Eisenhower PTO
General Meeting
Friday, January 17, 2025, 9:30am (Virtual)

PTO Executive Board: President – Rebecca Thornsberry
1st Vice President – Juli Kosovec
2nd Vice President - Mark Miller
Board Advisor – Jen Zofchak
Treasurer – Katie Heitman (unable to attend)
Secretary – Jolien Geis

Attendance: 22 Total Attendees

The meeting was called to order by President Rebecca Thornsberry

Welcome: Rebecca Thornsberry

Approval of Minutes – All (Approval by Juli Kosovec and Missy Nicula)

Guest Speaker: Shelly Patel, Boyce Middle School PTO President – Our Boyce Middle School PTO is seeking new Board Members for next year. We will need a Vice President (2-year term,) Secretary (2-year term,) and a Treasurer (2-year term.) Our middle school board is less intensive than the elementary level.

President Rebecca Thornsberry: I have the Board description from Boyce and will be able to send it out in a newsletter for those not in attendance.

Principal's Report/Eisenhower Update: Mark Miller

How was your FID Day?

Attendees' open discussion:

- Lunch: Multiple lunch times for multiple kids created a 3-hr lunch window at home.
- Kindergarten: Kindergarteners don't bring devices home. The FID required children to be on a parent's device which interfered with work.
- Boyce Middle School parents received a schedule for the kid's day. If teachers could provide parents with a separate schedule from Canvas that may help the day run smoother.
- Parents were impressed with how the teachers handled their FID virtual meetings with professionalism and patience. Parents praised those teachers with young children at home and were impressed with their ability to juggle teaching and caring for their children at home.

How was the amount of instruction time?

Attendees' open discussion:

- Multiple attendees thought the amount of instruction time was good. One thought there were too many meetings to join going on and off multiple times. Especially with young children who aren't good with time management.

Mr. Miller: It is important for kids to be in school during this timeframe. We see a jump in their growth and it's important for their development. A quick story I want to share. My 21-year-old went to Seven Springs and didn't take his jacket. When he called, I said you could wait until someone heads that way to bring it or go figure it out. After Mom heard he didn't have a jacket she fixed it for him. I want to remind everyone that we can't do everything for them. The more we do for our kids, the less they learn. You're robbing them of an opportunity for them to grow. When we solve the problem, we can harm their self-esteem. We may feel better, but we robbed them of a chance to grow.

Treasurer Report: Katie Heitman

Jolien Geis (filling in for Katie Heitman) – Our Quicken balance is $47,537 and our Dollar Bank Balance is $49,416. We are doing a good job of sticking to our budget and we are getting ready to fund upcoming events including socials, field trips and assemblies.

President's Report: Rebecca Thornsberry

• Recent and upcoming events/activities

•**Bingo Tonight – Lexi Furlani, Chair**: Everyone come and join. There will be pizza, candy and snacks to purchase. Bingo is free. Middle school and High School students are welcome to volunteer.

• **Outreach –** Our Hat & Mitten drive went well. We had enough to supply the Kelly School and there was a small amount to donate to SHIM. Our upcoming SHIM food drive is Feb. 3.

• **Holiday Mart – Ashley Regan, Chair:** This year we tried to mimic what Justine had done in the past. The kids had fun. We stayed within budget. Our biggest thing for next year is to decide whether to work with Kids Kastle or to make it a fundraising event. Thank you to the volunteers.

• **Arts in USC: Martina Rossi, Chair**: The date to turn in art has been extended from January 17th to January 24th. Mr. Cosgrove and Becca Ward organized the papers that were sent home. The Art Show date and cookie donations are TBD. Submissions have started coming in.

Question: Will there be awards? The PTC turned it back into a contest last year. Last year there were prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd. Note: Check updates in email for details if it is a contest this year and if prizes will be awarded.

• **Eisenhower Extras:** Laura, our Chair is trying something different. The Extras information was sent out in an email and the registration will be on Tuesday, at 8:30am. This way parents can talk to their kids about the offerings prior to registration. Please pay attention to options and grade levels offerings.

• **Grade Level Socials**: These socials are a laid-back opportunity for each grade level to gather. We ask for no siblings and for the requested grade level children only. Kindergarten's Magician Social is Feb. 1. Make sure to save the dates.

• **Eisenhower Kids of Steel- Lisa Carrabine, Chair:** We are excited to offer a new program affiliated with the P3R Pittsburgh Marathon. The Kids of Steel program reinforces good healthy choices over an 8-week program. Starting on March 10th, we'll have 1 practice a week after school for about an hour. We will skip the week of spring break. This program is free. However, if you want to participate in the Chick-fil-A kid's marathon, where the kids cross the marathon finish line, on May 3, there is a $25 fee. This is an inclusive program for K-4 that includes fun and games. Information will be emailed towards the end of January. Registration will start in February. Practices

start mid-March. Parent Volunteers will be requested. The optional May 3rd event is downtown. The kids get a t-shirt, medal and race packet. This is a fun, no stress program and nobody should worry about their running level. There are a few coupon codes provided from Kids of Steel if there is financial need for them.

Vice President's Report: Juli Kosovec – Board VP, Treasurer and Secretary
Reminder that if you have an interest in volunteering with the PTO Board we are still seeking VP, Secretary and Treasurer positions for next year. It's important to fill those spots so please reach out.

Dates to Remember:

1/17	Bingo Night
1/21	Registration for Eisenhower Extras Opens
1/24	Arts in USC Deadline**
1/30	Kindergarten Social
2/3	100th Day of School **
2/4 & 2/5	Eisenhower Extras Start
2/7	PTO Executive Board Meeting
2/13	1st Grade Social
2/14	Valentine's Ice Cream Social

** New Dates