

# Howe PTA Meeting Minutes

## 5/19/21 at 7:00 pm

Call to Order: 7:04 p.m.

**The minutes from the April meeting were reviewed and approved. Motion made by Steve, Second: Dr. Murray. APPROVED: ALL.**

### PTA Officers Reports

- Treasurer's Report (Steven DiTommaso)
  - Balances as of 4/30/21: PNC Bank is \$ 13,800 and PayPal is \$9.48 - there from one additional membership payment. IT was transferred over to PNC in May. April included one cash deposit - funds from Family Reading Night \$5,523. Expenses were already paid. 5 checks written and cashed in April, all for previously approved expenses. Camp Guyasuta was reserved for the 5<sup>th</sup> grade trip in the fall.
  - New funding requests for May. Membership Toolkit is a web-based tool that runs our membership. It's been billed at \$298. This year, the cost increased to \$450. Seeking approval of additional \$152 to cover the cost. **Steve DiTommaso made a motion to approve the increase of \$152. Dr. Murray seconded. ALL Approved.** Budgeted \$600 but cost came in at \$400, so the two changes kind of wash each other out.
  - Budget review conducted and ended up with a \$3,700 surplus. That represents the cash position now minus the additional end-of-year spending expected, and the planned carryover of \$4,500-\$5,000 for the normal carryover. Surplus of \$3,700 even after all planned expenses and carryover.
  - There are several new funding requests which will be covered under New Business.
  
- Vice President – Dr. Murray
  - Thank you to the executive board and our many volunteers for their contributions to the PTA and making teachers and staff feel special during a most unusual year.
  - Students are in the middle of PSSA's. Kids are doing very well, demonstrated tremendous resilience this year. Teachers have been creative about making the most of in-person time and minimizing screen time. Teachers are encouraged to take the kids outside as much as possible especially during the PSSA's. Teachers have done a great job especially this year.
  - Family reading night was held virtually. Prizes were awarded to all who participated.
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> graders will do their egg drop with teachers on the roof above the gym like normal.
  - Howe We Got Here - 5<sup>th</sup> grade history day is this Friday. Two parents have put together kits for all 5<sup>th</sup> graders (even our CLA students) to do some hands-on activities. The students will create a simulated version of the Susan Constance ship and have their lunch on the ship and discuss the journey. Virtual field trip to Colonial Williamsburg, and hear some historical figures talk about different time periods. PTA purchased Graeters' Ice Cream cups as an added treat for the day.

- Wednesday, June 2<sup>nd</sup> the afternoon will be a 5<sup>th</sup> grade field day on the playground. Volleyball nets, kickball will be setup to hang out together and have fun. CLA 5<sup>th</sup> grade kids are invited. PTA is providing a pizza lunch.
  - 11:45am - 5<sup>th</sup> grade clap out, and also invited the 5<sup>th</sup> grade CLA kids to join.
  - 5/28 is a noon dismissal. That afternoon class roster meetings will take place. Looking at proposed rosters for next year. Intervention specialists are part of that. Try to match peer combinations, learning styles. Ask parents to avoid making special requests for a specific teacher. Per the school policy, if a sibling has had a not great experience with a teacher, you may request to not have that teacher for a younger child. Twins - parents are allowed to specify if twins should be in the same class or separated. Overall, teachers put a lot of thought in class rosters. This information is not shared until August due to unpredictability of staffing changes that may happen over the summer.
  - Will CLA be an option for next year? Right now, the administration is planning for all in-person classes. There are no firm plans to have a Cyber Learning Academy for next year. If there is a cyber option next year, it probably is not going to look the same.
  - Would vaccine clinics be available for younger children once available? Yes.
  - Masking mandates for next year? Nothing is going to change for mitigation strategies for the rest of this school year. Discussions will happen based on guidance from Department of Education and the governor.
- President – (Michele Rowland)
    - This is our last meeting and typically PTA hosts a volunteer appreciation breakfast. We could not do that this year. Thank You to the volunteers and individuals will be recognized in the newsletter this week.
    - By-Law Review took place in April. Happens every 5 years. Heather Hathy, Denis Skorskiy and Michele Rowland completed the by-law review and sent it to the state level. The bylaw changes have been posted on the website for all to review. Most changes were things done at the state level and then asked to adopt based on the state bylaw changes. The only state level recommendation not adopted was for volunteers to remain in a position for 3 years. Howe PTA will keep PTA board positions at the current 2 years.
    - An update on Committee vacancies. Volunteers are in place to chair Sunny Funny Fair and the 5<sup>th</sup> grade committee. Still need chairs for the Spirit Center, Howe We Got Here , and a couple of other things.
    - Current Committee Chairs are reminded to submit End of Year Reports to the Historian - especially if you are leaving committees this year.
    - Audit Committee volunteers needed for July - August can be anyone on the exec board - Joyce Divine, Amy Grella volunteered.
    - The end of fiscal year closes out June 30<sup>th</sup> so please submit any outstanding reimbursements to Steve by then.

