

Dr. John Hole Elementary PTO – General Membership Meeting – September 15, 2020, 6:30PM

Attendance: Carla Berkshire, Mrs. Lisa Mays, Mrs. Settle, Suzanne Hendrix, Lauren Coyle, Jenna Neal, Jen McCamis, Maria Rigling and other members

Call to Order

- Welcome/Introductions
- Mrs. Mays gave a state of the school year update. To paraphrase:
- The district is working really, really, really hard right now including the teachers, parents and students. She thanked the community for all their effort.
- The district plan is to get the students back to school in person, 100% of the time, for the second quarter. That is what they are working towards. There is a lot of work to make it safe but it is a real possibility. IT IS NOT A DEFINITE but that is what they are working toward.
- The district plans to send out a new survey to parents. Families are not bound to adhere to the decision they made earlier about hybrid or virtual schooling. There are many factors to consider, and it is a difficult problem to solve, if some families choose to remain virtual.
- Will the Voyager program resume? Mrs. Mays assumes it will be offered if students return to in-person learning.
- Is there leeway from state on testing? The state continues to require state mandated testing for certain grades. Second and third grade students at John Hole are currently being brought into the building in small groups for testing unless there is a waiver to test at home.
- When will the district announce intentions? Very soon. A school board working meeting is scheduled next week and typically, decisions are made at those meetings.
- How will grades be reported for the first quarter? Grades should be typical, not Pass/Fail as they were in the spring. Teachers are trying to collect data to confirm students are meeting standards, even in Integrated Arts classes. Zoom meetings are optional but the work is not for Integrated Arts classes. One of the parents requested that Mrs. Mays make it clear that IA classes will be graded.
- Mrs. Mays asked what we (parents) want the principals to do to keep the kids safe? Concern over bus rides was expressed, concern over the social emotional needs of students.
- What happens when there is a positive case? Per health department guidelines, students/teachers who were within 6 feet for more than 15 minutes of a positive person will be notified. Seating charts are very important for contact tracing. There is a flow chart form Children's Hospital to help the district make decisions about who needs to be notified and quarantined. If there is a case in the building, the whole building will be notified, likely by One Call. It would be up to parents to tell their children or not. Details about grade and class will not be

given – there was push back from the parents on this point requesting privacy for the student but knowledge of grade level or classroom.

- What will classrooms look like if 100% of students go back? Teachers have worked hard to remove extraneous furniture and space desks to the best of their ability. It is not always possible to space desks 6 feet apart. All desks are now in rows and facing forward instead of grouped together. Teachers will be encouraged to take class outside, take breaks. The situation will have challenges, no matter what the district chooses to do.
- What will lunch and recess look like? They are working out the details, perhaps rotating students through sections of the playground, classes will be kept separate. They want to be able to take masks off outside but it requires strict adherence to guidelines. The district is looking to other local districts for guidance on lunch room strategy. Lunch times may be spaced out more, plexiglass dividers could be used. Other districts have noted that students are complying with guidelines because they understand the consequences.

Executive Board Reports

- Principal: Lisa Mays
 - See above.
- President: Carla Berkshire
 - Meetings will be by zoom until further notice following the guidance of the district. For the next meeting she will ensure the password is correct.
 - The August budget report was attached to the agenda. It is anticipated that spending by the PTO will be less because there will be no in-school programs. However, fundraising will be less. There will be no Fun Run or Carnival.
 - PTO membership is free this year with an option to donate. There will be a special treat for the classroom with the highest percentage of participation – to be determined. The membership drive will be advertised on FaceBook.
 - New this year will be a monthly parent zoom meeting with a panel of parents to discuss questions submitted by survey ahead of time. Megan Rosenbeck and Maria Rigling will be on the panel as well as Mrs. Mays and Mrs. Niekamp for the first meeting on September 30.
 - The PTO is looking for ways to keep the students engaged and build community online. Please forward ideas. Suzanne asked if there could be a private YouTube channel or FlipGrid for a talent show or something like that.
 - There was discussion of a fall event, perhaps scarecrow decorating or a haunted trail through the park.
 - Lauren Coyne is nominated for the assistant treasurer position and was approved by vote.
- Vice-President: Suzanne Hendrix
 - The food drive will take place during materials pick up this week.
- Treasurer: Open position, report by Carla Berkshire
 - Lanyards were purchased so students can attach them to masks
 - It is likely there will be a budget deficit this year.

- Suzanne asked how long it takes funds from “Take Overs” to be deposited. Generally 4 weeks.
- Assistant Treasurer - OPEN
- Recording Secretary: Jenna Neal
 - Minutes from the May meeting have been submitted for comment.
 - Minutes for tonight’s meeting will be posted as soon as possible because there is so much interest in the status of returning to in person school.
- Corresponding Secretary: Jen McCamis
 - Jen asked if teachers would like to receive electronic cards or physical cards. Mrs. Settle noted that email can get lost easily.

Committee Reports (Previous Months – May/Summer)

- No reports

Committee Reports (Looking Forward – September/October)

- No reports

Old Business:

- No reports

New Business:

- Membership drive is ongoing, link will be on FaceBook, through listserve, payments are taken through Square. The winning class will get something special.
- Food drive will take place during materials pick up. There is a friendly competition with Normandy Elementary.
- Rapid Fired Pizza is the next restaurant take-over on 9/22. Orders must be placed in-person.
- The monthly parent zoom meeting will be 9/30 and the third Wednesday in October.
- The Spirit Wear Sale will begin 10/1. We are working with Embellished Threadz.

Next Meetings:

PTO Meeting - Tuesday, October 20, 2020 @ 6:30 p.m. via Zoom