

# Howe PTA Meeting Agenda

## February 3, 2021 7:00 pm

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.

Dr. Murray made a motion to approve the minutes from the January meeting. Amy Grella 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion and all approved.

### PTA Officers Reports

- Treasurer's Report (Steve DiTommaso)
  - Total Balances as of 1/30/21 = \$11,455. Majority in FNB, with \$48 in Paypal that will be moved over. 2 deposits not included in those numbers. 5 reimbursement requests waiting.
- Vice President's Report (Dr. Murray)
  - Thanks to the PTA, and homeroom coordinator volunteers for organizing Valentine's exchange and "party" activities. Teachers and students are excited about it.
  - Some more activities are coming to look forward to: Girls on the Run registration, Howe's Got Talent is underway, and the Science fair (will be in a virtual format).
  - When remote, asking kids to keep cameras on during live instruction so teachers can gauge understanding. There are tools/tricks for hiding your own view or changing backgrounds to ease student discomfort with having cameras on.
  - Livestreaming is really intended for long-term absences to supplement instruction during that time, and is not a preferred instructional mode for elementary. It is not intended to be used for a "one-day stay home with the sniffles" type event.
  - We are waiting to hear whether or not the PA Dept. of Ed. will waive the PSSA (PA System of School Assessments) this year. Currently, we are expecting to administer them to students in April.
  - The school board asked for classroom densities again with 6' distancing and even 4' distancing. This info was provided to Dr. Irvin for the upcoming school board meeting.
- President's Report (Michele Rowland)
  - Updates from today's PTA Council meeting:
    - All school newsletters are being transcribed into multiple languages and shared on the PTA Council website.
    - We continue to need lunch volunteers - a 90-minute block of time to help hand out lunches. Signup link is in the weekly email/newsletter.
    - The COVID update from Dr. Steinhauer included that staff, specifically those in group 1A over 65, and staff in ADA rooms, will be getting vaccines on Friday.
    - Nominations for the PTA Council have been presented and will sit for 30 days. They will go for a vote at the next PTA Council meeting.
    - Minutes from Council Meetings can be found on the PTA Council Website. There is also a PTA Council FaceBook page for those interested.
    - The upcoming School Board meeting on Feb. 8<sup>th</sup>, a facilities update and discuss next steps will be presented for a vote on the Feb. 15<sup>th</sup> meeting.
    - Parent University will be held again this spring and will be done virtually.
    - The PTA Council will do their Annual Service Project. More details forthcoming.
    - There's a contact at the high school that has put together a shoveling crew to do resident's homes/driveways that need help. Contact Michele Rowland for the contact info if you need someone on it.

- Mellon Middle school is looking for volunteers to serve on their PTA Executive Board. If you have a child who will be in middle school next year, please consider helping. It is less work than elementary school PTA boards.
  - We still have several committee vacancies: For this year - 5th Grade Colonial Days. For next year (fall 2021): Reflections, Spirit Center, Sunny Funny Fair, Matt's Maker Space, and the Community Service Rep.
  - We are still looking for virtual ideas for student activities. If you have any ideas or hear of anything, please let us know.
  - Reminder to submit receipts for reimbursements to Steve using the form on the PTA Website.
  - Valentine's Day Party - thanks to the teachers and coordinators for making this happen.
- **Corespondence Secretary - Emily Smoller**
    - Thank you notes were read from Ms. Thomas, Mrs. Lombardo, and Mrs. Cooney to the PTA for the holiday gift bags for teachers. A virtual thank you from Mrs. Genes class for the 5th grade wolf conservation virtual field trip; the two in-person classes, Ms. Rindels and Mrs. Shields, signed an in-person card which was shared.
    - A \$50 gift card for Giant Eagle and a \$50 card for Primanti Brothers was sent to the Senediak Family.

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

- Be sure to check Facebook Pages for opportunities to load pictures to the yearbook. Yearbooks can now be ordered online too.
- Leah Haywiser will send the first Read a Thon Update next week. It will run from Friday, Feb. 28 - Monday, March 8. Printed copies will be sent home with hybrid students as well.
- Howe's Got Talent videos are due by March 5. On March 19<sup>th</sup>, the final talent show will be uploaded for people to view.
- The science fair will be done virtually and is now being planned for the end of March. More details will follow.

### **Old Business - none**

### **New Business**

- Heather Hathy presented our 2021 Nominating Slate. President - Michele Rowland; 1<sup>st</sup> VP - Heather Hathy; 2<sup>nd</sup> VP - Amy Grella; 3<sup>rd</sup> VP - Dr. Murray; Treasurer - Steve DiTommaso; Recording Secretary - Aimee Danley; Corresponding Secretary - Emily Smoller. Historian - Leah Haywiser.
- 3rd/4th/5th Grade Novels

### **Announcements**

Next Meeting Wednesday March 10<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m.  
No school Feb. 15<sup>th</sup>

The meeting was adjourned at 8:01p.m. Motion: Steve DiTommaso ; 2<sup>nd</sup>: Dr. Murray.