

Boyce Middle School PTO General Meeting

Wednesday, February 16, 2022, 9:30 am

In attendance were Pamela Scureman, Erica Baldasare, Andrea Amorose, Terri O'Connor, Dr. Dan O'Rourke, Dr. Christine Mussomeli, Matt Henderson, Bridget Kaufman, Daphna Gans, Nicole Paoly, Sarah Cranganu, Micki Takac, Gina Swanson, Shanna Caplan, Karen Anderson, Christina Drum, Raksha Vijaywargiya, Jenny Hecht, and one phone call-in.

Pam began the meeting by leading the Pledge of Allegiance. There was a silent reading of the Agenda. Andrea called for approval which was seconded by Nicole.

The approval of Minutes from the October and November meetings were given by Andrea, seconded by Pam.

Statement of the Treasurer – Terri O'Connor (see attached reports)

- The proposed budget for the 2022-2023 school year will be presented in April.

Correspondence – Nicole Paoly

- There is no Correspondence at this time.
- Contributions to the monthly newsletter are to be submitted by Friday, February 25th.

Speaker - Ms. Bridget Kaufman

- Ms. Kaufman is the ELA teacher on Team Energy. She has taught in Virginia but is originally from the South Hills. She is a graduate of St. Vincent College.
- "Work hard. Be kind." is a phrase that Ms. Kaufman feels describes the teachers and staff at Boyce Middle School.
- Ms. Kaufman states that there are two ways parents can best promote ELA achievement in school. The first is to encourage reading for pleasure outside of school. Graphic novels, new fiction or beloved series are all great just as long as your child is reading and enjoying it. Secondly, parents should ask questions about what their child is reading. Natural questions will increase their analytical thinking which is measured by TDAs (Text Dependent Analysis) in school.
- The positive reading culture at Boyce was also lauded by Ms. Kaufman. She stated that the school librarian, Mrs. Husak, has about seventy-five teams currently signed up for the Battle of the Books this year.

School Board

- School Board Representative - Daphna Gans reports that the School Board is beginning to work on the 2022-2023 budget. The Board will meet on February 28th.

Reports

- Teacher Representative – Matt Henderson
 - Mr. Henderson thanked the PTO for the recent Chick-fil-a breakfast.
 - He reported for Mrs. Antonio that over \$2,000 was collected from Valentine-grams for Educational Partnership.
 - A cereal drive to benefit SHIM is currently being held.
 - The students enjoyed the pens and notebooks gifted to them during Random Acts of Kindness week.
 - Over 300 students are signed up to participate in Battle of the Books on March 10th. That is half of the students at Boyce!
 - May 24th will be the (virtual) Author Day with Aisha Saeed, the author of *Amal Unbound*.

- Executive Committee
 - President – Pamela Scureman
 - The PTO is currently looking for a Vice President and Treasurer for 2022-2023.
 - Pop tabs are being collected through the end of the school year by Team Wind to benefit Ronald McDonald House.
 - February 25th is Bus Driver Appreciation Day.
 - 1st Vice President – Erica Baldasare
 - The online Sock Sale has earned an \$823.52 profit so far.
 - 2nd Vice President – Dan O’Rourke
 - Dr. O’Rourke began by thanking the PTO for all the staff appreciation events thus far. He also complimented the staff and students’ performance and behavior.
 - Random Acts of Kindness week
 - The students decorated lunch bags for Meals On Wheels.
 - “Be the I in KIND” display case allowed for photos and also had sticky notes with suggestions for kind acts the students could perform.
 - Theme days, Valentine-grams, and a secret staff exchange were also part of this week.
 - Mentors from USCHS will be visiting homerooms tomorrow. They are part of the Junior Mentor program and have selected “Letting Kindness Bloom” as the theme for their lesson. Boyce students will be making flowers which will include reflections on self characteristics.
 - The SHIM cereal drive, Dr. Mussomeli explained, is part of Boyce’s No Place for Hate activities. No Place for Hate is meant to show the differences and similarities between all people. The first activity was the Friendship shoeboxes. This second activity is meant to address the 41% rise in need that SHIM has experienced. Of those who benefit from SHIM, 35% are children. It helps the donation to be more meaningful when the students know that it benefits someone locally.
 - Board Advisor – Andrea Amorose
 - Boyce Pride kicked off Kindness Week with awards given to 37 students.
 - A STEAM drive is coming up in April for Mr. Henderson’s Creation Lab. A flier with more details will be coming soon.

Standing and Reporting Committees/Reporting Organizations

- Author Day, chaired by Jennifer Doak and Pamela Scureman, and coordinated with Mrs. Husak will be held virtually on May 24th. Aisha Saeed will be the guest author this year.
- Display Case - Tina Stutzman, Meredith Rockenstein, Amy Stupar
- Staff Appreciation – Gina Swanson reported:
 - The Chick-fil-a breakfast included staff, teachers, and bus drivers.
 - Gift cards will be handed out to staff today as a Random Act of Kindness.
 - Other upcoming events include a class at SWEAT, Stock the Breakroom, an end-of-the-year food truck, and National Teacher Week. There will be a raffle as part of the National Teacher Week in which students can recognize teachers to earn them extra raffle tickets. Donations for the raffle are needed.
- Spelling Bee - Sarah Cranganu reported that the Spelling Bee lasted three hours with 24 students competing. Arjun Kairi was the winner. He will take a virtual test and then compete at Robert Morris University in March.
- Spirit Wear – Shanna Caplan says they hope to have the spring sale begin on March 8th and run for 14 days. This will allow for delivery of items before the end of the school year.
- Spirit Days - The Pie Place will be hosting a Spirit Day on March 10th with the PTO getting 25% of sales. The Piada Italian Street Food Spirit week netted \$109.10 for the Caring and Sharing fund.
- The Arts in USC theme is “Salute to Animals” this year. March 14th is the deadline for submissions (form is online). Students in kindergarten through eighth grade can participate in this virtual event. This will be the seventh year for this contest which is usually held in conjunction with the USC Arts and Chocolate event at the

Rec Center. Last year was the first virtual contest and they received the most submissions ever! Micki Takac and Rita Murthy are chairing this year.

- Yearbook - Lindsay Beck and Lora Etter have begun work on this year's book. They are using a new company which allows for a lower cost per book. Check the Bulletin for the email addresses to send in photos.

Next PTO Meeting: March 16, 2022 9:30 am - Look for emails of the Monthly Newsletters with the PTO Meeting registration links!

Adjournment