

Howe PTA Meeting Agenda

November 18, 2020

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

The minutes from the October meeting were approved. Motioned (Dr. Murray), Second (Steve DiTommaso),

PTA Officers Reports

- Treasurer's Report (Steve DiTommaso)
 - Balance as of 10/31/20 FNB Bank \$13,074; PayPal \$1,230.
 - There were no new funding requests.
 - Financial health is strong and in good standing. Revenues and expenses are at budget levels.
 - PTA board is doing a budget review in December.
- Vice President – Dr. Murray
 - Current situation - Today the school board announced they are having a special meeting on Monday morning, likely in light of increasing numbers in Allegheny county and the new stay at home order. There may be a change in the works.
 - Administration working on how to transfer modes - for families that no longer want to do hybrid. We can't add new students into cyber on a short-term basis. However, working on a plan for families no longer comfortable with their kids in hybrid. At board meeting, talked about the idea of live-streaming from the classroom. Dr. Irvin and entire elementary admin staff have been against it. That being said, this is being done at the secondary level. School board asked to come up with a better plan to quarantine for a couple of weeks, especially with upcoming holidays and potential for travel.
 - Dr. Irvin and principals met with teachers who currently have students in their classrooms quarantining. By Dec. 4th (the week after Thanksgiving), the teachers will be able to provide some live-streaming, but it won't be for 3 hours straight. There will still be some asynchronous work times, but it will give students and teachers a way to touch base and see the live portion of the lessons.
 - Concerns - if we have people moving from cyber to hybrid - back and forth - going from one teacher to another teacher throughout the year, it's difficult. Jan. 15th is the next end of the grading period. We are moving to get families the option to change modes at that time.
 - Teachers are working really really hard. They are committed to doing the best for the students, but it is very stressful. Most people have been gracious and supportive of teachers, and it means a lot.
- President – (Michele Rowland)
 - Heather Hathy has agreed to fill the vacant 1st VP role. She has a 2nd and 3rd grader, and grew up in Lebo. She is excited to serve on the board in this capacity.
 - The PTA Council is adding a committee position for the cyber academy as a part of the PTA council. They did this instead of doing a separate PTA for the cyber

academy. Jean Thomas is currently the president of Jefferson Middle School PTA. She will be the cyber representative for the PTA council.

- Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) committee is up and running. They've had one meeting.
 - Still looking for lunchtime volunteers during the week. There is a sign-up genius to see the dates needed.
 - Relay 4 Life will be sending updates. They will sell luminary kits again for Dec. 24th.
 - PTA council has started a website and a Facebook page. They are posting positive things district-wide, encouraged to use these resources.
 - Reflections - artform contest including writing, art. The deadline has been extended for this year. Further information will be coming.
 - Committee Vacancies: Reflections, Nominations Committee
 - Halloween Festivities were well-received. There was a jack-o-lantern contest and raffle for costumes (random winner) - had about 60 kids respond on flipgrid.
 - Thanksgiving Flip Grid will be done.
 - Because we don't have homeroom parent coordinators this year, as a PTA board and general assembly, we will be doing a winter appreciation gift. Gift card and chocolate bar with a personal note to acknowledge the work they are doing. Table for teacher appreciation week - organize a flipgrid for each teacher to let kids thank their teachers.
 - Reminder to submit receipts for reimbursements to Steve. The form is on our PTA Website.
 - 3rd grade Geode Guy - has changed his format and is now a virtual program.
- Emily Smoller read a thank you note to the PTA from Mrs. Kimball.

Chair Reports/Recent Activities

- Reminder that the deadline for submissions to the weekly newsletter is Thursday evening.
- Howe Spirit Wear - Becky Smith - sold 204 shirts. The shirts will start shipping next week.
- Stephanie Kellner - Scholastic Book Fair is going on from Nov. 16-30. Doing some promotion and trying to generate sales virtually.
- 5th Grade Committee - Wendy Liberty & Amy McFarland - Refer people to the class Facebook pages. There are opportunities to add pictures to the yearbook. When you upload the picture, it has to be in the right category. For ex. - if it's Halloween, and you load 1st day of school, she has to delete it. So make sure you are loading it on the right tab.
- Leah Hayweiser - Read-a-thon Update - It will be scheduled to coincide with Read Across America, Feb. 26 - March 8. Dates will be set and communicated shortly.

Old Business

- Order more books for 3rd-5th grade (discuss in PTA board budget review)

New Business

- We need to form a nominating committee for board vacancies for the 2021/22 school year. Positions that are open this year are 2nd VP, recording secretary, historian. Ideally need 3 people on the committee, board must approve the individuals. Heather Hathy can be on the nominating committee, Emily Weber has also agreed to be on it. Will ask for an additional member in the weekly Howe News.

- PTA is looking for leads on any virtual events that might be good replacements for some of our traditional (live) events we likely won't be able to do this year. Dr. Murray will also ask teachers for input for a virtual event as well.

Next PTA meeting date: Wednesday, January 6th - 7 p.m.

Other announcements

- Schedule Wednesday November 25th - ½ day total asynchronous day.
- Thanksgiving Break November 26th -29th
- Parent Teacher Conferences Dec. 3rd & 4th. There is no school on Dec. 4th
- Winter Break December 24th - January 3rd
- No School January 18th - 19th

Adjournment: Meeting ended at: 8:11 pm.