

PTA Special Virtual Meeting Minutes Monday, October 26, 2020

Call to order at 7pm

5 Executive Board Members and about 57 in attendance.
Meeting held virtually via the Zoom platform.

Co-President's Report - Elaine Lee-Wong/Simone Dornbach

- **Go Math/Think Central**

- Think Central is the online platform that accompanies the Go Math textbook. The digital licensing expired - teachers unexpectedly found out that they do not have access to the online content on 10/21/2020. The digital license supports our current virtual and blended learning. School administration and teachers would like to continue with Think Central as it supports Go Math. They are of the opinion that this program has proven more beneficial to students as compared to the DOE-promoted Envisions program. AEA administration has asked that the PTA help fund the Think Central license renewal for this academic year.
 - Digital Licences for students in K-5th grade:
 - \$21.35 per student (318 student count on quote)
 - \$144.81 teacher package *which was included for free with student licence purchase.
 - Quote Total: **\$6,789.30**
 - PTA balance (as of the date of this meeting) - \$37,000 (does not include recent annual appeal).
- **Discussions:**
 - How much was previously paid for Go Math and why was the digital license not included in the quoted price for the hardcopy textbook for this school year? The PTA Executive Board is unsure on how the cost was negotiated as that was handled directly by the school administration. PTA Executive Board advised attendees on 2020/2021 Go Math payments details below (already paid for):
 - \$14,985.64 (\$32.20 per book) - 346 books ordered (K through 5th grade)
 - *Teachers Kits range from \$301.55/\$441.45
 - A parent inquired whether families would now have to contribute additional money to cover the cost for the license renewal. The PTA Executive Board advised that additional money would not have to be

collected as there were sufficient funds available in the PTA bank account to cover this need and that this Special Meeting was called to vote on whether or not to fund the amount requested by the school administration. At the end of the day, if the majority of parents/PTA members vote not to fund this amount then the school would need to explore an alternate method under the DOE-approved program. Also, the PTA will always fund programs for each and every child regardless if their family made a donation or not.

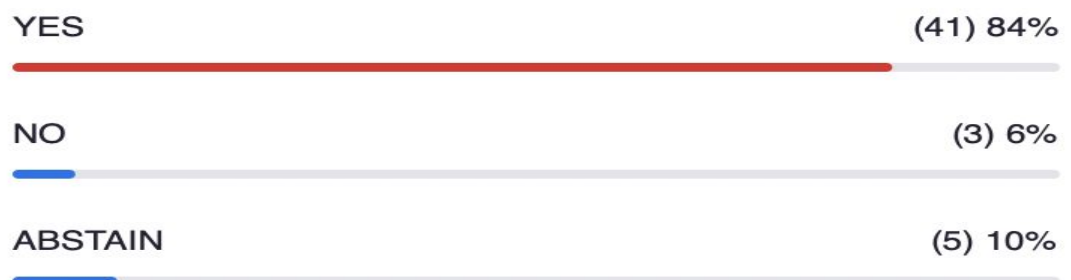
- A number of parents voiced their favor to continue with Think Central, having seen its benefits in the prior school year, and noted that the current remote learning situation made this program even more important during the pandemic.
- Can we negotiate a discounted price? - A parent volunteered to negotiate with the publishing company. Unknown how long this might take.
- There seems to be Go Math access through the DOE Teachhub. Can that be used instead? The parent volunteered to get more detailed information.

○ **Poll:** vote for quoted price VS negotiate for discount

- 57% -Vote
- 41-% -Discount
- 2% - Abstain

○ **Motion to vote:** Renewal of Go Math/Think Central licenses for 2020/2021 school year for grades K -5th grade for quoted price of \$6,789.30.

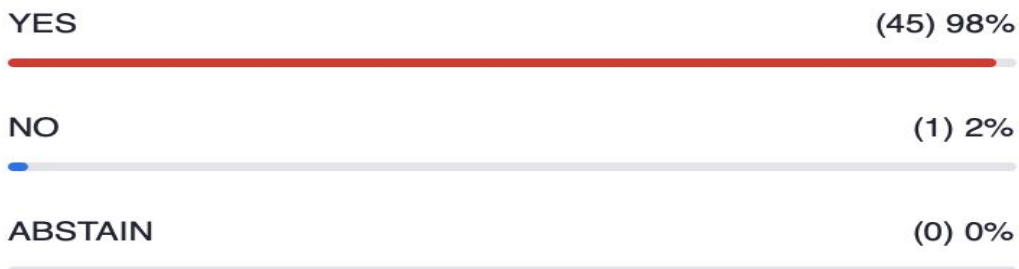
1. Renewal for Go Math/Think Central licenses for 2020/2021 school year for Kindergarten through 5th Grade. Quoted amount is \$6789.30.



**A parent volunteer is still willing to negotiate for a price before we pay the quoted amount. This will be communicated to Mrs. Gallo.*

- **Parent/Teacher Conferences (paying for teachers lunches during conferences)**
 - Wednesday November 4th & Thursday November 5th. Thursday, 11/5/2020 is early dismissal (11am).
 - The PTA usually buys lunch for the teachers during Parent/Teacher Conferences as a way of showing appreciation for our teachers. Prior (2019/2020) budget was around \$200. This school year, AEA has increased their number of teachers with the addition of several classrooms and specialty teacher(s). Budget for lunch is estimated not to exceed \$400.
 - **Motion to vote:** PTA to pay for lunches for the teachers during the parent/teacher conferences held in November & March. Each lunch not to exceed \$400.

1. PTA to pay for lunches for the teachers during Parent/Teacher Conferences held in Nov and March. Each lunch to not exceed \$400.



Announcements

- November is Family Empowerment Month
 - The PTA would like to plan events in the month of November around community building and empowerment especially for our new families that are not getting the true AEA experience.
 - Idea: host random “coffee chat” zoom meetings
 - FACE (Office of Family and Community Empowerment) will also be hosting some workshops for parents
 - Please join our Facebook page as we frequently post information and other resources
- Tuesday, November 3rd - Election Day (All students are fully remote for the day)
- Wednesday, November 4th - SLT Meeting (School Leadership Meeting)
 - If you would like to attend please send an email to Mrs. Gallo
- Parent/Teacher Conference - Thursday, November 5th
 - Teachers will be sending more info on how this year’s Parent/Teacher Conferences will be conducted
- Wednesday, November 11th - Veterans Day - Schools Closed (no remote learning)
- Thursday, November 12th - PTA General Meeting
 - If anyone has any questions, concerns, or anything they want to talk about that is PTA related, please email the PTA executive board so we can add it to the agenda. As always, we will send out a notice and an RSVP for the meeting.

Adjournment time at 8:30pm.