

Howe PTA Meeting Minutes

November 13, 2019

Call to Order: 7:05pm

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes. Motioned: Nikki McBride, Second: Katie Graybill, APPROVED with the change to the document title - should be "Minutes" instead of "Agenda".

PTA Officers Reports

- Treasurer's Report Denis Skorskiy
 - Balance as of 10/31/19 - \$13,931.01 at First National Bank, \$105.78 with PayPal
 - New requests for funding:
 - \$600 line item for music teacher, Carol [Froehlich](#), to provide props and supplies for musical programs. Last year it was reduced to \$200. Request to reinstate the original line item to \$600. VOTE: Motion: Nikki McBride. Second: Leah H. Approved: All.
 - Request of \$235 additional money for Odyssey to cover the cost of one additional team (\$100) than planned, and due to two teams doing the same problem, requiring an additional membership purchase (\$135). Total requested is \$235. Motioned: Dr. Murray Second: Amy Grella Approved: All.
- Vice President – Dr. Murray
 - Thanks to Leah for the fantastic read-a-thon. We saw an increase over last year's reading totals by 14,000 minutes! The competition was healthier this year than in previous years due to not having a "top reader" award. One idea to float for next year is to move the read-a-thon into the winter or to coincide with March 2nd read across America Day.
 - **Safety and security items:**
 - Dr. Murray is offering another parent volunteer safety training on Tuesday, Nov. 19th -at 7pm -in the Howe auditorium. This is for parents who have not already attended previously held trainings.
 - At the book fair today, we had someone come to volunteer who didn't even live in Mt. Lebanon, or have any affiliations with Howe. The individual ran a local business and was looking to make connections. Mrs. Walters caught it and the individual was asked to leave. They got the sign-up genius link from the PTA Facebook page. We can't post things like a sign-up genius on public pages. From now on, sign-up genius links will only be shared through PTA Howe News e-blasts, and emails from Dr. Murray. We will also include a new requirement during signup to ask parents to type who the homeroom teacher is so that it gives us a quick way to check if we know the individual.
 - Raptor system seemed to work well for the Halloween parties, the first big volunteer event. There is an upcoming concert in December (at Mellon Middle School). Still need to see how entrance is going to do that with the new system.
 - Holiday parties in December - if parents are in the system beforehand, it makes it go more quickly so if you are helping at a holiday party, consider stopping by the office beforehand to get registered into the system.

- Dashboard emergency contact pages are still not updated by all families. Dr. Murray will send another reminder, and we ask all families to make sure their children's information is updated.
- Lost-and-found items are spread out on the stage to claim during parent-teacher conferences.
- Family movie night - 140 people attended, and it was a very nice night. We don't charge for it, but it's just another one of the events that the PTA sponsors- so thank you!
- President – Wendy Liberty (reported by Leah)
 - Thank You Leah & Katie for organizing Read a Thon
 - Thank You Joanne for Family Fun Night
 - How to Host PTA Council Meeting - Jan 8th

Chair Reports/Recent Activities

- Read A Thon - 14,000 more minutes. 98 super readers vs. 71. We have prizes on order and they will be distributed when they arrive.
- **Scholastic Book Fair** - Link has been posted online and emailed.
- **Howe's about a gift** (Dec 5th & 6th) - Katie Graybill
 - Penguin Patch has been selected and Homemade gifts are being made. New company for Howe, but the same company that Hoover uses. This company does not offer the \$1 coupon for each kid as we have done in the past. We will make sure that teachers and parents are aware of the difference so that they can ensure all kids are included.
 - Contact Katie Graybill for more info and how to help. A few crafts were selected and being made to see how it goes.
 - Sunday will be the first workshop on how to make beaded knots, there will be scrunchies, a DIY needlepoint kit custom-made with Howe on it.
 - Spreadsheet to sign-up for timeslots and then parent help signups will follow.
- **UPCOMING EVENTS TO REMEMBER: Spelling bee 4/ 5 grades** on Jan 30 at 6pm, **Spelling bee 1-3 grades** Feb 6 at 6pm, **Science fair** Feb 13 6-9pm

Old Business

Nominating committee selected: Heather Hathy, Emily Weber, Melissa Jones: open positions for 2020/2021:
 President - Melissa Jones has agreed to be President for next year. Still need 1st VP and Treasurer

New Business

- Lunch clubs are now up and running - chess on Fridays in Nov, knitting on Mondays, bead rings and bracelets/earrings. Tuesdays in Jan & Feb - 2 bath bomb workshops and Maker Space.
- **We are in need of a parent volunteer to coordinate the 4th & 5th grade spelling bee.** Amy will get info request to HR coordinators and into the E-blast. Estimated 5-10 hours of work over the course of the next several weeks.
- Next PTA Meeting - Feb 5th at 7pm. No Meetings in Dec & Jan.
- We will start to calendar next year's activities during January.
- Adjournment: Meeting ended at: 7:59pm