

Howe PTA Meeting Minutes

9-12-17

- Meeting called to order: 7:05pm
- May 2017 Minutes Approved: No changes

2016-2017 Audit Report

- Conducted and passed on 8/9 by Jamie Gaglione; Emily Weber; and Leah Haywiser; former treasurer (Nikki McBride) always had more \$ in the bank to ensure coverage; Jamie became new treasurer on 8/18.

PTA Officer's Reports:

Treasurer's Report: Jamie Gaglione

- July : 07/01 start \$8,540.22 and 7/31 end \$4,792.08
- August: 08/01 start \$4,792.08 and 8/31 end \$5,442.09
- Budget Approval for 2017-2018: Approved
 - Anything over \$100 needs to be approved by the PTA; anything less can be spent due to appropriate funding already put in place.
 - Cost Changes for Camp Linsley to Camp Guyasuta: Decision to keep Budget at the same amount to account for any ancillary items, but overall, the cost will be less.

Principals' Report: Dr. Murray

- 5th grader teachers requested \$49 from the PTA for a digital download/handout for student math notebooks (visual organizer to help remember concepts) – future classrooms will have access as well.
 - Motion Approved
- Camp Guyasuta outdoor ropes course – one day in Sept (9/25 with Lunch) and another in June (6/7 for lunch and dinner) will allow for over the year team building; PTA supplements the overall cost; parents paid the 9/25 cost of \$26 and the cost will be a little more (but again less than Linsley).
- Matt’s Makerspace – kids/staff are so appreciative; the items ordered over the summer are still coming in; teachers will begin to schedule activities on a regular basis; the seed money came through alumni through Capital Campaign and PTA had surplus funds to buy more items (furniture/robotics).
 - Over the summer, teachers went to Children’s Museum to learn more about “spaces’ in general and are very excited.
 - Still looking for donations of shoeboxes, etc. and in the future, call outs will occur to ask for donations in a more systematic way.
- Lunch/Recess Change: This year will be 20 minutes lunch/40 minutes recess due to crowded/noisy lunchroom (eating) times; still working out the transition due to the beginning of the year
 - Feedback: concern over the number of children on the playground, etc.; other schools in the district have gone to a 3 lunch rotation due to space limitations
 - Change is hard – especially for teachers – helpful for the boys – physical activity is needed and refocus for the afternoon work needed as the grades increase.
 - More options to socialize with other/older kids in recess; getting to know others in the neighborhood.

- 15 degrees is the District standard – includes wind chill factor –3 indoor spaces will be utilized during the rotation schedule.
- Suggestion: Teachers ask student opinions during homerooms, etc. along with concerns. Dr. Murray plans to do this with both as well as parents in terms of a survey.
- 1st day, a young child (first time at Howe) had to stand during lunch – 2nd day had to go to nurse because of anxiety –rocky start but now it is going great; younger kids might be having a hard time waiting for lunch/recess.
- Some Kids feel that they feel they have to rush to eat in 20 minutes – is it enough time for everyone due to asking/socializing with the other kids- but same feedback as when had 30 minutes for eating the same thing happened. Kids are welcome to stay past the 20 minutes to finish their lunch and then move onto recess.
 - Suggestion to communicate to parents in terms of their child’s specific lunch schedule – Dr. Murray’s expectation is that teacher notifies parents, but as per feedback, it is unclear if this is happening.
 - Folder schedules have communicated this sometimes, but parents should email teachers for specifics.
- Lunch Clubs – might be more difficult for 20 minutes as 30 minutes is tight currently; Dr. Murray suggested 4 weeks from 12pm-1240pm combining 2 groups who have recess at the same time with lunch afterward, etc. (logistics to work out for A, B, C rotations).
- Middle Mellon School Transition for 5th Grade Parents – 1/25 ONLY

President's Report: Joyce Divine

- Thank you for attending today
- Chair Openings:
 - Coordinator for 2018 Field Day – Eblast looking for volunteers and coordination based on schedules
 - Lunch Clubs
 - MakersSpace

Chair Reports:

- **Sunny Funny Fair: Mike Divine/Amos Glenn**
 - 9/23 from 11-3pm
 - Preparations are moving along, preparations and EBlasts will occur next week
 - Table in front of school on 9/11 and 9/19 am/pm for ticket sign ups
 - Looking for volunteers – need special edition of newsletter with this week with additional information
 - Sign Up Genius within the newsletter – volunteers for games
 - Melissa Jones – food volunteers needed – not on Sign Up Genius
 - Asking for Donations for pizza
 - Planning on donuts, popcorn, nachos
 - Received \$100 donation to purchase hot dogs/buns
 - High School Students – Dr. Murray signs off on the hours
 - Still in need of pop/water/paper products
 - Will put together a letter per class asking for donations (PTA newsletter/homeroom coordinators); suggestion to put on Sign Up Genius

- Face Painting –accounted for
- Spiritwear Booth to occur
- New Parents – Kindergartens – not getting newsletter – needs to occur via main page on PTA Link to sign up to receive.
 - Classrooms Facebook Pages
 - Homeroom Coordinators
 - Suggestion: put introductory email for links to newsletter (to sign up), etc. or send a note home via teacher.

Membership/Directory: Michele Rowland

- We have new folks that signed up and names/ numbers to be placed in the Directory
- Membership to be wrapped up beginning of Oct and send out Directory
 - Printed and electronic, but should move towards more “green” options.
 - Discussion of MySchoolAnywhere –online to enter directories, etc. for ease of accuracy; other schools are using this.
 - Approved by PTA but not converted – cost is the same as printing

Hospitality: Jen Lawrence/Carla Clipper

- Prior to school opening, luncheon for the teachers and there were a number of thank you notes from the teachers presented.
- Kindergarten Coffee and Kleenex /Welcome Back Coffee went well.

School Supply Kits: Joyce Divine

- All went well with the new supplier – add to Committee List – official PTA position.
- No negative feedback from parents/teachers

Email Blasts: Cyndi Benzel

- Send any information to: howeptanewlstter.com by Friday afternoon and she will send out the blasts on Sunday.
- Howe is unique in other schools only send once a month. Inclusion of other links to the community, etc.

Website: Jamie Gaglione

- Committee members/chairs have been updated for this school year
- Corporate Rewards page – BoxTops and Apples for Teachers through Giant Eagle
- Minutes/budgets are also posted

Homeroom Coordinators: Michelle O'Relli

- Requests sent out to include Sign Up Genius along with intro letter as per Carla Clipper.

Odyssey of the Mind: Leah Haywiser

- Emails sent out for district meeting at Public Library upcoming.
- Problem-Solving Project and teams forming to begin in Oct and runs through the Regional Competition in early March.

Unfinished Business:

- See above for MySchoolAnywhere

New Business: None

Announcements: None

Meeting Adjourned: 7:57pm

Next Meeting: 10/10/17 at 915am