Minutes for General Meeting via Google Meets

Boyce Middle School PTO

Wednesday, February 10, 2021 9:30 am

I. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance - Andrea

II. Reading and Approval of February General PTO meeting Agenda – Susan Coyle made a motion to approve the agenda. Jennifer Schnore seconded the motion and the agenda was approved.

III. Approval of the November Minutes – Susan Coyle made a motion to approve the minutes from the General Meeting in November. Gina Swanson seconded the motion and the minutes were approved.

IV. **Statement of the Treasurer** – Melissa Waldron

Summary of Financial Report: The majority of the income and payments from the last 2 months were with regard to the Staff Appreciation event held on December 18th. The PTO had budgeted $850 for the event. The amount collected in donations was $3,915.30. The amount spent for the event in December was $1,916.78. The remaining $1,998.52 will go towards the next staff event in the spring. None of the $850 from the PTO budget was spent and will likely be reserved until next year.

Boyce PTO General Meeting - February 2021
Treasurer's Report

PTO Checking Account

Beginning checking cash balance as of 12/15/2020:		**$ 19,225.75**
PTO Income from 12/15/2020 to 02/08/2021:		
$ 1,341.25	Staff Appreciation	
$ 279.94	Staff Appreciation	
$ 1,994.11	Staff Appreciation (PayPal)	
TOTAL: $ 3,615.30		
PTO Payments from 12/15/2020 to 02/08/2021:		
$ 15.00	Check #1383 - Commonwealth of PA (registration of PTO with state)	
$ 5.00	Check #1386 - Sarah Beitler (Nov 2020 Boyce Pride photos)	
$ 340.00	Check #1387 - The Pie Place (Staff Appreciation)	
$ 85.00	Check #1389 - Jen Schnore (Staff Appreciation signs)	
$ 1,491.78	Check #1390 - Gina Swanson (Staff Appreciation)	
$ 33.75	Check #1391 - Sarah Beitler (Dec 2020/Jan 2021 Boyce Pride photos)	
$ 13.19	Check #1379 - Andrea Amorose (Boyce Pride)	
TOTAL: $1,983.72		
Total PTO checking balance as of 02/08/2020:		**$ 20,870.52**
Outstanding Checks as of 02/08/2021:		**$ 0**

Note from Mr. O'Rourke :
Big thank you to the PTO from the staff. He noted that it was the best appreciation he has ever experienced.

V. **Correspondence** – Natalea Oliverio – There was no correspondence to report.

VI. Reports

A. **Teacher Representative** – Matt Henderson – He was not able to attend today's meeting.

B. Executive Committee Reports

1. **President** – Andrea Amorose

A. Random Acts of Kindness Week

- Random Acts of Kindness week is February 15-19! It is an annual awareness celebration that emphasizes the extraordinary power of simple human kindness. The planned activities include:
    - Great Kindness Challenge! Check out the app that is on your student's chrome book. Each student is encouraged to do 50 kind acts through the week! They keep track of their progress on the app.
    - Guidance Class Activities that reach out to many different groups of people. We will deliver a Kindness jar to each homeroom by Monday, Feb 15th. The Kindness jar will be in each homeroom all week. There will also be small slips of paper available for students to write down any random act of kindness they see. The guidance counselors thought it would be nice (if the students choose to do so) if at the end of the week (maybe Friday) the students could share the slips of paper together with their homeroom/team. It might be nice to hear out loud what acts of kindness were observed throughout the week by your students. The guidance counselors will be explaining this activity in their guidance classes, so the kids will know what to expect and what to do when they see the jars in their homeroom.
    - Valentine grams to support the Greater Pittsburgh Food Bank!!
    - #capturekindness: submit your kindness photos.
    - Wrap up activities on February 19th to recognize all of the students' hard work!
    - Theme Days:
        - Monday: Kick off Kindness Week with your craziest socks or mismatched shoes!
        - Tuesday: Kindness makes the world go round! Wear your gear from your favorite vacation spot!
        - Wednesday: Kindness makes you feel comforted! Wear your PJ's all day!
        - Thursday: Make a difference day! Students- dress like your teachers, teachers dress like your students!
        - Friday: Nothing BEATS kindness! Wear your favorite team jersey

Dr. Mussomeli added:

- No treats are allowed in the building.

