

Ironia PTO Spring Meeting

Date: 5/23/2024

Time: 9:30 AM

Welcoming comments from the PTO President, Karen Galluzzo. Thank you to all our PTO members who are attending today's Spring Meeting.

This meeting's **AGENDA** will include the following topics:

District updates, Ironia Administration updates, Committee updates, changes for 2024-2025 committee platforms, GLOW & GROW feedback, vote to change position name, Fundraising, PTO member comments, fiscal information from the Treasurer.

Since the Winter PTO Meeting, the PTO has completed a family night at The Barn, Winterfest, VIP weekend, Book Fair, Earth Week, Staff Appreciation Week, Book Drive for Goryeb Children's Hospital, multiple 5th Grade fundraisers and much more. We are especially thankful to all the amazing volunteers who made each of these possible!

DISTRICT UPDATES

- The Board of Education (BOE) did not send any delegates to discuss their upcoming referendum.

IRONIA ADMINISTRATIVE & STAFF UPDATES

- Mrs. Dressel addressed the PTO.
- The administration is seeing positive results from their STUDENT VOICE initiative. Allowing all the children to give feedback on the things they like about their education and what they would like to see done differently.
- The school voted on a theme for the 2024-2025 school year, R.O.A.R. 2.0. This will be a continuation and expansion on the R.O.A.R. theme from this year.
- The teaching staff submitted applications for grants that are currently under review from the PTO.
- The Administration and staff appreciate the cooperative relationship and support from the PTO.
- Mr. Litz addressed the PTO.
- He would like to thank the PTO for all the events that were accomplished with their help this year.
- Mrs. Bourke, Mrs. Daly and Mrs. Reidy addressed the PTO.
- They appreciated the new volunteers stepping into the Winterfest roles this year and allowing the staff of Ironia to be a part of the event.
- The Cultural Kits are wonderful. They are being moved to the library to make them even more accessible for teachers to use.

- The staff would like to express a big thank you to the Staff Appreciation Committee. It was thoughtful and truly enjoyed by everyone. The staff would also like to thank the PTO for the Bluetooth speaker given to the teacher's lounge. It has created a wonderful environment for teachers to relax and recharge.
- Thank you to the PTO for bringing back Science Days.

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

- Jamie Johnson is looking for support for the Grant Committee. To review incoming grants from teachers and simplify the process.
- Erin Skidmore addressed the PTO about the Growing Garden, its need for volunteers, new growing beds and potentially a shade sail and more inclusive benches. The current chairs of the Growing Garden (Erin Skidmore and Anne-Elen Kernaleguen) will be retiring in two years' time and are looking for shadows to step into the role. Mrs. Measley will be the new teacher liaison for the Garden Club.
- Rayleen Halliday Barraclough is stepping down from her role as Book Fair Committee Chair as her children are transitioning to the middle school. Anne-Elen Kernaleguen has been shadowing the role while on the committee and will be formally submitting for the chair position in the fall. The committee is looking for a co-chair as well.
- Lisa Beng and Meg Button could not be present at the meeting to address the information for the Yearbook. They relayed material to the E-Board stating the yearbook would be released on the following dates. May 31st for 5th Grade and June 3rd for K-4th Grades. The artwork for the cover of the yearbook was created by Mrs. Lade and 5th Grade students. The Yearbook raised nearly \$1000 for the 5th grade events. The committee purchased 20 additional books that will be available for purchase on a first come, first serve basis.
- The PTO will be creating chair-shadow positions in the fall. This is intended to give newer parents the opportunity to see how a committee is run from a seasoned committee chair before they transition out of the role. This is being done to hopefully create a seamless transition as parents age out of Ironia and to make sure the committee is carried on for years to come.

WINTERFEST

- Winterfest was a HUGE success for the PTO and the school. None of it would have been possible without the dozens of volunteers. With Winterfest resuming, the PTO has additional funds at their disposal. The majority of the funds are preset to be used (per our Gaming License) for our Cultural Arts Committee, Teacher's Grants and Technology upgrades for the PTO. However, there are additional funds beyond those. The PTO will be holding a vote in September to determine how to spend the additional funds. For more information on the outcome of Winterfest, please reach out to our PTO Treasurer, Maureen Rockaway.

FUNDRAISING

- The 5th Grade Fundraising Committee has scheduled their final fundraiser for the year. The Car Wash will take place on 6/1. If you have additional questions about the Car Wash, please reach out to Becky Merrill or Jen Begraft. The Committee has done an incredible job of reaching their goals to fund all the wonderful events for our 5th grade students.
- Cheryl Singh, our Vice President of Fundraising addressed the PTO.
- The PTO had some very successful fundraising events this year. The PTO is looking to do some adult only events in the fall. The PTO has a family night scheduled at the Somerset Patriots on 6/9. We will keep ticket sales open until 72 hours before the event. If you have additional questions about the Somerset Patriots game, please reach out to Cheryl.

GLOW & GROW

- The PTO would like to initiate a GLOW & GROW program. We would like you to fill out your anonymous index card with things you thought the PTO did well and made our PTO community **GLOW**. On the other side of the index card, please fill out ways you think we as a PTO can **GROW** and improve. These will be shared with the E-Board and at our Autumn Meeting.

VOTING

- The PTO will be voting at our AUTUMN MEETING on how best to spend the additional funds from Winterfest 2024 along with a proposed budget for the 2024-2025 fiscal year.
- The E-Board would like to change the name of one of the current E-Board Roles to better express the depth of the role. The E-Board asks to change the name of Secretary of the Board to Vice President of Communications. Floor vote held. All present members voting. YAYS:25, NOS:0. The motion passes. The Role of Secretary will be changed to Vice President of Communications starting September 2024.

PTO MEMBER COMMENTS DURING MEETING

- Kristin (kinder parent) likes the amount of information coming out to parents. However, she would like to see more context on what committee roles entail.
- Parents would like more information about what each committee is doing beyond just the initial September volunteer sign ups.
- Parent suggested adding a year calendar of events to the Ironia PTO website.
- Jamie Johnson suggested the committee chair shadow positions be targeted at 1st grade parents. To allow Kinder parents time to acclimate to the school.
- Mayra Cano spoke to the PTO body about Gifted and Talented Children, how to recognize them, the benefits of teaching to a child's ability and offered support and resources to parents who are

interested in learning more about the state requirements for our district having a Gifted and Talented program in place.

- Karen Galluzzo stated the PTO will once again be working with a company to create supply kits for each grade. This is the second year of our 2-year contract with them. We have received mixed reviews. Parents like the flexibility of how to build the box. Teachers are not completely thrilled with the quality of some of the products provided. The PTO would appreciate feedback about the boxes. The box sales will be open over the summer.

TREASURY UPDATES

Unfortunately, our allotment of time ended before our PTO treasurer could speak. Maureen Rockaway would like to convey the following to the PTO.

- 5th grade fundraising is at 90% of their goal for the 2023-2024 year. With the car wash, they will surely reach their goal.
- Please have all expense and reimbursement reports in by mid-June so that all 2023/2024 expenses are included in the current fiscal year.
- Maureen will be drafting a budget for the 2024-2025 school year over the summer. Committee chairs will be contacted for input on how to appropriate funds.
- A full presentation of the financial results of the 2023-2024 year, as well as proposed 2024-2025 budget to be voted on will be presented at the Autumn PTO meeting.

CLOSING>

Thank you to all those who were able to attend this meeting. The meeting is closed.