

## THMS PTO Meeting

9/10/2020

**Present:** Krista Chynoweth (President); Clint Freese, (Principal/Executive Vice President); Judy Winfield, (Free Money/Hospitality/AVP Coordinator); Karen Gruenberg, (Lunch Out Friday Coordinator); Brenda Miller, (TH Teacher Representative); Sarah Manaresi, (Parent); Amanda Matthias-Caton (Secretary)

Meeting was called to order @7:08p.

### **Treasurers Report:**

In Brenda Weller's absence the Treasurers report was given by Krista Chynoweth. PTO budget for the 2020-2021 school year was approved over the summer. Reminder that the PTO attempts to spend all the money it raises on ways to support/give back to the school and the staff. Currently, THMS PTO has approximately \$5,000.00 in the checking account, including the recent deposit of \$600.00 in PTO dues collected so far and \$100.00 in the savings account.

Brenda W. and Krista are following up on tax return filing for last year.

### **Presidents Report:**

Reminder that the THMS PTO Board Bylaws and Conflict of Interest are available on THMS website.

Krista created an email address for the PTO to be used moving forward ([thmspto.ccs@gmail.com](mailto:thmspto.ccs@gmail.com)) The hope is that by having a designated PTO email address correspondence/documents will be easier to locate from year to year.

The THMS PTO Board has the following vacancies: Scholarship Chair, Vice President and Curriculum Representative. If you are interested in joining the THMS PTO, please contact Krista Chynoweth at [thmspto.ccs@gmail.com](mailto:thmspto.ccs@gmail.com) for more information.

Krista discussed that a plan for the PTO to help provide students with art supplies for Art classes during remote learning hit a snag and unfortunately the supplies will not be available until December. Clint discussed ideas being considered for art instruction including art history as an option for that rotation.

### **Teacher Representative Report:**

Ms. Tinnerman, the THMS librarian, is requesting that the PTO consider donating remainder of money allocated for library use in our 2019-2020 budget to the library in addition to the money allocated for this year. Clint suggested that PTO give the library the money that is designated for this year (We have a line item for the library in this year's budget) and if we have the available funds, we can then support the purchase of more books at the end of the year. Karen suggested the PTO revisit this request as the school year progresses and we get a better sense of our membership as well as other monies raised.

### **Lunch out Fridays Coordinator Report:**

Brenda M. shared that the teachers love and always look forward to, *Lunch out Fridays*. Karen and Brenda decided the first lunch out Friday will actually be on THURSDAY 9/17. Karen reported lots of parents are excited and willing to help deliver the lunches this year.

### **Free Money/Hospitality/AVP Coordinator Report:**

Judy reported that we receive a check 4 times a year (every quarter) from Kroger for our *Kroger Rewards* participation. Our latest check from the program was \$370.34. In May, we received a check for \$362.12 and last November, our check totaled \$372.93. Please consider linking your *Kroger Plus* card to THMS PTO to help raise money for THMS.

*Box Tops for Education* is still up and running although we are receiving less and less since the system began the transition from turning in box tops to scanning receipts. Please consider scanning your receipt so that THMS can receive the benefit. Those who prefer to turn in box tops can still do so at the school.

The next *THMS Restaurant Night-Out* will be September 22, 2020 at City BBQ. Remember, THMS will receive 20% of all purchases when made using the THMS Restaurant Night out code. This includes: in-person dining, online orders, call in orders, and deliveries. In order to receive the proceeds, THMS supporters spending must total at least \$500.00. More information about THMS Restaurant Night Out at City BBQ can be found in the *Tower Tales* and *Notes from Centerville City Schools* electronic newsletters.

THMS PTO Hospitality Committee will be providing the teachers and staff with a "Back to School Appreciation Lunch" on September 22, 2020 catered by City BBQ.

Academic Volunteer Program looks a little different this year. Due to remote instruction, AVP is setting up a pilot program that will support students and families remotely. Clint shared appreciation for the work AVP has done in the past to support students who are struggling at the end of the mid-term and quarter. How AVP can connect with students as soon as possible who are beginning to struggle with remote learning is being explored. More details to come.

### **Principal's Report:**

Clint thanked parents and community for their patience during this extraordinary time. While this is the hardest he said he has ever worked in the summer to get ready for the new school year, it has been very rewarding watching staff do such a great job learning and implementing new ways to teach students remotely. Overall, he said students are attending and participating well in remote learning. For those kids who may be struggling to participate in the zoom sessions, the school is reaching out to their families and offering to help.

The biggest challenge he sees is the social/emotional piece that students are missing out on because they are not at school interacting with their peers and teachers. As a result, teachers are looking for creative ways to connect with their students and connect students to each other in the virtual realm. Breakout rooms is one way this is happening. Students who may struggle to participate in class may feel more comfortable in smaller groups/breakout rooms. In addition, teachers are asking that when students sign on to google classroom they display their first and last name and keep their camera on for the first few minutes of class so that teachers can identify who is in attendance.

Clint is also asking teachers to try not to keep students in front of their computer screens for more than ½ of the time allotted for each class period. For example, 45 mins classes would mean @22.5 minutes of screen time instruction. Teachers are being encouraged to find non-tech things that students can do to learn.

Clint mentioned that the district is converting to an all-digital information sheet on each student so that parents do not have to complete and sign the same forms every year. This will eventually be available on HAC. For now, they are piloting the program with staff who also have students in CSS.

Clint and THMS school counselor, Mr. Wisniewski, have set up virtual office hours for students and families who want to talk with them. Clint is also continuing to provide school announcements daily via google classroom. Announcements include things like, information about TH's motto C.A.R.E.S., birthdays, school activities and events.

There are no plans for another materials pick up day. If you need to pick up library books, a computer to borrow or other items please email the teacher or staff member responsible for the items and they will make arrangements with you for pick-up.

Last school year new cameras were installed in and around the building bringing the total number of security cameras to 50.

#### **New Business:**

Krista suggested miniature golf as a potential "free money" fund-raiser for this year. This could be a good opportunity for students to get out with friends in a safe, socially distant way. Judy will talk with Adventure Golf and provide more details at next month's meeting.

Krista also suggested THMS get signed up with Amazon Smiles as "free money" fundraising option.

Krista suggested that the PTO consider re-writing the criteria for the THMS Scholarship to make the categories more equitable and less academically weighted. The THMS Scholarship is awarded each year to one graduating CHS senior who also attended THMS. The PTO agreed to take a closer look at the criteria and possibly amend for the next set of applicants.

Krista asked Clint and Brenda M. for suggestions on how the PTO can support and show appreciation for the teachers and staff during this challenging time. Clint shared that food and drink is always appreciated. Karen suggested that the PTO place a request to families in the *Tower Tales* electronic newsletter for donations of certain items to show the teachers we support them. Suggested items included: pop, k-cups, microwave popcorn, candy, etc...

Meeting adjourned 8:24p