**Garrett Park Elementary PTA General Meeting**

[**https://www.gpespta.org/**](https://www.gpespta.org/)

December 3, 2024, at 6:30pm

19 online; 12 person

**Agenda & Meeting Notes**

1. **Welcome and Introductions**

PTA meetings will be the first Tuesday of every month at 6:30pm

1. **School Admin Updates – Nicole Morici, Administration Intern, followed by Q&A** 
   * STEAM Night was huge success – thank you!
   * Pie raffle was also wonderful, thank you!! All staff members including bus drivers got pies
   * Inclusive Schools Spirit Week – celebrating diverse backgrounds of students and families, see email from Mr. Tucci, special spirit wear including art contest and activities
   * Specific focusing on language scaffolds in the classroom and especially English Language Learners. Staff participated in professional development on language scaffolds and discourse. Teachers will bring into classrooms for all students to benefit and will be tracking.
   * GPES is continuing to grow – now have 740 students, up from 680 in August
2. **“Teens, Tweens, and Screens” by Amanda Johnson, Nurse Practitioner and GPES Parent**
   * Trends in adolescent mental health associated with increased use of smart phones
   * Dramatic increases in mental health challenges in young people in past 20 years
   * Much of content from this book: The Anxious Generation by Jonathan Haidt
   * Strategies to change social norms and reduce peer pressure are available
   * Slides will be shared with meeting minutes.
   * PTA will considering committee and/or survey about smartphone use and preferences among GPES families
3. **PTA Board Updates**

* STEAM was amazing – thank you to Aaron and all the volunteers!
* Staff Appreciation – thank you to Katie and Jen!

**Treasurer’s Report – Elizabeth Ferapozzi and Laura Basford**

* + PTA Budget is mostly up to date
  + Budget requests approved by unanimous vote
    1. Green Committee is requesting to increase budget by $550 to $1,800
    2. Funding for author presentation/event also requested

**WJ School Cluster Update – Steve Welker**

* + Funding for Woodward being requested to complete full project
  + Consultant for boundary study will be confirmed soon by MCPS
  + Current understanding/position that all elementary schools currently in WJ Cluster will be in WJ or Woodward.
  + Garrett Park’s boundary will not change.
  + Will be listening for ways to best engage.
  + Will reach out to WJ Cluster Rep for presentation on state of Woodward in early spring

**Events Update – Aaron Gonzales**

* + Thank you for STEAM night! Had 13 presenters
  + Next events – Silent Auction Game Night in Feb & Silent Auction in March

**Staff Appreciation – Katie Mullen**

* + Pie event was successful
  + Winter treats for teachers’ lounge and Retreat Room

**Extracurricular Activities – Jen Wong**

* + All winter activities are now on the PTA webpage, bringing back most favorites - <https://www.gpespta.org/>

**Room Parents – Carolyn Mueller**

* + Room parents can use part of budget for teachers gift, or can wait until end of year
  + MCPS website advises $20 limit for gifts from individual students

1. **Open Forum** - We welcome your comments and questions!
2. **Adjourn**