

## HKIMS PTO MEETING via ZOOM call

December 2, 2020

Meeting was called to order by Karen Castelli @ 7:02pm

**Members in attendance:** PTO Board Karen Castelli (President), Joyce Waterbury & Jen O'Neal (Co-Vice Presidents), Jen Savoy (Treasurer), Alisha McNamara (Secretary), Principals Eric Larson (I.S.) & Dolores Bates (M.S.), BJ Noonan

### **Secretary's Report (Alisha McNamara):**

November minutes reviewed & approved

### **Treasurer's Report (Jen Savoy):**

Budget reviewed

### **Old Business:**

Bus Driver Appreciation went very well. It was wonderful working with the other PTOs and we hope to do it again in the future.

### **Principal's Update:**

(Dolores Bates-Middle School)

Our food drive has concluded. We had an incredible response and were able to provide food for 60 local families. Thank you to the families that made donations!

Giving Tuesday- We raised \$300 for the HK Fuel Bank during our 'hat day' on 12/1.

PJ Day- All schools will participate in a pajama day on 12/11 with donations to support the CT Children's Medical Center.

Wellness Wednesdays- We began our Wellness Wednesdays today. We will have a focus each week to support the six pillars of wellness, with tips for the students and opportunities to engage in conversations regarding wellness. Today we showed an introductory video and worked on a breathing exercise. The intention was to give students a tool to help relax them when they may get worked up.

Spirit Week- 12/14-12/18

Holiday Card Campaign- Students will make holiday cards in art classes for homebound seniors and seniors that live in centers.

We know a local artisan who makes wooden benches. We'd like the children to raise money for this bench, which would serve as a 'friendship bench' during recess and break times. We're unsure of the exact cost, but it would be around \$600.

Principal's Advisory Board- Ms. Bates was very pleased at how engaged and positive the children have been in serving on the advisory board. So far it is going very well!

(Eric Larson- Intermediate School)

Mr. Larson commented on how courteous and conscientious the children are while he was engaging with them at the end of the day during bus duty. Many children say, "Have a nice evening, Mr. Larson!" without query. Thank you, parents, for teaching your children such nice manners!

We have two new nurses- Mary Lynn Crossin and Michael Brutz.

In a recent meeting with teachers, they discussed the importance of teaching independence to the children. This pertains largely to the distance learning and will be a big push in the upcoming weeks. While the children are always able to ask questions, it is our goal to have them working independently from their parents or guardians when they are home.

Yearbook- We have no parent volunteers for the yearbook yet. The teachers are able to take pictures but we need someone to take the reins for book itself.

**Committee Reports:**

Book Fair (BJ Noonan)- The fall book fair brought \$600 in sales, compared to \$9,500 from last year. It is recommended we bank the \$150 Scholastic dollars that we have earned for a later time, as that amount wouldn't likely cover shipping expenses, and therefore isn't advantageous to use right now. We can consider an outdoor book fair this spring.

**New Business:**

Discussion of something special and fun to be provided for the students in December. Mr. Larson, Ms. Bates, & Ms. Ouellette will come up with something to do, and will let the PTO know how we can support it.

Meeting adjourned 7:54pm by Karen Castelli

Next meeting: March 3, 2021

Respectfully submitted by Alisha McNamara