



# Gates Chili Middle School Parent Teacher Organization (PTO)

## Meeting Minutes for September 17, 2024 General Meeting

7:00pm – 8:00pm Gates Chili Middle School Library

### ATTENDANCE

Executive Board Present: Meagan Todd, Mary Housel-Demanchick, Kylie DiTucci, Dan Zdanowski

Executive Board Absent: Jennifer Gelfuso

Other Attendees: Kenyala Rollins, Cyndel Hoover, Kelly Place, Meghan Jacobsen, Nicole MacBay

### Meeting call to Order at 7: 10pm by Meagan

### INTRODUCTIONS

### TREASURER REPORT

- Reviewed proposed budget
  - Confirmed budget will be brought to October meeting and voted on

### FINANCIAL REQUESTS

- NONE

### OLD BUSINESS

- NONE

### NEW BUSINESS

- Tanya Srbinovski has resigned from her position as Secretary
- Looking for replacements for Secretary and Fundraising Coordinator

### SIT/DIT UPDATES

- DIT has been consolidated into the District Equity Team, can be removed from agenda
- SIT – we are required to have SIT and a School Improvement Plan in order to get funding as a Title 1 school
  - Would like to move forward trying a virtual model. There will be 4-6 meetings per year, and these will be recorded and shared via online platforms
  - Will also have component for students to be able to participate



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## PRINCIPAL UPDATES

- So far this year, we have been able to get students outside almost every day during their lunch periods
  - Discussed moving tables closer to the tennis courts for ease of use
  - Should be able to utilize the tennis courts as weather gets cooler, as long as there is no ice coverage
- We are looking to purchase games for the cafeteria as the weather turns
  - Will be including the students' suggestions as to items to purchase
- Looking at new options for the 8<sup>th</sup> grade class trip
  - Working with First Choice Educational Tours
  - Will be having current 8<sup>th</sup> graders vote, board approved in October, info going out to parents Nov 1
  - Discussed opportunity to engage current 6<sup>th</sup> grade students for ideas for their trip
  - 3 options being discussed:
    - Niagara Falls, NY
      - Cave of the Winds
      - Maid of the Mist
      - Swap out the power vista for the aquarium
      - Still do dinner at the hall
    - Toronto, Canada
      - Lunch @ Medieval Times
      - Playdium (similar to Dave & Busters)
    - Peek'n Peak – Clymer NY
      - Zip lines
      - Indoor pool
      - Mini golf
      - Aerial adventures

## OPEN DISCUSSION



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- Opinions on ParentSquare
  - Overall the group is enjoying the consolidated communication
  - Looking for more info on clubs
- Phone policy in the cafeteria
  - This is not a middle school choice, this is part of the district's new Code of Conduct
    - Decided through many sessions with input from parents, students and educators
    - 6-8<sup>th</sup> grade "off and away during the day" except when otherwise instructed (if a teacher allows them to listen to music, during lunch)
    - HS – available during passing, Study Hall, lunch, any time that is not instructional.
    - Taking this opportunity to provide options in addition to their cell phones (see games in cafeteria, getting kids outside during lunch once they have eaten)
  - What about when the weather turns?
    - Limited for the next 18 mos due to capital project
    - Tennis courts can be leveraged as outdoor space as long as there is no ice coverage
      - Students will be given a choice, they are responsible for attire etc
    - Potential for student lounge/den in future as we have had to free up some flex space for instruction due to construction

### ADJOURNMENT

- Meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

**Motion Approved - Yes: 9, No: 0, Abstain: 0**