- This initiative is to foster the development of empathy within the students.

6th Grade Graduation

- 6th grade graduation budget: The 2020-2021 PTO budget was approved this past May. Since the beginning of the school year, the executive board has been operating on a case-by-case basis of necessary costs and spending PTO funds. In trying to be as transparent as possible, the previous budgeted amount of $1200 was approved through the board for the 6th grade graduation.

B. Remote Pick-up Dates

- Remote families' material pick up dates for February – Today, Feb. 10th and Wednesday, Feb 17th. Pick up times are 8 am – 3 pm.

Dr. Mussomeli added:

The tables for materials pick up will remain in the school lobby. Due to the weather closure this week, there may have been a delay in getting materials available. Parents should contact the school if they have questions regarding pick up. Teachers will also communicate with parents to pick up materials. There is no need for parents to wait for a specific date or time for pick up. Communication between home and school will aid in the pick-up process.

C. PTC Update

- Open Mic topic: Supporting Developmental Needs: Overview of Healthy Schools. Great turnout. Looking at doing virtual open mic going forward because it is easier for people to attend. 125 registrants which is the highest ever in attendance.
- PSSA testing is still scheduled to take place. There is a great deal of advocacy to cancel testing, however this requires a federal waiver. Dr. Rozzo is hopeful that they will be suspended as there is a lot of pressure on students during this time and it would not accurately portray results.
- The high school parking lot will be paved.
- Truxton hillside will be repaired this summer as well to avoid damage to the stadium complex. May disrupt traffic patterns.
- We received money for pandemic relief funds. USC was one of the lowest funded district in the state. We are advocating for a different formula based on pandemic related activities instead of Title 1 numbers.
- School calendar for 2022-2023 school year has been approved.

2. **2nd Vice President** – Dan O'Rourke
   Mr. O'Rourke expanded on the presentation that he gave at the last PTC meeting regarding the Panther Program at Boyce. The goal of the Panther Program is to recognize students who demonstrate academic, social and emotional growth in the building. Recommendations can come from any staff member. SEL: Social Emotional Learning has five aspects that the Panther Program touches on. (Self-Awareness, Social Awareness, Responsible Decision-Making, Self-Management, and Relationship Skills). The positive outcomes from implementing SEL are many, and include higher test scores, more meaningful connections between students and teachers, improved attitudes, demonstrate positive social behavior, have few behavior incidents, makes teaching easier and leads to better outcomes. Through the Climate created at Boyce, the Community outreach aspect, and the Voice given to the students through Guidance lessons, Advisor Time, Student Council, Clubs, Community Service Projects, Soft Skills, Team Activities, and the No Place for Hate initiative, the Panther Program's goals are implemented.

3. **Board Advisor** – Gina Swanson
    a. Gina reminded everyone of the weekly district-wide Food Distribution events that take place at the high school. Volunteers are always needed. Please sign up on the district website. Jen Schnore added that space heaters have been provided to make the distribution more comfortable for the volunteers during these cold months.
    b. The Executive Board and Committee Chairs are needed for the 2021-2022 school year. Next year the Executive board will need to replace 2 officers. The office of the 1st Vice President is a 3-year commitment. The 1st Vice President takes the first year to learn from the sitting President. This is followed by a year as President, leading the Board and then a year as Board Advisor to support the next president. The office of the Secretary is a 2-year term. The Secretary is the record keeper for the Board. The Secretary provides an update of all PTO activities to the membership.

C. **School Board Representative** - Jen Schnore
- The last school board meeting held on February 8th began with a moment of silence to remember Chuck Taylor. Mr. Taylor was a valued member of the district custodial staff. He served all the district buildings. Please reach out to Jen if you are interested in information regarding Mr. Taylor's services.
- The Board is currently working to update its policies to keep them in compliance with the law.
- A change was made to the calendar with regards to 21-22 Elementary Open Houses. This change is from September 6th to September 9th.
- The Board approved the following tech updates
    1. Replacement iPads for an entire grade level
    2. Replace some Chromebooks in the district
    3. Boyce and Fort Couch will receive Promethean Boards
    4. There will be an internet system update

VII. Standing and Reporting Committees/Reporting Organizations

A. **Amazon Smile** – Melissa Waldron
    a. In November, a check was received from Amazon Smile in the amount of $61
    b. The next deposit will be received next week
    c. Currently there have been 51 qualifying sales; in December there were 30 sales and in January there were 21
    d. Families can sign up through Smile.Amazon.com and they can choose Boyce PTO as their Charity of choice
    e. Pam Scureman added that if you are using the app to participate, make sure that notifications are turned on, or you cannot make purchases through SMILE

B. **Arts in USC** – Micki Takac (chair)

Information from the email that was sent to families.

