

Indian Ridge Middle School  
PTO General Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, October 26, 2021

Meeting called to order via Zoom by PTO President Holly Kaplan at 6:03pm

Board members in attendance:

Holly Kaplan, President

Nicole Andrews, VP Fundraising

Marie Nanni, Treasurer

Jennifer Randall, Recording Secretary

Clara Sanchez , Volunteer Coordinator

School administration in attendance: Ms. Ortiz

Minutes from the September 21<sup>st</sup>, meeting were approved.

**Membership Report:**

New memberships are still trickling in. There are now 365 PTO memberships and a total \$5228 in membership dues have been collected since the beginning of the school year. Our goal was \$5000, and we have now exceeded that for the first time in the past 3 years.

**Treasurer's Report:**

The treasurer's report for September 21<sup>st</sup> – October 25<sup>th</sup> was reviewed and included an ending ledger balance of \$76,822.08 in the bank. This month we brought in a total income of \$7951.74 (Krispy Kreme Sales, Banner Sales, tshirt sales, etc) and had \$12,672.10 in expenses (purchased additional tshirt inventory, box fans, Hispanic Fair, etc).

**Principal's Report included the following:**

- Teachers are in the midst of training for new testing protocols (I-Ready, Connect Mastery)
- SAC accreditation is mid-November. Looking for parent/student volunteers to give their opinions on the school. Anyone who would like to volunteer for this project should contact Ms. Ortiz for details
- Still having a major teacher / substitute shortage
- IRMS reports any positive COVID cases to the district, who are responsible for updating the district website of positive cases in each school
- All high school students are now mask optional, per the BCPS Board today

**Old Business:**

- Krispy Kreme sales – spent \$687.50 and collected \$1364.00, for a profit of \$676.50
- Hispanic Fair was a success, spent more on food than we had allotted but there is a budget surplus this year. Had a large turnout from the community, with great entertainment and the audience really seemed to enjoy it overall.

- Bus Driver breakfast was very appreciated, we had approx 12 drivers come in and enjoy the treats
- 10 Box fans were purchased for the Facilities Dept.
- ROAR Incentive – recognizes students school wide for being kind. Students are picked each month to win a prize. We were asked to help fund the prizes for this program, and PTO donated 35 string backpacks and IRMS water bottles to reward the students.

### **New Business:**

- Harvest Drive 11/8-11/17/21
  - There will be themed days
  - We will collect food, the specialty item for this year will be boxes of mac and cheese
  - Homerooms get points for the qty of food collected
  - Need volunteers to help before school to help organize the donations
- Book Fair 11/15-11/17/21
  - Chair for Book Fair: Joyce Payenson
  - Will need volunteers to help run the book fair
  - Mr. Brosz, the media specialist, will not be available during the fair as he is having surgery
  - Working on finding a place to set the fair up, as TV Production classes are in the usual space we've used in the past
- New dates for Jaguar Jog: 1/14/22 (Pep Rally) & 1/29/22 (Color Run)
  - Looking into how to organize this new twist on the traditional Jaguar Jog
  - Possibility of mixing the run w/ other activities like tug-of-war, obstacle course, etc
  - Online silent auction will be live during the Jaguar Jog window of 1/14-1/29/22
  - Asking parents to donate high priced items to be bid on (Free hotel stay, tickets to theme park, Family membership to zoo, etc). Looking for items with \$100+ value
  - Smaller priced donations will probably be bundled together into a few baskets to be raffled off as well
  - There was discussion about possibly moving the Color War to an early release day in February or March, instead of holding the event on Saturday 1/29. Will keep discussion open about actual date.
- Grandparents Day postponed – new date TBD (waiting for more students to be vaccinated)
- Winter Dance postponed – new date TBD (waiting for more students to be vaccinated)
- 6<sup>th</sup> grade welcome dance postponed – new date TBD (waiting for more students to be vaccinated)
- Discussed purchasing new signs for the car line to assist parents in making drop off each morning more efficient. Line is still very backed up because parents are not letting their children exit the car early enough. A motion was made to allot \$750 to improving the car line with new signs. Motion was passed via an online poll. PTO Board will work on researching different types of signs and costs within the approved budget.

- Dawn Dantowitz shared information from the SAF (School Advisory Forum) and asked for any concerns from parents at this meeting that we would like her to bring up at the next district meeting. (None were voiced)
  - SAF meeting highlights include:
  - Students should be taught new information this school year, not remediation
  - Remedial camps are being developed for kids who are falling behind
  - Change to the FSA: this year will be the last year this test will happen
  - FAST test will replace the FSA next year. There will be 3 tests: one given in the beginning, middle, and end of the school year. Schools will be graded on how much students improve from the beginning to the end of the year. Tests will be based on the new BEST Standards.
  - New homework policies were discussed, as well as new criteria for passing classes
  - Approx \$60K in laptops and computers were purchased to be distributed to schools still in need

Meeting was adjourned at 7:07pm.

The next PTO meeting will be on November 16<sup>th</sup> 2021, @ 6:00pm via Zoom

\*These minutes were prepared by IRMS PTO Recording Secretary Jennifer Randall