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

- Thanks to the executive board and all the committee chairs that have stepped up this year: Cyndi Benzel, Kelly Lauth, Laurie Cerci (hospitality), Amy Grella and Emily Smoller (holiday gifts for teachers); Emily and Mike Weber (Howe's Got Talent), Becky Smity (spirit wear), Shayna Slaybaugh (membership toolkit); Amy Kaplan (newsletter). Leah

Haywiser (read-a-thon). Megan DiTimasso (virtual book fairs); Kristen Meirs, Jessica Kibilius- 5<sup>th</sup> grade howe We got here. Wendy Liberty - yearbook; Denis Skorskiy- website and bylaw review with Heather Heather. Heather Hathy picked up slack on whatever was needed. Dr. Murray thank you as well.

- 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Happenings - 2 events that Dr. Murray talked about. PTA has purchased a gift for Howe 5<sup>th</sup> graders (inperson and CLA students)
- 5th Grade - Howe We Started
- Teacher Appreciation - Laurie pulled together a breakfast and lunch during the week. Also pulled together a gift, and included all staff including crossing guards with a flower pot, seeds, and a \$5 Graeters gift card. Thank you notes were received from some teachers, staff and crossing guards.
- Family Reading Night is coming up virtually on May 26<sup>th</sup> at 6pm. If you are participating with a cake or float, videos are due this Sunday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- Friends of the Library Book Donation honoring outgoing 5th grade parents.

### **Unfinished Business**

- **Dr. Murray made a motion to adopt the By-Law changes posted on the website and recommended by the review committee. Joyce Divine 2<sup>nd</sup>. ALL Approved.**

### **New Business**

- **Joyce Divine motioned to increase spending on teacher appreciation by \$250 to cover bagel breakfast, grab and go lunches. Leah Haywiser 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. All approved.**
- **Leah Haywiser made a motion to approve \$300 for Graeter's Ice Cream Gift Certificates for Teacher Appreciation. Heather Hathy 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. All approved.**
- **New spending requests for special treats planned for 5<sup>th</sup> graders who have missed out on a lot of the in-person traditions this year. Request for \$360 to purchase Graeter's Ice Cream Treat for 5th Graders during 'Howe We Got Here' day, and \$700 to be allocated for lunch (pizza, Eat 'N Park cookies, gift for each 5<sup>th</sup> grader) during 5<sup>th</sup> grade field day. Leah Haywiser made the motion. Steve DiTimasso 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. All approved.**
- **Sally Berri Pratt made a motion to approve \$75 for Ms. Lewis to purchase books for her first graders. Leah Haywiser 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. All approved.**

### **Announcements**

Howe We Got Here May 21st

PSSA (Science Grade 4) May 25th & 26th

Virtual Family Reading Night 6PM May 26th

Early Dismissal 12PM Friday May 28th (AM K no school PM K 8:30-11:20)

5th Grade Day June 2nd (Rain Day June 3rd)

LAST DAY Friday June 4th - Early Dismissal (12PM) 5th Grade Clap-Out 11:45

**The meeting was adjourned at 8:19pm. (Heather Hathy motioned; Steve D. 2<sup>nd</sup> ALL approved).**