

# PTO meeting 12/6/23

Called to order 7:01 pm by Joyce Waterbury

## **In-person Attendees**

Joyce Waterbury, PTO President  
Julie Peryga, PTO Vice President  
Jen Voegtli, PTO Treasurer  
Nicole Harlow, PTO Secretary  
Eric Larson, HKIS Principal  
Kristy Hebert  
Jen Banaletti  
Alison Broder  
Lisa Carlson

## **Online Attendees**

Crystal Henry  
Dorothy Ventura

## **Previous Business**

- Motion to approve minutes from the 11/15 meeting made by Alison B.; seconded by Jen B.; no objections

## **President/Vice President Reports (Joyce Waterbury & Julie Peryga)**

- Book Fair was a huge success; ran smoothly; thank you to Nicole H.
- Voting in new Treasurer tonight to replace Jen V.; Jen, thank you for your service!

## **Treasurer's Report (Jen Voegtli)**

- Balance \$23465.77
- Still waiting for Venmo funds from Carnival Night
- Expenses for Veteran's Day, Fall Festival, and start up cash for Book Fair were paid out
- Also received some monetary donations for Veteran's Day

## **MS Principal's Report**

- Apologized for missing meetings; is pursuing her doctorate and her classes overlap with the PTO meetings; would like PTO to consider changing the day of our meetings; she is missing the feedback she gains from participating in these meetings
- Middle school task force, led by Assistant Superintendent; identified 5 priorities, that will each have their own timeline and accountability evaluation:

1. HKMS is a regional leader in math growth and achievement.
  2. HKMS has a schedule that incorporates elements of a continuum of experience through grade level progression, teaming, effective advisory, degree of choice, and exposure to content areas.
  3. HKMS has a shared vision that is collaboratively created, connected to the VOG, and known by stakeholders.
  4. HKMS has an effective system of addressing SEB needs, that includes a whole school structure and individualized supports and is implemented with fidelity.
  5. HKMS has a protocol for whole school and teacher level family communication that is timely, responsive, and consistently well-implemented.
- National Junior Honor Society induction tomorrow night for 8th grade; asking Mr. Fortin to start with 7th graders this spring so they're prepared for the following year; hoping to add 6th grade after that as well
  - First Town Meeting this week for all grades; will hand out Cougar Cub awards
  - Report card committee
  - Winter sports are underway
  - Student council sponsored dance on 12/15
  - Administration will begin focusing on data in the second trimester to measure student growth
  - Lisa G. asked: How are you encouraging self-care for the staff? In recent goal-setting meetings, Dorothy asked staff, "What can I do to help you?" She encourages them to put their families first. She sees a need for a consistent structure so teachers don't have to worry about being moved the following year. Acknowledges that the new curriculum weighs on staff. Will add this topic to the staff memo that goes out on Sundays. Lisa suggests doing something for the staff before winter break. COVID 19 is affecting the attendance of staff. Eric and Dorothy agree that Nov and Dec are the most taxing for the staff; it is part of the normal ebb and flow.
  - Lisa G. asked: Regarding the recent absenteeism survey, will the results be shared with families? Dorothy plans to always send the same survey to parents and kids in future because she received such valuable feedback about how to make the survey better. Results will be shared in one of the next two Weekly Bytes.

### **IS Principal's Report (Eric Larson)**

- Book Fair: Thank you to all of the volunteers, especially Veronica Pizzorusso and Mandy Chadwick.
- Most Epic Birthday Party Ever musical went well; the kids were amazing; Eric's parents enjoyed it too! Thank you to Mrs. Jones and Mrs. Foret.

- 4th grade chorus singing at The Saybrook tomorrow led by Mrs. Rubalski
- 12/15 HKIS and some elementary grades will attend HS holiday show
- Holiday Sing Along will be right before winter break

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Fundraising (Lisa Carlson)**

- Suggests direct donation drive during the first 2 weeks of February; Dorothy is willing to be taped to the wall; brainstorming a whole school reward (different one for IS and MS); would like to use 99Pledges Platform because we would retain the most money (do have to pay for credit card processing fees but they are minimal)

### **PTO Leadership (Lisa Carlson)**

- Superintendent Wihbey focused on capital planning: In the last 6 months, he has toured all of the schools; used rating scale of "really need it" to "nice to have"; \$1.6 million to do everything on the list; safety and security were the largest ticket items, such as ballistic film on windows and replacing the fire system at KHIMS; need the BoE to present a plan so the community can make a decision; HS could lose its accreditation if ADA citations are not addressed; Approval of a \$60 million bond would come out to \$800/year to Haddam taxpayers; \$500 to Killingworth taxpayers

### **Book Fair (Nicole Harlow)**

- Cash & checks: \$7827.47
- +Credit cards & eWallet: \$6035.30
- +Scholastic Dollars: \$255.88
- =Gross sales plus tax \$14118.65
- Gross sales - tax - scholastic dollars= Total fair sales: \$13025.75
- Scenarios for taking the earnings:
  - \$6512.88 all as Scholastic Dollars (SD)
  - \$3256.44 all as cash (Motion to approve this option made by Jen V.; seconded by Julie P.; no objections)
  - \$3000 as SD, \$1756.44 as cash
  - \$1500 as SD, \$2506.44 as cash
  - \$512.88 as SD, \$3000 as cash
- Will also earn 200 additional scholastic dollars for meeting all four bonus requirements (Thank you to the principals for sending out the letter to families!)
- Placed an order for Leanne Honious today for \$1717.64; all of the books

- will be used for Read Across America/Book Tasting activities
- Cash to deposit \$7839 plus coins
- Checks to deposit; total \$390.97
- SD Catalog items that might make good prizes for something: Bluetooth speaker, earbuds, inflatable movie screen (\$300), LCD+LED Android Projector (\$600), iPad case with handle (\$20), Chromebook case (royal blue \$12.74), ring light with tripod (\$100)
- Consider offering a coupon/discount to volunteers because a few people covered the whole fair; a discount might incentive more people to help out; Motion to approve offering the 20% discount to volunteers for the next fair made by Jen V., seconded by Joyce W., no objections
- Donation of books from Suzanne Sack from the Board of Education; Eric and Dorothy will work out how to distribute them
- Dorothy suggested sending texts during the week of the book fair to remind parents and to advertise it more in the Weekly Byte

#### **Yearbook (Kate Courchesne)**

- Chairperson not present; nothing to report

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

- Chairperson not present; nothing to report

#### **Spiritwear (Jen Banaletti)**

- Up and running
- Joyce asked if we have access to reporting; Jen B. said we don't; Jen B. will reach out to rep, who may be able to provide info about what is being ordered
- Jen B. will email link to order to both principals to include in their communications

#### **Cultural Arts (Mary Madonna)**

- Chairperson not present
- Alison contacted ADL; they don't have a "Words Matter" type of programming, but they do have a "No Place For Hate" program that is for a whole year; FREE; Dorothy expressed that the MS is very interested in the programming based on the language that students are using and would like to consider implementing next year

#### **Staff Appreciation (Jen LoGuidice and Alison Broder)**

- Will start planning in January

#### **Welcome Wagon (Jen Banaletti)**

- Nothing to report

**Veteran's Day (Shana Paladino)**

- Nothing to report

**New Business**

- Jen V. resigned as treasurer
- Kristy Hebert is the nominee for treasurer; has a 7th grader George; was the PTO president at KES
- Jen V. nominated her; seconded by Jen B.; no objections

8:16 pm meeting adjourned by Joyce W.