Clinton Central School District
PTA General Membership Meeting
January 19, 2023 Minutes

1. Call to Order 7:02PM, Diana Haldenwang  Meeting was held via Zoom only due to early dismissal of school and cancellation of all in-person after school activities.

2. President’s Report, Diana Haldenwang:  Diana thanked everyone for joining the meeting on Zoom.  She shared that the Utica Comets are hosting a teacher appreciation night on February 4, 2023.  They will be sending Diana information for discount tickets for the hockey game so Diana can forward it to faculty and staff.

3. Executive Board Reports
   a. Vice President- Lisa Bronner- no update
   b. VP Communications- Maria Maier- none
   c. Secretary- Rachel Meyer- no update
   d. Treasure’s Report- Michelle Thompson- Michelle presented the accounting report.

4. Committee Report
   a. Membership- Kira Skibinski not present, Diana Haldenwang stated that at this time, we are still working on putting together a faculty/staff membership drive.
   b. Family/School engagement- Heidi Venero and Chris Clancy: Currently, progress is being made toward creating a platform for community members to communicate with the district and ask broad questions to have them addressed publicly. A google doc has been started to show some questions and answers that seem important to address so far. It is anticipated that this will evolve over time from a google doc to something else but for now, the google doc will be the best way to get the process started. Currently, 5 questions have been answered and are available for public viewing. They were presented to Mr. Langone prior to his departure from the district and relate to the Board of Education, COVID, technology and technology availability. Questions can be submitted to Julia Scranton to be addressed publicly. Question from Diana Hildenwang: Will we send out a message via Parent Square to share this info district wide? Answer: yes and also through the district newsletter. Also, not every question will be answered publicly. Some may be too specific and need to be answered specifically with the person who asked it.

5. Events
   a. Spirit wear- Lindsay Brodock not present, Diana stated that the sales appeared smaller. We will not have final numbers until we get a deposit.
   b. I-Lead- Maria Maier- Maria is still looking for a location to host I-Lead, whether at the high school, middle school or elementary school and also states she wants to continue to look into the options with the elementary school more with Ellen Leuthauser more as far as what time of day the program could be held.  Maria looked further into the positivity
project(P2) after the last PTA meeting and said that when comparing I-Lead to P2, they are very different. P2 is designed to help all students develop their social-emotional skills, while I-Lead is designed to help identify student leaders and develop their leadership skills. Dr. Lee, principal for CCS high school stated that the current leadership program contract is through Naviance and it is very similar to I-lead and also helps students with career development. Dr. Lee also said the students feel that school spirit is lacking since COVID and they are looking for a way to incentivize it, like some sort of school spirit point system for attendance at sporting events.

c. Parent Presentations-Diana Haldenwang- Diana is looking for ideas to vote on and would still like to get one presentation to each building for the school year. Over the summer, the PTA sponsored a presentation by Maria Maier “Family Stressed to Family Best” at the Kirkland Town Library. Maria also read a book to Mrs. Landry’s kindergarten class about dominant personality styles and did some activities with the class. A similar presentation could be helpful in the elementary school to help parents know what would help their child.

d. Harlem Wizards- Matt and Lisa Bronner: The Harlem Wizards are coming February 28. The PTA purchased 100 tickets at half price to be given out for free to families in the district who need/want them. They will be given to the school to determine how to distribute/what families have financial need. So far, we have sold 300 tickets. Our goal is to sell 400-600. The wizards will be doing an assembly for the elementary school. We will need 8-12 volunteers, including some students.

e. Square1 Art-Lindsay Milton (not present) Diana Haldenwang updated- Artwork has been completed and sent into Square1. Forms should be coming home to students and their families soon for ordering. Lindsay is planning to check and see if we will be able to do a second round of ordering closer to Mother’s Day.

