

Howe PTA Meeting Minutes

March 11, 2020

Call to Order: 9:21a.m.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes: Motioned Dr. Murray Second Leah Hayweiser. February minutes APPROVED.

PTA Officers Reports

- Treasurer's Report (see attached document) - Denis Skorskiy
 - Balance as of 2/28/20 \$17,672.36 First National Bank
2/29/20 \$221.34 PayPal
 - Cash carryover for the end of the year projected to be \$6,940.65. Discussed ideas on how to spend this money:
 - Kindergarten playground equipment was removed due to unsafe condition. Conversations about what to do with that space - possible ideas: a garden, or picnic tables for outdoor learning space, or lunch area, or replace with new playground equipment or playhouses.
 - The mural that was started upstairs - would like to carry mural all the way to the bottom of the school. Lowest level be the very bottom of the ocean. (each phase was about \$1,500 - \$2,000)
 - Next steps: seek feedback from teachers and staff on needs and ideas.
- Vice President – Dr. Murray
 - Dr. Irvin (asst. superintendent) is beginning a district-wide diversity committee - volunteers from the community. If you have an interest and need additional info,
 - Drum ensemble assembly was really cool and fun. Thank PTA for funding it.
 - CLO performance- Pioneers of Flight - was really well-done. Also sent teaching materials in advance about
 - Spelling bees - a lot of schools don't have spelling bee's anymore due to lack of alignment with current teaching methods. Proposal to have one spelling bee next year- have 4th-5th grade together. Have 3rd grade round and fold them into one night. Do not offer spelling bee to the younger kids (K-2nd grade).
 - Howe alumnus - from 1967 - wanted to make a donation to Howe library in memory of his parents. Will be adding resources on the Civil War to the library.
 - Student council - \$1,400 was raised for the polar plunge benefitting Special Olympics (SO). Kids going to each homeroom to share what they had learned about SO. They will share this at the Mt. Lebanon school board meeting on March 16th. All are invited to come.
 - 2 eagle scouts have proposed a project for Howe. Funds are being raised to fund materials for a gaga ball pit in the playground and adding an outdoor library that will be placed in the primary courtyard.
 - A Howe Girl scout troop approached Dr. Murray about a project to assemble cancer caring bags. They asked to use Howe to advertise/promote it. District policy prevents us from promoting unless it is a student-driven activity. They were given options to partner with the PTA or the student council to be able to promote it.

- Corona-virus update. Our health services person, Deana Hess, is continually in communication with county health and CDC officials. We have increased efforts to disinfect building each night, and teachers are carving out time to have students wash hands before lunch. This is difficult to do that with kids who have recess first (the logistics of washing getting inside, washing hands, and having time to buy lunches). Consider asking parents to send in hand sanitizer or hand-wipes with students in lunches. Protocols are in place to cover potentially extreme scenarios (ex. School closure). On-line resources on how to talk with children in an age-appropriate manner were emailed to all families.
- 2 long-term subs are in place and doing well- Mr. Floss (for Mr. Kolling in the gym), and Mrs. Fulton (for Ms. Mader in the library).
- Howe Field Day is on - will be doing Rita's again. We ran out last year, so order more this year. Plans are still being made, but it will most likely be a half-day (vs. a full-day) this year.
- President – Wendy Liberty
 - 5th grade dance this Friday 3/13. \$10 per child, and must be chaperoned by an adult. \$7-9 p.m.
 - Howe's Got Talent - next Friday, 3/20. Seeking volunteers to help - contact Emily Weber.
 - Please let me know if you are returning to your current committee for next year.
 - SHIM Food drive - March 23- 27. Howe families are being asked to donate baking ingredients like Oil, flower, sugar, baking mixes.
 - 5th grade pool party is scheduled for June 1st. The rain date will be June 6th - same day as the field day but it is
- Other board member reports - none
 - Information here
- Chair Reports/Recent Activities - none

Old Business

- The following individuals were approved for election to the 2020-21 PTA board.
 - President - Michelle Rowland
 - Treasurer - Josh Staff
 - 2nd Vice President - Leah Hayweiser
 - 1st Vice President - Kelly Ionadi
 - Corresponding secretary - Emily Smoller
 - Recording secretary - Amy Grella
 - Historian - Joyce Divine

New Business

- Any long-term budget needs or repairs? Use of kindergarten playground space and mural.

Announcements

- Next PTA meeting date is May 20th at 9:15 a.m. This is the volunteer appreciation breakfast.
- Installation lunch at the high school for current and incoming PTA board members.

Adjournment: Meeting ended at: 9:59 a.m.