

# Howe PTA Meeting Minutes

11-8-17

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- Meeting called to order: 7:02pm
- October 2017 Minutes Approved:
  - 1<sup>st</sup>: Dr. Murray
  - 2<sup>nd</sup>: Carla Clipper

## PTA Officer's Reports:

- Treasurer's Report: Jamie Gaglione
  - Balance Update:
    - Start \$11,429.54
    - End \$13,754.74
    - There are 2 current checks which have not yet been cashed. The PTA needs to vote on one that was written in 5/2017 that hasn't been cashed to date.
      - 1<sup>st</sup>: Emily Weber
      - 2<sup>nd</sup>: Dr. Murray
  - Pay Pal – Looking to link to MySchool Anywhere in order to make membership easier to sign up for.
  - New Funding Request: Sara Halaja – Special Education Teacher – looking for a number of replacement items (current items are wearing down after years of use) for sensory room which not all of the elementary school have (bean bags/mini

trampoline/seats, assessment kit/overlays for those with visual issues, etc.).

- \$415.34 would be the total cost, however, need to be mindful of the cost.
  - Sensory items are the priority at this time (\$250)
    - Question: Why funding through PTA? These items go above and beyond the typical equipment the school requires due to the sensory room (grant was written 10+yrs ago to start/fund the room).
    - Question: What will happen to the older equipment? Items are worn (hence, need for replacement) so need to dispose.
    - 1<sup>st</sup>: Emily Weber
    - 2<sup>nd</sup>: Carla Clipper
  - Will decide at a later time, due to budget, for the learning kit
- Principals' Report: Dr. Murray
  - Thank you to Jen Laurence and Stephanie Barber for the Read-a-Thon. Great feedback regarding the online version (loving the system- donations, feedback to kids, etc.)
    - Over 254,000 minutes which was averaged to about 716 minutes/kid
    - 100% participation – Mr. K camped out
    - 300 medals awarded
    - 57 to 98 students in the 1000 minute club
    - Assembly: Dr. Murray dressed as a sunshine during teacher karaoke time

- Income doubled from last year
- Kids still have 30 days in which they can log in to track their minutes, but teachers can decide to go live with it on their own – fee charged when larger groups, such as a school.
- Concern raised about education being mixed with money/sponsors.
  - Dr. Murray discussed that the original intent of the Read-a-Thon was to promote reading and revitalize school spirit. The money came later to be raised/used for PTA which went back to the kids. By no means are sponsors a requirement, but it is a requirement to read.
- Question: Are we giving mixed messages to give prizes to those who raise the most money? Mrs. Miller (school counselor) have been using this method for a number of years which is where we learned of the online method.
  - Will discuss in the future – competitive nature of the task. Grade level rather than the entire school was a change this year to decrease the competition.
  - Concern over seeing the number of minutes within real time – some kids tended to be over-interested in watching the numbers increase for themselves and classmates.
  - Concern over parent accountability/parent sign off – honor system.
- Friday is Veterans Day Celebration: 60 Veterans have rsvp'd to date, which is awesome.
- 12/7/17: Maker Night for parents. RSVP is required with a limit of about 25 people due to space. Come in for 1 hr workshop to take

parents through a simple maker activity and walk through what it looks like through all grade levels.

- Every grade has 2 activities tied to them.
- Dr. Murray will send an Eblast – an area of the front curb has been painted today due to some students who take a bus to Mellon for math and then ABA classroom transportation – reserved for those vehicles only (they will have permits).
  
- President's Report: Joyce Divine
  - Nominating committee for next year: Consists of a group of 3 PTA members who volunteer to determine a slate of candidates – all slots are open each year, except for Dr. Murray (Vice President). Currently, the committee (Heather, Leah, Anastasia) will survey current PTA members to see if they will be returning for next year and if not, then finding replacement candidates (February meeting is the presentation of candidates for the next year).
  
- Chair Reports:
  - Read-A-Thon: See above
  - Book Fair: Will occur next week Wednesday and Thursday. SignUp Genius has gone out (30 minutes slots) for when the kids come in to shop and figure out how much/what they can buy. Classes will be split up between the two days and the schedule will be sent to teachers.
  - Family Fun Night: Emoji movie took place last Friday, about 50 people attended despite many district sports occurring that night.
  - Howe Wear: Order forms have been distributed and collected. The orders will come in closer to Christmas.

- Question: Does the PTA make a profit off of Howe Wear?  
Yes, a percentage does go to the PTA, with last year being about \$2000.
- Lunch Clubs – Joyce will put out the information within the newsletter – first batch will occur either at the end of November/beginning of December and then another round in February – sign up/first come/first serve basis. Even though there may be a waitlist, it is recommended to continue to sign up because if there is 1 or 2 kids, then they may be rolled into the group.
- Winterfest: Will occur on 11/30 and 12/1; flyers being made along with the coupons; Joyce/Leah will be the chairs; Sign Up Genius will go out after the Book Fair completion to recruit volunteers; the company will send the items, table cloths, etc.
- Membership/Directory: Michele Rowland
  - Last push for membership has been finalized.
  - The directory should be published soon.
  - MySchool Anywhere which we are looking to move toward for next year.
- Unfinished Business: None
- New Business: None
- Announcements: None
- Meeting Adjourned:
- Next Meeting: 2/7/18 @ 7:00pm