

HKIMS PTO MEETING (In person and Google Meet) February 2, 2022

Meeting was called to order by Karen Castelli @ 7:06pm

Members in attendance: PTO Board Karen Castelli (President), Jen Savoy (Treasurer), Jen Voegtli (Secretary), Eric Larson (Principal, IS), Dolores Bates (Principal, MS), Michele Ouellette

Members virtual: Joyce Waterbury (VP), Julie Peryga, BJ Noonan, Nicole Harlow

Secretary's Report: (presented by Jen Voegtli)

December minutes were reviewed. Jen Savoy made a motion to approve. Joyce Waterbury seconded. Minutes passed.

President's report (Karen Castelli):

-The Craft Fair was very successful. The event has been going on for 34 years. Volunteers to help run the Fair have been declining. The vendors really enjoyed the fair this year and new vendors are interested for the future. The Craft Fair will need a new chair for next year. The current chair, Jen Favolora, is willing to help out next year.

-We need to put together Committee descriptions to get new volunteers to replace those that are leaving for the HS next year. We are hoping to have these before the next meeting in March. The Craft Fair will need a new chair asap.

-In December the PTO provided the IS with munchkin donut holes, the MS with cookies, and the staff with a dessert bar. The PTO also provided bags for the Luminaries, which was set up and organized by Michelle Ouellette.

-On Valentine's Day, 2/14, the PTO will provide Hot Cocoa to the students. Volunteers are needed to help with the event.

Treasurer's Report (Jen Savoy):

-Our income since the last report was \$6,400 from the Craft Fair. The raffle at the Fair brought in \$1,400.

-Our expenses were \$90 for luminary supplies, \$290 for the staff dessert bar, \$241 for the IS munchkin holiday treat. Still waiting for the invoice for the MS cookies.

HKMS Principal's Report (Dolores Bates):

-Dolores thanked the PTO volunteers. She is hoping that the limited volunteering is due to Covid challenges, and hopes that we will have more people volunteering once restrictions are lifted.

-January was a rough month with many Covid absences. Despite this, we had successful band and chorus concerts in person, with good feedback about the events.

-The MS play will be The Music Man. Rehearsals have started. The play will be the last weekend in March.

-Current winter sports clubs are wrapping up. Spring Club brochure for both the IS and MS will go out by the end of February.

-Rewards for the 7th grade Lions Club Peace Poster Contest winners occurred.

-Spirit Week is the week of February 14th.

- M: Hot Cocoa Day. Wear Red
- T: Wear favorite sports team
- W: Winter Wonderland white out day
- TH: Dress for your favorite decade day
- F: PJ Day

-Trips: There are issues with the big out of state field trips due to vaccination requirements/restrictions. Natures Classroom will come to HKMS for the 6th grade. 7th grade will go to Camp Hazen for team building. 8th graders will go to Lake Compounce. There will be a celebration day for 8th graders at Holiday Hill.

-There will be a Family Night in May at the Yard Goats for both the MS and IS.

HKIS Principal's Report (Dolores Bates for Eric Larson):

-Eric is looking for bags for a Valentine's Day project. Are there extras from the luminaries that he can use? The 4th grade has a Valentine's Day budget of \$200 for supplies.

-Michele O. asked for construction paper and markers to make Valentine's Day cards for local seniors. The cards will be brought to The Saybrook in Haddam and to Jensens in Killingworth. The seniors love getting cards from the kids.

-5th grade chorus concert was tonight, 2/2.

Committee Reports:

Logo Wear (Karen Castelli):

-Maura wants to know if we should run a spring logo wear. The sale would be online only, and would be intended mainly for next year's incoming 4th graders so they will have their spirit wear on time for fall (the fall logo wear sales don't come in until winter, after the first spirit days).

-We could do an early fall sale in August. We could have some samples at the Stepping Up ceremony for the incoming 4th graders.

-Logo Wear will need a new chair for next year.

Welcome Wagon (Karen Castelli):

-A couple of new students came into the district in both the IS and MS. Welcome bags will be given to them soon.

Box Tops (Karen Castelli):

-Still need more scanning of receipts. There will be a flyer describing how to scan receipts for the box tops sent home with the IS students.

Book Fair (BJ Noonan):

-The Book Fair made a total of about \$11,000. We took the profit in \$5930 Scholastic Dollars (50%). Our cash profit would only be 25% (\$2,965). Craft Fair day had limited sales, mostly since there were no adult books this year, and many books were limited due to supply chain issues.

-People want to see more discounts going back to the teachers. Ideas such as in the spring, offer parents to buy gift certificates for teachers.

-We also want to get books to kids who don't have money to buy books.

-The Spring Book Fair will be held on AAFA Night on May 26th. AAFA Night is a giant art show with works displayed from all of the AAFA classes.

-Dolores mentioned that teachers have wish lists for parents and students to buy books from. Michele had an idea to set up a board with teachers wish lists.

Yearbook (Nicole Harlow):

-The yearbook is coming along. 5th grade teachers were asked to vote on the cover theme. Only 3 classes responded, but all voted for the same design.

-We will be promoting the custom page creation soon. Everyone has the option to create 2 pages for their own yearbook. There is also an option to collect digital signatures. There will be no ads in the yearbook.

Cultural Arts (Karen Castelli):

-Looking to see if we can do events in person soon. We will be able to use the auditorium.

-Possibility of finding ethnic bands to perform. The mariachi band was a lot of fun for the students. Can we tie this in with heritage month?

-We can also gear events toward each grade separately.

PTO Leadership (BJ Noonan):

-Superintendent Wihbey talked about the importance of early literacy. He is looking to bring more up to date books into the classrooms and shape up the libraries.

New Business:

-Karen brought up a Memorial Day assembly with disabled vets. We couldn't do anything for Veterans Day due to Covid, so can we combine a day to explain both Veterans Day and Memorial Day, and to celebrate our Veterans.

Meeting adjourned at 8:02pm by Karen Castell
Next meeting scheduled for March 2, 2022 @ 7pm.