

General PTO Meeting

11/13/18

In attendance: Eileen Day, Tracy Wahl, Kate McHale, Kelly Fleming, Sylvia Kane, Nora Baughan, Jackie Halsey, Lucy Barber, Janis Michels, Marie Dye

1) Dave Carter presentation

- Gave tour of PETV green room
- Gave classroom tour and showed off new smart board that no longer needs projector; not light sensitive
- Transitioned to stations vs. desktop computers; new move toward center based learning that allows for flexibility and collaborative workspace
- Gave overview of survey results of 5th grade students and their at home computer and internet use
 - 36.8% have social networking account (instagram, twitter, musically, snapchat, etc)
 - Also asked if students have access to computer and internet access at home (most do)
 - Asked about internet safety such as whether kids communicate with strangers via xbox, etc. and whether kids have friended someone they don't know (21.8%: yes, 54.9%: no; rest do not use)
 - 38.3% of students have own phone (49% got phone at 10 years old; 10% at 6 years old)
 - In first grade, students are learning to log in and out of iPads and chrome books, learning basic keyboarding, upper and lower case letter recognition; mice are available as needed

2) Principal Update - Clif Beaver

- Gave overview of Veteran's Day assembly; nearly 50 veterans were in attendance
 - Shared slideshow from Veterans Day assembly
 - Mr. Lichter took & shared pictures of the even
 - Special thanks to Mr. Lefko for organizing the event
- Train & traffic update: there is no train schedule and trains can run at any time.
 - They run M-F 6 am to 6pm but have been running 24/7 recently b/c of increase in trains running in past two years.
 - East Penn says there's nothing they can do to accommodate our concerns.

- Designation as a switch junction is why there is a huge delay to cars.
 - A representative from East Penn will be at an upcoming township meeting so we need to rally parents around this issue
 - Also a concern about first responders navigating around the train relay
 - Students are late to school, late getting home, parents are late to work
- Banner update: waiting for hardware to arrive and hope to get them hung before the holiday concerts
 - Hat & Mitten drive - need to increase messaging on this to increase participation
 - Janis Michels' idea: share amazon link for parents to purchase hats & mittens online and send them to the school

3) Eva Thomas presentation - has scheduled curricular day only with K, 1, 2 students

- Has access to all of grades' science and Wonders curricula
- Trying to focus on more diverse, multicultural books, stories
- 5th grade - historical fiction book *The Trial* by Jen Bryant - about the Lindbergh kidnapping trial. 5th graders very responsive; reinforcing skills in primary sources and research skills
- Discovery Zone - maker space area; 20% of materials are donated and the rest from the PTO. Asks parents community for donations of toilet paper holders, newspapers, etc.
- Very positive feedback on the summer camp program and the PTO funding
- Every parent can have an account at the PES library; we have over 17,000 books (unlimited check outs for parents). You can search the book catalog and database at home. Go to power library and use your Chester County library card to access.
- Library is an area for free choice; Ms. Thomas does assess kid's readiness for books when they check out
- Mrs. Thomas' twitter account: @pocopsonlib - shares lots of maker space companies and pics of kids in library
- Reading Olympics - in May; a quiz bowl on books; the county issues 45 books.
 - Open to 4th and 5th graders who are put in teams who then compete at the event. Will be bus transportation to the event and then parents can come observe and drive kids home.

4) Treasurer's Update - Kate McHale -

- There is a deficit for spirit wear but that will hopefully go away as we sell spirit wear
- Huge surplus from foreign language but then we will pay those teachers

5) Projects Update -

- Hats & Mittens for Stonehurst; collections have begun and we are hopeful to get a donation from each of our students since our schools are similarly sized.
- Giving Tree - the giving tree tags are on the trees. This will support both students in need at Pocopson, as well as people from the Pocopson Home community. There were also be Toys for Tots tags on the trees. We will replenish the tags as they are taken.
- Coat Drive - We have two collection bins at our main entrance. The high school coordinator has agreed to pick up the coats as soon as our bins get full.
- MLK Service Project - We will not be doing the Rise Against Hunger program this year. We are still discerning what project to do in January that will allow as many families that are interested to participate.
- Coins for Kids - this program will run in February and we have students help us determine a worthy cause.