

Howe PTA Meeting Agenda

October 14, 2020 (Held virtually)

The meeting was Called to Order at 7:03 PM

September meeting minutes were **Approved**. Dr. Murray (motioned), and Leah Haywiser (seconded).

PTA Officers Reports

- Treasurer's Report (Steven DiTommaso)
 - Ending bank account balances:
 - PayPal as of 9/30/20: \$1,202.58
 - FNB Bank as of 9/30/20: \$13,074.35
 - New funding requests - Tent (see info under new business below)

- Vice President – Dr. Murray
 - The start of hybrid and transition to cyber school is going well. The kids are amazing; doing really well. The teachers are saying that it's fun to have such small groups - classes range from 8-12 kids in a cohort. Kindergarten classes are even smaller. Kids are getting a lot of individual attention. Cyber teachers have created a system to distribute materials without parents coming into the building, which is not allowed now that kids are back in the building.
 - We are thinking about our long-standing traditional PTA sponsored events a little differently to include the Howe cyber kids. We are looking for creative ideas to figure out how to do that.
 - Two Eagle scouts, Mikey and Matty McBride, are working on projects at Howe. A gaga pit has been installed near the space shuttle in the back of the playground. A miniature "little free library" will be installed, and Matty is working on approval to get one installed at each elementary school.
 - At the elementary administrator meeting today, the following items were discussed:
 - No in-class Halloween parties or parades this year. Open to other suggestions such as: Ask PTA homeroom parents to prepare non-food treat bags to distribute through the teachers, or walk around the neighborhood judging contest (just for fun, or even as a fundraiser).
 - Meal distribution happens daily at Howe in primary courtyard (up to 165-200 meals are distributed daily from Howe). We'd like to buy a canopy tent for \$200-\$250 so that they have some cover from the weather.
 - There was discussion to reschedule Parent/teacher conferences (which will still be held virtually), and typically happen at the beginning of November. Would it make sense to do these now, or defer them to January (mid-year)? More to come, but likely these will be rescheduled, and if it does, it will change the in-service day scheduled for November.
 - There will not be "Howe's about a Gift" shopping this year.
 - The end of the first 9 weeks is the end of this month, so after that we can begin to hold events. Read-a-Thon is being worked on. Will meet as a sub-group to figure out how and when to do it.

- President – (Michele Rowland)
 - The following updates were shared from the district PTA Council:
 - no activities/fundraisers for first 9 weeks ends at the end of the month.
 - Any outside organization that wants to advertise in the individual school newsletters must be approved by the PTA Council first.
 - Still need volunteers for the Howe meal distribution.
 - Still need Membership Drive/Newsletter; Spirit Wear Campaign (include masks); Reflections Contest
 - Committee Vacancies (keeping in mind some may not come to fruition - would like to have in place just in case): Reflections, Read-a-Thon Co-Chair with Leah Hayweiser, Spirit Center (likely a no-go this year); Colonial Days (5th grade); Sunny Funny Fair.

Chair Reports/Recent Activities

- Newsletter Committee - (reminder that articles are needed by Thursday evening deadline)
- Howe Spirit Wear - Becky Smith (report will be presented by M. Rowland)
- 5th Grade Committee - Wendy Liberty & Amy McFarland. 5th grade t-shirt orders are due by Oct. 18th. Most families have already ordered, but ensure we have everyone was posted on the 5th grade Facebook page.
- Odyssey of the Mind - Leah Hayweiser -advertised but only had one person interested. May not have any teams from Howe this year.
- Read-a-Thon - Leah Hayweiser (already discussed)
- Membership Committee - Shana Slaybaugh - 100 parents signed up. Got an email that a parent was concerned what sort of things would be available to them through the PTA. Those doing cyber academy are feeling disconnected.
- Howe's About A Gift - Katie Graybill - we will not do a virtual penguin shop.

Old Business

- None

New Business

- 1st VP role is open on the PTA board. Would like to have it filled by November. Specific details will be in the newsletter this week.
- Need to form a nominating committee for the board vacancies for 2021-22 school year.
- Motion to approve the purchase of a canopy tent 12x12 not to exceed \$250 for meal distribution, and also the Sunny Funny Fair. Funds will come from the school enrichment budget line item.
Motion: Dr. Murray; 2nd: Emily Smoller.

Announcements

- No school Tuesday November 3rd (Election Day)
- Parent Teacher Conferences are scheduled for Nov. 12/13th, but that may be moved to January.
- Next Meeting November 18th 7PM

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at: 7:55 PM. Motion: Amy Grella, Second: Denis Skorskiy.