

March HKIMS PTO Meeting

On 3/1/23, meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm by Joyce Waterbury

Attending:

Joyce Waterbury, PTO President
Jen Voegtli, PTO Treasurer
Eric Larson, IS Principal
Jim Harrison, Interim MS Principal
BJ Noonan

Online attendees:

Nicole Harlow, PTO Secretary
Julie Peryga

Unfinished Business (formerly Old Business):

- Motion to approve last meeting's minutes made by BJ N., seconded by Jen V.
- Joyce W. will post a request for a Cup Committee Chair once Nicole H. sends photos of the current display on the Rt. 81 fence
- By-laws voting: BJ N. received requests for additional information from 5 parents; BJ N. suggested changing "2 executive board members" to "1/2 the executive board members" in order to conduct business; Motion to approve all changes to the by-laws made by Jen V., seconded by Joyce W. and unanimously approved
- Hot chocolate event: changing the middle school schedule is harder than at HKIS; Mr. Harrison is open to the idea but wants to consult others about when to hold it; possibly for St. Patrick's Day or the day before spring break; Jen V. suggested during flex periods, with parents signing up for shifts throughout the day

President's Report (Joyce Waterbury):

- There has been interest from parents in being more informed of PTO business; We could send the agenda out before meetings but it really doesn't change except when there's a guest like the Superintendent; The decision was made to post the draft meeting minutes to the PTO page on rsd17.org the day after each meeting and the principals will let families know if there are upcoming guests or highlights from a recent meeting in their periodic emails to the school community

Treasurer's Report (Jen Voegtli):

- \$39,463.26 current account balance

- We received \$103.79 from Amazon Smile and \$219.80 has company matches for general fundraiser
- We paid out \$40.84 so far for Read Across America; more receipts are expected

MS Principal's Report (Jim Harrison):

- Mr. Harrison (retired 3 years ago from his previous job) has agreed to stay on as Interim Principal through the end of the school year
- He has been getting a feel for the school; met with 6th and 7th grade and will meet with 8th grade next week
- 8th grade has field trips and end-of-year celebrations coming up, including a day trip to Boston, Holiday Hill celebration (Cheshire) and Science Day at Lake Compounce; there will be behavioral and academic standing expectations to meet in order to participate
- The Washington DC trip was approved by the BoE in Nov/Dec but logistically can't happen this year; planning needs to start in the summer; many families fundraise well in-advance of the trip in order to participate
- Student-led conferences are happening next week
- Sonnet Man assembly, which is a Shakespearean rapper performance, will be Tuesday 3/7
- Addams Family performances coming up: HKIS will watch the dress rehearsal on 3/30 at 1pm; shows open to the public on 3/31 and 4/1
- Excited for upcoming Sonnet Man assembly

IS Principal's Report (Eric Larson):

- February was a busy month; activities included the luminary event and the BGreat assembly; Mr. Larson provided the HKIS pledge in advance and appreciated that the presenter wove it into his messaging; Norah Reeps and Asha Aithal were recognized at Aquaturf for CAS Celebration of the Arts
- Conferences are Monday and Tuesday (3/6 and 3/7)
- Superintendent Wihbey will present the budget on Tuesday 3/7, 6pm at the High School auditorium
- The HKIS Kindness Club will be recognized during the BoE meeting; they recently had a booth for free compliments set up and gave away gift cards, mysteriously signed from "KC" or "Kindness Ninjas"; Jodi Stupakevich, the club advisor has been posting on the "You live in Haddam if..." Facebook page, and her posts have been well-received by the community
- Free lunch is available again starting today (3/1)

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Cultural Arts (Julie Peryga)

- Jesse Ford will attend Sonnet Man on 3/7 to represent the committee
- Skate for Life is an assembly for both schools and will be on June 7; Nicole H. said it will be too late to get photos into this year's yearbook, but we could include photos (of current 4th graders only) in next year's book

Book Fair (BJ Noonan)

- BJ N. requested photos from Leanne Honious for the Read Across America activities so the community can see how their fundraising dollars have been spent
- BJ N. will meet soon with the Scholastic rep; the book fair will be the week before Memorial Day
- Per Jen Favalora, the next craft fair will be 12/2/23 and they are happy to have the book fair there during the event (BJ N. will confirm this date with the Scholastic rep as well)

Yearbook (Nicole Harlow)

- Kate Courchesne noticed that the portraits for HKIS do not all have the same backdrop and some are vivid and distracting; the committee requested new portraits from Kay Bagwell with all the same backdrop, but were told that she didn't use a green screen and therefore couldn't swap out the backgrounds for this year and that if we want that next year, it may increase the package prices
- Mr. Larson recalled that historically there was a line in the contract stipulating a version with a neutral background be provided for each portrait; will discuss with Kay B. for next year

Other Committees

- Leadership Committee: per BJ N. will not meet again until the end of March

Meeting adjourned at 7:56pm by Joyce W.

Next meeting scheduled for Wed 4/5 at 7 pm