"We're All in This Together"

The Boyce PTO is proud to announce the 6th annual Arts in USC Contest. This year's theme is "We're All in This Together." The Arts in USC Contest is open to any student in grades K through 7. This year's contest will be held entirely online for your convenience and to make it easier for our remote students to join in the fun. Due to the cancellation of the Arts and Chocolate event at the Boyce-Mayview C&RC, we will instead have an online slide show featuring all art submitted by students.

Please submit a photo of your 2-D art piece using the entry form below **no later than Monday, March 8th**. Judging will be held at all schools.

Happy creating!

If you have questions or need more information, please contact Boyce Arts in USC Chair, Micki Takac at mickipt@gmail.com

Click here for Tips on how to photograph your artwork.

Click here to submit your artwork.

Thanks!

C. **Box Tops** – Pam Scureman - Box Tops will be received until February 16th in order to be counted for the month of March.

D. **Boyce Pride** – Andrea Amorose - There was a high number of honorees this month (on Feb 8th). We met in LGI, socially distanced, and masked (of course). Students received a certificate and a token of appreciation. Some students had never received the honor, and were happily surprised.

E. **Spirit wear** – Val Franks – The committee is in the early planning stage. They must choose a minimum number of products to make available for the sale. These will include tanks and shorts in addition to long sleeves and hoodies. With approval, they sale will take place in March for a delivery from Century Sports in late April.

F. **Staff Appreciation** – Gina Swanson
   - This committee offers a great opportunity to give back and get to know the staff
   - Pre-planning has begun for the spring event
   - Random Acts of Kindness Week – a sign up was created for families to provide the staff with snacks for the break room. In addition, families were asked to write notes of thanks or jokes.
   - You can email Gina Swanson (boyceptoadvisor@gmail.com)
   - There will be a donation bin the lobby

G. **STEAM drive** – Jessica Strub (chair)

The Innovations Lab at Boyce is asking families for usable household goods to use. There will be a donation bin set up in the lobby. Information will be emailed soon with dates.

H. **Yearbook** – Christina Casciani and Michelle Urban

The Yearbook committee is collecting photos to use in this year's yearbook via email (yearbook4boyce@gmail.com). Families can submit pictures from at home learning and teachers can submit from classroom experiences. The yearbook will cost $19 and will include direct shipping to homes over the summer. Sales will begin in March. The yearbook will be delivered mid-summer.

I. Spelling Bee – Yesha Katukota and Val Franks
   a. 60 students registered
   b. 57 Pre-Tests were taken
   c. 27 students moved on to Finals on February 4th
   d. 18 rounds of words over 3 hours and 45 minutes
   e. Finalists: 1st Place: Raana Parchuri. The winning word was "pneumonia" in the 18th round. 2nd Place: Sam Cranganu, 3rd Place: Avery Moore, 4th Place: Josh Alex-Nimal, 5th Place: Ida Epshten

   BIG THANK YOU to Mrs, Husak. She was on hand at school during the entire 6 + hours of pretesting.

   Also, thanks to the committee of volunteers, Amy Hollingsworth, Carrie Fick, Sarah Crangaru.

Adjournment at 10:40am.

Next PTO Meeting: March 10th, 9:30 am

Attendance:

1. Andrea Amorose
2. Gina Swanson
3. Natalea Oliverio
4. Dan O'Rourke
5. Christine Mussomeli
6. Natalie Livingston
7. Christine Casciani
8. Betsy Wilson
9. Lindsay Seal
10. Justine Walker
11. Jennifer Schnore
12. Melissa Waldron
13. Val Franks
14. Lauren Compel
15. Susan Coyle
16. Yesha Katukota
17. Durga Kharel
18. Sarah Crangaru
19. Pam Scureman
20. FT Couch PTSO
21. Prasuna Kharel