

# Howe PTA Meeting Agenda

## April 7, 2021 (held virtually)

The meeting was Called to Order at 7:05 pm

**Steve D motioned to approve the March meeting minutes, and Joyce Divine 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. All approved.**

### PTA Officers Reports

- **Treasurer's Report (Steve DiTommaso)**
  - Total Balances as of 3/31/21 are \$9,3551 in FNB, and \$0 in Paypal. The only movement from last month were the cashing of outstanding checks. Issued one additional payment of \$793 for Read-a-thon medals and prizes. One incoming fund expected is a check from the Read-a-thon profits, which is in transit.
  - New funding requests will be recommended so funds can be used on students this year.
- **VP Report (Dr. Murray)**
  - The Go Zone has been better; thank you to everyone who has helped with this.
  - Thank you to PTA and especially Laurie Cerci for the lovely balloon arches to celebrate the kids returning to full-time in person from the cyber learning academy.
  - COVID case identified over spring break. All of the kids in close contact (who have been in quarantine) tested negative, so this indicates our safety measures are working.
  - There was another new COVID case today in the cyber learning academy. The school is required to notify everyone, even though the individual is not in the buildings.
  - Gratitude to the district for working with the state to get all staff that wanted vaccinations the ability to get them.
  - Colonial Day is a long-standing tradition, but we recognize that there are parts of colonialism that have an inherent, negative connotation for indigenous groups and slaves. We will continue to do a special history day for 5<sup>th</sup> grade, but with some changes. It will no longer be called Colonial Days. It will now be called Howe We Got Here (new name recommended by Ms. Rindels), and will focus on a fuller range of the history of that time period. Teachers identified some opportunities for fun outdoor activities not limited to colonialism. Teachers will talk to 5<sup>th</sup> graders about the reasons behind the change.
- **President's report - Michele Rowland**
  - PTA presidents meet with the school board directors twice a year (only did one time this year due to COVID). There was a lot of talk about how relations are going to be repaired going forward given some of the diversity that has been going on within the district.
  - A review of PTA by-laws must be done every 5 years and is now due. A group of people will be reviewing and making recommendations for changes. See the upcoming PTA newsletters for changes (if any).
  - Committee vacancies are still open for next school year. The vacancies and descriptions of the committees will be featured in the weekly PTA newsletters. We Most needed is the Sunny Funny Fair. Holly Lopez agreed to help with that.

### **Chair Reports/Recent Activities**

- 5th Grade Committee is looking for ideas on special things to do with 5<sup>th</sup> graders to take the place of activities missed because of COVID.
- Yearbook (Check FB Pages for opportunities to load pictures for the yearbook) and order deadline is this Friday, April 9<sup>th</sup>. It will be a combined 5<sup>th</sup> grade memory book this year.
- A big thank you to Emily and Mike Weber for their work on the Howe's Got Talent Virtual Event. It was really well done and a great virtual event.
- Next year's calendar has been drafted and will be communicated. The read-a-thon was moved to the spring (same time as this year), and the Sunny Funny Fair is scheduled for early October.
- Teacher Appreciation Week is the 2<sup>nd</sup> week in May. There will be some activities and events being planned by this committee.
- Plans are in process for Family Reading Night. It will most likely be a virtual event.

### **New Business**

- Dr. Murray presented a new funding request. Every child must have a single copy of each ELA novel, due to COVID classes are not sharing novels between students. The request to allocate \$2,000 of the money raised from our Read-a-thon to purchase books for all grades, and to beef up the novels for grades 3, 4, and 5 and to increase novel sets. Joyce Divine made a motion to approve; Leah Haywiser 2<sup>nd</sup>. All approved.

### **Announcements**

Next PTA Meeting will be held virtually on Wednesday, May 19<sup>th</sup> at 7pm.

Kindergarten Orientation will be held virtually. The same content will be offered during two timeslots - May 6<sup>th</sup> (evening) and 7<sup>th</sup> (daytime). Both sessions will be the same, so families only need to attend one. There are also plans to do an in-person orientation at the beginning of the school year for the kindergarteners.

**The meeting was adjourned 8:04pm**