PTO Middle School
General Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, February 8, 2023 @ 9:30am

Attendance: Erica Baldasare, Shanna Caplan, Lauren Compel, Justin Gremba, Matt Henderson, Leslie Koon, Ashlee Lentini, Kelly Meyers,Gita Michulka, Amanda Nasman, Dr. Daniel O'Rourke, Ellie Oxenreiter, Nicole Paoly, Dr. Kelly Pascarella, Stephanie Rael, Pamela Scureman

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Reading and Approval of Agenda

1. Shanna Caplan 2. Nicole Paoly

Approval of Meeting Minutes from November

1. Pamela Scureman 2. Amanda Nasman

Treasurer Report - Amanda Nasman

- Our balance at the beginning of December was $26,964.
- December receipts totaled $8,007.64. This included membership fees, the staff appreciation drive, and Spirit Wear.
- December disbursements were $758.04 covering purchases of recess equipment, Team Rewards, Boyce Pride photos, holiday decorations, and a check to the PTC.
- December's ending balance was $32,214.

Secretary Correspondence There was no correspondence this month.

What's New Since Our Last General Meeting (November 2022)?

- In January, Ashlee Lentini was voted in as the replacement 2022/2023 Vice President. Ashlee grew up in Upper St Clair and is now raising her family in the Eisenhower area.
- The Chorus, Band, and Orchestra Winter concerts were a success.
- The Boyce Spelling Bee was held in January. Congratulations to Luka Beric who won in the 28th round with the word "circumstantial". Thank you to all participants and volunteers! Sarah Cragnu is looking for a co-chair for the PTC Spelling Bee Committee for next year.

Mr. Henderson - Teacher Representative

- Mrs. Schetley reminds families of students in the musical that communication comes through Canvas Notifications. Look in Settings if you aren't receiving them. In March, musical rehearsals will move to before school.
- Mr. Clark and the Deer Valley committee will be holding a meeting for parents of sixth graders on Thursday, February 9 at 7 pm in the Boyce Theater.
- Mrs. Antonio is selling Valentine-grams through this Friday, February 10. Money raised will go to the Ronald McDonald House. There is also currently a food drive to benefit Ronald McDonald House as well.

- Mrs. Husak shares that the Battle of the Books will take place on March 2nd. There will be 95 teams competing this year, the largest number yet!

Dr. O'Rourke - Updates / Presentation

- General Updates:
    - Both Boyce and Ft Couch Middle Schools earned the Schools to Watch award for the sixth time. At a conference later this spring, a team from the schools will accept the awards and give a presentation on Best Practices.
    - Two buses were stuffed with 875 Friendship Bags for MERKAY this past December. Thank you to the Counseling Department for leading this program for over twenty years! And thank you to the Transportation Department for loaning the buses to add visibility for the program.
    - The Band, Choir, and Orchestra have all held their Winter concerts. The students did a great job!
    - The CalcuSolve team recently competed. The team is comprised of 12 students led by Mrs. Parronish. At this competition, there were 300 fifth and sixth grade students from Allegheny county. Six students from Boyce achieved perfect scores; ten students placed individually; three teams also placed in the competition.
    - This week is National School Counselor Week. Thank you to our counselors, Mrs. Auteri and Mrs. Antonio.
    - Ellie Oxenreiter, the new learning support teacher, was introduced. She taught in northern Virginia for four years before coming back to the Pittsburgh area. Ms. Oxenreiter mentioned the great kids and the positive, friendly staff that she found at Boyce.
- Professional Learning Communities (PLC) presentation
    - Dr. O'Rourke began by asking what the number one factor that influences student learning is. Most of the answers given involved either teachers or parents. The answer according to a study is collective teacher efficacy.
    - This is where PLCs come into play. Dr. Kelly Pascarella, a sixth grade ELA teacher on Team Eco, and Mr. Gremba, a sixth grade math teacher on Team Wind, joined the presentation. The Boyce PLCs meet once a week to answer four questions that allow them to fine-tune their teaching practices and offer support to each other.
    - According to Dr. Pascarella, the ELA teachers, learning support specialists, ESL teacher, special ed teacher, and reading specialist are all part of the ELA PLC. This gives them time to discuss how to help students that need challenges as well as those who need extra support with a particular topic.
    - Mr. Gremba compared the PLCs to a support group where the teachers can compare notes on what is effective in their classrooms. They also allow the entire grade to move at a similar pace while still leaving room for each teacher's personal style. Each student is presented with the same learning opportunities regardless of the team or teacher they are assigned.

What's Happening in the Coming Days/Weeks…

- **Deer Valley:** A Parents Meeting will be held tomorrow evening, Feb 9th from 7-8:30pm in the Boyce Theater. This year, sixth graders will be at Deer Valley camp for one night and have an additional day of activities at Boyce.

- **Random Acts of Kindness Week** will be held February 13 - 17.
    - Valentine Grams: purchase by this Friday, Feb 10th
    - Stocking Ronald McDonald House pantry is ongoing until February 16th. Look in the Boyce Bulletin for more details.
- **Spirit Nights**
    - BJ's Restaurant on Wednesday, Feb 15th between 5-9pm. Use the flier sent in communications to earn the PTO 20% of the sale of food and soft drinks.
    - Chipotle will be on Tuesday, April 25th between 5-9pm.
- **Author's Day scheduled:** Mrs. Husak lined up Gordon Korman for June 1st. This will be a virtual presentation.
- **Beginning to seek Candidates for 2023/2024 Committees and Executive Board**
    - Information and sign ups will be sent out in the coming weeks
    - There is a list and description of positions available on the PTO webpage.

Next PTO Meeting: March 8, 2023 9:30 am - registration links are always in the Monthly Bulletins.

Adjournment