

# Howe PTA Meeting Agenda

## January 6, 2021. 7:00pm (held virtually)

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 PM.

Dr. Murray made a motion to approve the minutes from the November. Steve DiTommaso 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion and all approved.

A moment of silence was observed for two recent deaths in the community: Jason Martin, a Lebo Grad and dad of two high school students, and for Jacob Senediak, a 1<sup>st</sup> grader at Howe.

### PTA Officers Reports

- Treasurer's Report (Steve DiTommaso)
  - Balance as of 12/31/20 - Paypal - \$0; FNB Bank - \$ 11,857.
  - The budget was reviewed last week with some PTA board members. It was adjusted for events that may not happen. We have a budget surplus of about \$600, so we are financially stable and in a good position.
  - The only recent expense was \$475 for teacher appreciation gifts.
- Vice President – Dr. Murray
  - Dr. Murray reported three positive (tested) COVID cases, and 1 presumed positive that occurred over the holiday break. These cases are not on the dashboard because of the state guidelines for reporting on dashboard. Dr. Murray has concerns about staffing going forward. At the Elementary staffing meeting today, Dr. Murray says all buildings share this concern. If we don't have subs to cover, we may need to move to remote instruction by grade level. Parents need to be aware, and have contingency plans as it may change quickly. County health department has guidelines about how many positives in a building before we have to close for 3-5 days.
  - Good news - While cases remain in them substantial range, if kids are well enough while they quarantine, they will be able to live-stream into the classroom. Live-streaming is not a great instructional model for elementary, however it allows kids to have interaction with teachers and classmates.
  - A survey was issued asking parents to indicate if a new mode of instruction was being requested. Only a handful of students at Howe have requested changes. This was good in that it did not have a huge impact on staffing. Asking parents that cyber academy be a semester-long commitment.
  - There will be a letter from the district reminding everyone about the procedures for the hybrid model and wearing masks, etc.
  - Budgeted \$1500 for cultural arts assemblies. Since we can't do in-person assemblies, we found some creative virtual programs to do instead.
    - PTA paid for a virtual program from the Geode Guy for 3<sup>rd</sup> graders in the fall.
    - 3<sup>rd</sup> grade - has options for a virtual Science Center or Zoo, provided it is tied to curriculum.
    - Mrs. Froelich found a music program \$150 you get the program for a week. Could have everyone in the school see it.
    - The 5<sup>th</sup> graders are reading Hatchet, wilderness survival story. There is a wolf conservation center virtual field trip. This would go for the entire grade level.
    - Josh and Gab (typically do an in-person anti-bullying tied to our OWLEUS program) - they have a virtual program also. Total about \$1150 - fit within our budget.



- Emily and Mike Weber submitted a report on Howe's Got Talent. They are planning for a virtual event this year. An announcement for submissions will be sent at the end of January. Student and parents submit their talent ahead of time; Cap it at 2 minutes. They will Flipgrid them all together into a show that we all can watch live. They will be reaching out to 5<sup>th</sup> graders to look for MCs for the show.
- It was reported that Amos Glenn intends to hold the Science Fair virtually. More details to follow.
- It was announced that we will not be doing the spelling bee this year.

#### Old Business

- none

#### New Business

- Check for \$396 to Howe PTA from Wayne's World Photography.
- Heather Hathy - Nominations (Emily Weber, Heather Hathy) for Executive Board Vacancies. Amy Grella agreed to take 2<sup>nd</sup> VP. We will post for recording secretary and historian positions. Leah Haywiser will take an executive board position (whichever one we are unable to fill).
- By-Law Review/Update - Need to schedule a review of the by-laws. Denis Skorskiy and Steve DiTommaso agreed to help to review them in the next 6 weeks.

#### Announcements

- No School January 18th-19th
- Next Meeting Wednesday February 3<sup>rd</sup>. 7 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at: 8:17 p.m. Motion: Steve; 2<sup>nd</sup>: Dr. Murray