know how. Plus as humans, they will protect that money because it'll be theirs.
  - PreK is included. Funds go for each classroom.
  - If there is a need for more, they can still come to PTO for extra asks. Providing a lump sum should not exclude a process for teachers to request more funds.
  - Idea to drop lump sum to $100 and leave the remaining $50 per classroom. Might be nice to not deplete the whole budget.
  - Should we get teacher feedback before we vote? Carrie: we will table it and vote next month.

- Vote- Designate the funds raised in the Lemonade Stands ($600) for Parent/ PTO initiatives (Carrie)
Carrie proposes we use the unanticipated $620 for a new pot that we make for new PTO initiatives.
Motion to use these funds for an additional PTO grant fun. Motion carried.

- **Vote-** Whether to keep the external PTO website ($216/yr + $20/yr for domain) or let it go & improve the SPPS website (Amy/Carrie)
  - There were specific things we could not do on the SPPS site, which is why we set up the new website. Clayton: If someone volunteers to be in charge of the website, it might be worth it.
  - Why do we need more than one? We have the FB pages.
  - Motion to drop the external website. Motion carries.
  - For dynamic pages like meeting minutes and current volunteer needs, we could share a Google Doc and link that on the SPPS site.

- **Vote-** Maps for students in grades 2 and 5- (Clayton)
  - PTO approved funding $30 for classroom potluck. 4th/5th graders

- **Vote-** Field trip to Children’s Theater (Kristin)
  - 1 hour play for younger grades. Music by Bob Marley. Upper grades would see Circus Ad(??) - a circus troupe from Ethiopia. Tickets are $5 because we have an ongoing grant. To pay for every student would be $1150. We could send out slips to parents asking if they’re willing to pay, but we don’t want to make parents feel like they have to. Buses are additional $200 approx. Total $2200 for whole school to go.
  - Ms. Windom: are teachers on board with this? We need to be careful about taking kids out of the classroom for field trips. Last year was hard- we felt we didn’t have enough in-classroom days. Teachers also want to do field trips that align with their curriculum or field trips that are required. Issue is losing instructional time.
  - Clayton: field trips give parents a chance to get involved. ELL parents can be with the kids on this trip without a lot of need for communication there.
  - How much do we typically earn when we ask parents if they want to chip in? Kristin: we usually get about $1000.
  - PTO approved up to $2200 for this field trip, allowing teachers to opt out.

- **Artists in Residence**
  - ANew BAM - District Funded- 9/16 Start - Carrie
  - JAMF and COMPASS- Clayton

- **Wege Grant** - Clayton
  - Table update until next month

- **Updates from others as time allows** (table for next month/send via email as needed) (All)

- **Mr. Ratcliff:** request for funds
  - Designing a Better Paperclip. Reverse engineering curriculum aligned with 4th grade science. Visual to support ELL, very rigorous.
  - PTO approved funding $150

- **STEM field trip for 4th-5th graders:** another approx $2000.
  - Initiated by the teacher. Don’t need the funds until the winter
PTO approved $2000 for this field trip.

Principal report- Sharon 6:40 - 6:50

- Added funding from district
  - Lunch TA and musician in residence funded by district
- Possible grants
- Best communication method(s) for Ms Hendrix
  - Focus right now EnVOY training, culturally relevant teaching

Volunteer needs - Pete 6:50 - 7:00

- Field Trip Coordinator
- Field Trip Liaisons for each grade level
  - Kristin thinks that 2nd grade needs one still.
- Fundraising Committee Members and Lead
  - Clayton will lead it and people can talk to him if they want to help.
- Read-A-Thon Coordinators (2)
  - In the past EMily and Carrie have done it.
- Give to the Max Day- Training opportunity + Campaign Mgmt
  - Nov 2 is Give to eh Max. Training opp in Roseville to teach you how to do the website, etc.
- Enrollment Working Group
  - Attracting parents to the school, events. Critical to the financial stability of the school to make sure we are at capacity.
- Grants Working Group
- Other
- Sign up at PTO, then again in folders, Rozlon, Parent Pick Up- Pete and Selina
  - Email Selina or Pete or galtierpto@gmail.com to ask for more information or sign up.

Box TOps are going electronic - you can scan your receipt and the money goes straight to Galtier.

Celebrations - if there is time - Large group share