**Garrett Park Elementary PTA Meeting**

Meeting Minutes for February 4, 2025

**Quick Recap**

The meeting focused on coordinating various aspects of upcoming events, including a silent auction, and a survey for parents about tech usage with their kids. The school's increasing enrollment, upcoming events such as Valentine's Day parties and the kindergarten registration, and the success of the Silver Diner fundraiser were also discussed. The meeting also covered the transition of roles within the PTA, the school garden project, and the upcoming meeting at the County Council offices regarding the completion of the auditorium at Woodward High School.

**School Administration Updates**

* Principal Tucci expressed gratitude for the community's participation and donations in recent events, highlighting the success of the Silver Diner fundraiser.
* Principal Tucci updated the community on the school's increasing enrollment, projecting over 770 students for the next year.
* The school calendar was extended by a day due to snow and ice events
* This year’s 5th grade promotion event date was confirmed as June 12th. Further details will be communicated as the promotion committee meets.
* Series of equity dialogues in 5th grade, focusing on being an equity warrior and an upstander.
* The second marking period has just ended, and the third was underway.
* Upcoming kindergarten registration is opening soon and GPES is still considering the possibility of expanding the preschool program, contingent on funding. Eligibility criteria for the preschool program will be based on need and income.
* The PTA held a successful fundraiser with the Silver Diner event, which raised $845, including an additional $200 from the restaurant.
* A new Healthy Tech Committee, led by a pediatrician and a child psychologist, is forming to educate the community on technology use, especially among children.
* In response to concerns about immigration law enforcement, please be assured that the school's primary focus is providing education to all children.
* Upcoming **silent auction event on February 20t**h, which will include online bidding, games, and food sales.

**PTA President’s Update**

* Due to Free State PTA rules, the GPES PTA can only have one President. IN response, there will be transition of roles within the organization, with Jess Lieberson being nominated as the new Executive Vice President and Laura Basford retaining the President position. The decision was made to comply with new rules that do not allow for Co-Presidents.
* For the upcoming silent auction and game night on February 20th, the PTA will need volunteers for setup and cleanup. The auction event will be entirely online, with the auction opening a week in advance.
* Please also save the date for upcoming International Night on March 20th, with more details to be shared later.

**Green Committee/School Garden Update**

* Gerlinde provided an update on the school garden project, mentioning that they are planning a winter sowing event in March
* The group will also rebuild some beds for the 2nd grade’s salad project after the spring break.
* She also mentioned the possibility of meeting every second Saturday and encouraged anyone interested in the gardening project to join the Whatsapp group for updates.

**Room Parent Update**

This year’s Valentine’s Day classroom celebrations will include the return of the 'Happy Hearts' initiative, which aims to bring positivity and happiness to students.

**WJ Cluster Representative Update**

There will be an upcoming meeting at the County Council offices regarding the completion of the auditorium at Woodward High School. The meeting, scheduled for 7 o'clock, was to be attended by parents to show support for the project. The Walter Johnson Cluster would be testifying in front of the Council about the budget shortfall and the unfinished sports fields. The meeting was not a PTA or school event, but GPES parents are encouraged to attend to demonstrate community support. The meeting was not to be held on Zoom, but in person at the County Council offices.