

# November PTO Meeting

On 11/15/23, meeting called to order at 7:06 pm by Julie P.

## **In-person Attendees:**

Julie Peryga, PTO Vice President

Nicole Harlow, PTO Secretary

Eric Larson, HKIS Principal

Mary Madonna

Jennifer Banaletti

Melissa Lupi

Alison Broder

Jen Voegtli, PTO Treasurer

## **Online Attendees:**

Heather Perrson

## **Unfinished Business (Julie P.):**

- Veterans Breakfast: Can we swap schedule so that HKIS veterans are not sitting without their student next year? Eric has no problem; Heather is open to it; went well, smoother than last year
- HKIS Fall Festival: Teachers didn't like bingo; inside portion was shortened this year, but Eric will talk to teachers for their feedback; Jen B. asked why MS kids don't wear costumes; Heather doesn't know the history behind it but typically MS doesn't do costumes, but did have spirit week; parents would like it to be considered for next year

## **MS Vice Principal's Report:**

- Thank you for a lovely Veteran's breakfast
- Winter sports starting soon; different registration deadlines, so please check the website
- Spark club happens during the day run by HKYFS; can ask Heather P. if questions
- Fall club brochure coming out in early December
- Musical will be Pirates of Penzance; auditions in Jan
- Town meetings will be at the end of each trimester instead of monthly
- Cougar awards has become student of the month; cougar awards for end of sports seasons
- Turkey Trot Wed 9-10:30 am; 1.3 mile run or 1 mile walk; each grade will have 30 mins to complete; 7th then 8th, then 6th; volunteers are needed; let Heather P. know if interested
- Complaints about school photographer; disorganization and lack of

communication; often a source of contention; there were issues with both KES photographer and high school; parents appreciate multiple child discount; all schools should talk and choose one together; Eric said there was a committee driven by the superintendent of admin and parent reps, suggested getting ideas from PTO reps at monthly leadership meeting; Julie suggested maybe PTO sends out a survey (Eric and Heather can give Kay Bagwell a heads up)

- ADL presentation about the power of words, kindness, inclusion would be beneficial; Mrs. Broder has a resource in CT to recommend/reach out to about possibilities; issue is casual use of serious words, especially in 6th grade
- 8th grade trip to Philly is approved; fundraising opportunities that PTO could support? Cost is approximately \$700/student; 111 8th graders; PTO has not planned a fundraiser for its own budget yet; maybe an 8th grade committee could spearhead it; Melissa Lupi asked what about 7th grade; HP said can't pull off Nature's Classroom but are considering a day trip for 7th grade; not a lot of interest from parents of 6th graders, so are trying to plan it for them next year; planning to approach 5th grade families about it so they are prepared for it when they get to 6th grade; Jen B asked could 7th grade be offered the week that 6th grade won't be taking advantage of or could they split the week?
- Is there a dance coming up? Student council would be spearheading if there is

### **IS Principal's Report:**

- Musical coming up this Friday and Sat; show starts at 7pm; 3rd grade from BES and 2nd grade from both will watch dress rehearsal
- Student Council up and running; organized food drive (along with MS); over 2,000 lbs of food to benefit Haddam Food Bank, Helping Hands Pantry, and Shoreline Soup Kitchen
- Kindness week; kids practicing acts of kindness; supported by student council
- Fall spirit week
- Fall clubs still going; new brochure coming out before winter break
- End of last year, students, staff and parents were surveyed: sense of social and emotional security (having an adult they trust in the building) wasn't as high as Eric would like; Eric is surveying kids monthly; is there more, less, or the same amount of teasing; noise level in cafeteria, at lockers, etc.; will share results with teachers and ask if it's where they want it to be; opportunity to provide addition feedback at the end of each survey; allows for quicker intervention
- Thank you to the PTO for their partnership

**Treasurer's Report (Jen V):**

- Paid out for carnival, Veterans Day, bus driver appreciation and fall festival
- Carnival made \$24.33 from concessions, which mostly covered the costs of putting on the carnival
- Fundraiser hasn't been planned for this year yet; Booster takes a % because they handle everything and provide all the prizes, the cost is the result of paying for a service; choosing an option that doesn't take a large % is ALOT more work for the limited volunteers we have

**COMMITTEE REPORTS****Book Fair (Nicole H.):**

- Book Fair setup will be on Monday 11/27; Tues will be a preview day for HKIS, Wed will be a shopping day for HKIS, Thur-Fri will be shopping days for HKMS; Fair will be open to the public 9-3 on Saturday during the craft fair
- Volunteers are needed

**Yearbook (Nicole H. For Kate Courchesne):**

- Have sold 90 books so far; earned 4 free ones
- Yearbook club is continuing to support the committee; they narrowed the theme and then 5th grade voted; Cosmic is the name of the winning theme

**Bus Driver Appreciation (Mary Madonna):**

- \$15 Dunkin' gift cards; Oh Fudge popcorn in cute school bus bags; sign at bus depot from Card Your Yard of Madison; ask Jen C. to take a picture to share on Facebook

**Spiritwear (Jen Banaletti):**

- Previous vendor didn't bring in a lot of money in for PTO
- Will be joining the HKHS vendor; received approval from Heather P. last week; vendor is setting up HKIS and HKMS; will be available soon
- We don't make or pay anything so Jen V. will remove the line item from the budget

**Cultural Arts (Mary Madonna):**

- Usually run 3 events: one for IS, one for MS, and one for both
- Plans for a science event were in place last year, but couldn't find a date; Eric would like to revisit it for this year

- Alison B. will share ADL contact with Mary M.
- Usually both schools have an active assembly on field day in June
- Julie P. will send Mary M. resources that she had from last year

**Staff Appreciation (Jen LoGuidice and Alison Border):**

- Call Katie G. or Lori Labella about setting up a meeting with Eric and Dorothy; include PTO
- Shout out to Po's Rice and Spice for providing soup next Monday

**Welcome Wagon (Jen B):**

- Haven't had a new kids start since she took over the committee
- Eric said one is starting on Monday; talk to Katie G.
- Heather P. said 2 new MS kids starting soon; will let PTO know

**New Business:**

- Jen V needs to step down as treasurer; PTO will post the position on our Facebook page

8:20 pm meeting adjourned by Julie P.