

# Howe PTA Meeting Agenda

## October 15, 2019

Call to Order: 9:19am

September Meeting minutes were **approved with changes**: updated the dates on the month-end balances reported from the treasurer, and we updated the line item about Veteran's Day. Motioned: Melissa Jones, Second: Leah Haywiser

### PTA Officers Reports

- Treasurer's Report (Wendy Liberty for Denis Skorskiy)
  - FNB Balance as of 8/30/19 - \$7066.59
  - Total profit for Sunny Funny Fair \$6,699.30. This is \$2,084 over what was budgeted, which is outstanding. The main drivers for the great success were lower expenses due to (1) the committee getting all food donated, and (2) more raffle basket donations.
  - 5<sup>th</sup> grade activities updates: The Rummage sale raised \$344. The last Kona Ice sale raised \$218.75. Rita's Ice totals not available (pending check from them, should have it by next month).
  
- Vice President – Dr. Murray
  - The Sunny Funny Fair was a huge success. Special thanks to Amy McFarland and Melissa Jones. Melissa did a lot of legwork in August to have local businesses donate all food. Amy implemented a new idea with the raffle baskets: Each homeroom was given a basket theme and students were asked to donate an item for the basket. This was a great way to involve the students, and it reduced expenses and got more kids interested in trying to win the baskets.
  - Veteran's Day assembly is not being done this year. The thought is to spread out the assembly to every three years, which will make it so that each student participates once in the assembly. This year, kids will identify veterans and do a letter writing campaign within their classes.
  - An Evacuation drill is scheduled for Thursday 10/17. Students will practice evacuating to Sunset Hills United Presbyterian Church, Howe's offsite evacuation location. This is being done because the district safety committee is now requiring all schools to have one evacuation drill per year. It is expected to take no more than 1 hour.
  - Reminder to all families and caretakers - Dogs are not allowed on school property. This is especially important to maintain a safe environment for students who may be afraid of dogs. Also, all school grounds are closed during school hours - no one can use the playground or walk on the grounds to cut-through to the neighborhood.
  - The 5<sup>th</sup> graders went to Camp Guyasuta. It was a beautiful day and a great team-building event. Parents paid for this trip. The PTA has a line-item in the budget to fund the final year-end trip to Camp Guyasuta. It is an important tradition and one that so many students remember fondly that would not be possible without PTA support.
  - A Safety forum was held at MTLSD on Oct. 8 with Chief Lauth and Dr. Steinhauer. All principals were there. Discussion addressed both physical enhancements to student safety as well as dealing with mental health issues and to put out bullying. Dr. Murray asks all parents of students to really listen to your kids - if they don't want to go to school, or any ideas that there may be on-going bullying to please call the teacher, Dr.

Murray or Mrs. Karbowski (school counselor). While disciplinary actions taken can't be shared due to confidentiality, know that all incidents are taken seriously, and are investigated, and are teachable moments to use to further prevent and eliminate bullying behavior from school. But they need to know about the incidents in order to do so.

- Halloween party for a.m. kindergarten - the time has changed to 10:30am. The afternoon parade begins at 2:45pm and then is followed by the classroom parties. Reminder that parents who are helping with classroom parties can come at 2:30pm to help with costumes. Encourage parents to allow time to get signed in with the new sign-in procedures and to bring their picture ID.

- President – Wendy Liberty

- There are several board positions open for next year. The President, 1<sup>st</sup> VP, and Treasurer positions are all vacant. Also need people to help on the nominating committee as these roles will be filled.
- Box tops are being collected this month so they can be sent in by end of the month.

Moving toward electronic box tops. Amber Britton, chair, should be sending communication soon.

- Spirit Wear sale update - Commonwealth Press will be sending \$985, the proceeds from the first wave of spirit wear sales. Delivery will be at the end of this month. The next wave will be coming out soon, possibly in time for the holidays.

- 2<sup>nd</sup> VP - Leah Haywiser

- Read-a-thon kicks off this Friday, 10/18 and for the next 10 days. On-line fundraising is back this year that can be shared via social media with friends and family. Info will go home with students today (10/15). There are still tiered reading awards, but no top reader awards this year. This was changed to eliminate the negativity around the top competition. Teachers can nominate a super-reader, so that even kids who may not be able to reach the goal for their grade level can still be recognized. All kids will be reading in the class, so all kids will be included in the read-a-thon. You do not have to raise funds in order to participate.

- Corresponding secretary - Melissa Jones

- We should ask for help with next year's Sunny Funny Fair at the end of the school year. Recommendation to recruit SFF committee members at the Open House in May and also put it in the Howe Newsletter around the same time.

#### Chair Reports/Recent Activities

- (none)

#### Old Business

- (none)

#### New Business

- Family Fun Night is 11/8/19 6:30pm in the auditorium. A movie is played, families bring pillows/blankets and watch the movie. PTA supplies small snacks and drinks.
- Halloween Parade and Parties Thursday 10/31.
- Next PTA meeting date: November 13, 2019 at 7:00pm

The meeting was Adjourned at 9:52am