f. Gertrude Hawk- Heidi Venero- Forms arrived today and will be sent home soon. Orders will be Early Feb-Feb 17, in person and online. In the past, we got to keep 50% of the proceeds as long as we sold $500 but they changed the rules before we got our forms this year. It will be a graduated amount of earnings off the fundraiser. People can choose to have the shipping direct to customers, for a fee, or free shipping to the school, pick up and deliver. Question: Do you need volunteers? Answer: Yes. Right now, volunteers would be needed to help with the packets. Once the chocolate arrives many more volunteers are needed to sort the chocolate. People interested in helping can email Heidi Venero. Dr. Lee stated that some high schoolers could probably help with both the packets and the chocolate when she needs help. Question: are we no longer getting 50% no matter what? Answer: Correct. Which means if we are not successful with this fundraiser, we can consider something that may be more successful or branch out to something else in the future.

g. Book Fair- Joanne Gilles- Dates have officially been selected for this year’s book fair to be March 20-24 in the secondary media center. The bookfair will be combined elementary and middle school and slightly bigger than last year with more books for middle school. Teachers will be invited to check out the book fair early Monday morning and hopefully be offered coffee and a snack and create a wish list. Wednesday night the bookfair will host a family night until 730pm where families can shop in person and buy for their
students or off teacher wish lists. This year, the PTA is giving every single elementary student $5 to spend at the book fair and every middle school student $6. Many volunteers are needed to make the book fair run smoothly and Joanne will have a sign up genius later once she knows what she needs. She says she will need people starting the Sunday before to help unload boxes and set up the book fair, people to help run register and assist students during the week and people to help pack up the book fair at the end of the week. Question from Rachel Meyer: Students were encouraged to use electronic wallets last year. Can parents opt to donate the leftover funds to the teacher wish list? Answer: Unsure if that is possible but something to look into. Joanne says she will need help with the teacher wish lists and could use a volunteer. Maddie Carrera offered to take on that role.

6. New Business
   a. Plastic Film Recycling- Diana Kirkland Town Library had a plastic film recycling project they did where they collected 500lb of plastic and received a bench. They reached their goal and would like to pass the project to the PTA. Are we interested? Questions: What is involved, where do we weigh it? Dr. Lee states Hannaford appears to be the retailer who takes the majority of the plastic film in our area. He said you have to sift through each bag, remove labels, staples, receipts and any other things that may have been left or they can’t be weighed. Lisa Bronner volunteered to look into the program further and attempt to coordinate this with the LEAP program at the high school.

7. District Updates
   a. Superintendent update- Mr. Clancy- The capital project was approved, thank you to everyone who voted in favor. A quick recap of the project, the elementary, middle and high school libraries are going to be updated and renovated. The elementary kitchen is going to be updated. Site work will be completed including roofs, elementary playground, parking near pool will double in size, a basketball court will be added, and a multipurpose turf field will be installed. Infrastructure work to be completed such as roofs and boilers and finish work like tile and flooring. We are currently in the design phase which will take until approximately August 2023. Once designs are completed, they are submitted to the NYS Education department for approval. Then the projects can be put out to bid. Anticipated construction start is spring of 2024.
   b. Board of Education- Dr. Lyndsey Bauer- The Board of Education recently attended a legal workshop to see what protocol was for different things. They also did some team building activities. The next board meeting is next week.
   c. Building Updates-Dr. Lee- senior games for winter sports are coming up, the first one coming to mind is indoor track on January 26. Midterm exams are next week. It will be the first time since January 2020 the students have had midterm exams. Question- Maria Maier: Is there a tracking system in place to measure student success the first year after graduation? Answer: Yes, reports are generated based on anonymous tracking numbers assigned to students who take the SAT/ACT. It shows statistics such as 2 year/4 year college, public/private, etc. We are seeing a big shift in a greater number of students going to 2 year schools or trades.

8. Questions- Maddie Carrera- This is not a question but a statement, in March, Amazon Smile is going away. There will be grants available maybe we can look into.
9. Adjourn - 8:16pm