PTO Meeting Minutes 10/08/20

• Introduction from Co-Presidents Stacy Anderson and Erin Plasch:
  *New Positions in MB PTO this year #1 Equity Officer(s) and #2 Communications/Social Media Chair
  *PTO Mission review
  *Goal this (COVID-19) year is to keep MB PTO going strong and stable

• Principal Update from Natalie Sawatzky:
  *Breakdown of Meadowbrook students right now is 250 student doing DL, 180 students are in the school as Kindergarten and 1st graders, 400 students are in the school in a 2 day hybrid model Grades 2-6 (Cohort A is Mon/Tue and Cohort B is Wed/Thu)
  *MB staff is working on more ways to connect with the DL students
  *Mask wearing is going very well
  *Students and parents are doing well with pick up routines
  *Social distancing within the school has been more of a challenge for the students
  *It's helpful to remind all that we need to give each other grace during this unique school year
  *Conferences are next week
  *Staff development day next week is focusing on anti-racism at MB
  *Picture Day is coming up October 19th and 21st, new vendor this year (Strawbridge)
  *Requesting help to squash the venting on Facebook as teachers and leaders at Meadowbrook have been hurt by this … take action here by encouraging parents on Facebook to contact their child's teacher and the main office with phone call and/or emails when questions or concerns come up
  *New staff is Assistant Principal Trenton Lawson and School Counselor Julie DeGroot

• Assistant Principal Update from Trenton Lawson:
  *A new student leadership group is being created and there will be an application process - purpose of the group is to make the school better and engage students

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• Nicole Sobanski & Julie DeGroot MB Guidance Counselors: Including Everyone at Meadowbrook
  *How are we helping students feel welcome/included? Changing the narrative to WHY we are doing what we are doing. Caring based message.
  *Emphasis on FUN and Making Social Connections
  *Distance teachers are doing different creative ideas to help kids feeling connected. Focus on social/emotional skills and anti-bullying.
  *Support for Families through the district are available
  *Welcoming feedback from the community

• Upcoming PTO Events:
  *Fall Festival: Mary Prevost - It will be a virtual event. It will include a scavenger hunt with a game board. Socially distance fun. Winners will be randomly chosen from each grade.
  *Restaurant Night: Beth Dutcher - Culver’s Week is happening now 10/05/20-10/11/20. For every Concrete Mixer purchased will get a $1 donation to Meadowbrook. Noodles & Co the week after MEA and Davanni’s in November
  *Art Adventure: Natalie Lu - Historically the committee works with the Minneapolis Institute of Art (MiA) and bring art and hands-on projects into the classroom. With COVID-19, they will be working with Mrs Silas (art teacher at MB) to look at this as a virtual opportunity this year. Usually it occurs in the fall, but they are going to have this later in the school year as they build a virtual experience.
  *Donation Drive: Erin Plasch - stepping in for chair Lisa Rose. We are returning to a Donation Drive this year as opposed to the Walkathon that we tried out last year. A new T-shirt was designed for this special pandemic school year and paired up with the Donation Drive. There is a PayPal option for digital donation and checks to the office are fine too. Remember to check with your employer to see if they offer matching dollars to your charitable contributions. Paper flyer was sent out to the hybrid students this week and emailed to the DL students. The link to the Donation Drive info on our PTO Website:

https://www.hopkinsschools.org/schools/meadowbrook-elementary/resources-parents/parent-teacher-organization/annual-donation-drive

• Volunteer Coordinator: Jen Gale
  *Four open volunteer chair spots to fill, Graphic Designer Co-Chair (we have one Co-Chair and we need one more), Bingo Night Chair (virtual this year and note that we already have Bingo Night Baskets Co-Chairs in place), Recess Running Sticks Chair and Yearbook Chair
  *For more information and to declare your interest in these volunteer chair opportunities reach out to Erin Plasch or Stacy Anderson at meadowbrookelementarypto@gmail.com

Next PTO meeting date TBA

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List of attendees:
Stacy Anderson
Erin Plasch
Natalie Sawatsky
Nicole Sobanski
Jenelle Bullen
Colleen Michals
Betsy Anderson
Emily Gilmore
Deja Bailey
Heather Conover
Dave Dutcher
Beth Dutcher
Yung Lu
Natalie Lu
Mary Prevost
Jen Gale
Nicole Macalena
Julie DeGroot
Katie Long
Heidi Thompson
Emily Wells
Farhiya Mohamed
Shanna Turchany Stevens
Debbie Wolfe
Trenton Lawson
Sahra
Amal Omar-Samatar
Anne Guiral
Sam Bonner