PTO meeting 2/7/24

Called to order 7:02pm by Joyce Waterbury

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

Online Attendees
Dorothy Ventura, HKMS Principal
Heather Persson, HKMS Vice Principal

PREVIOUS BUSINESS

- Motion to approve minutes made by Jen Banaletti; seconded by Julie P.; no objections

BOARD AND PRINCIPALS REPORTS

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

- Superintendent would like to merge Burr and HKIMS PTO meetings on 3/13 so he could present budget to both organizations at once
- Sarah Lamb is willing to manage Neighborhood Forest project if PTO/school is interested; students can receive a free sapling to plant in their yard; Burr School is also offering this program now; Joyce will ask Sarah to reach out to Eric and Dorothy on proceeding
- Read Across America request from Paige Callahan; Needs $476 for MS prizes and $459.60 for IS goody bags; motion to approve a total of $935.60 made by Julie; seconded by Jen B.; no objections; PTO will include this under Staff Wish List budget line

Treasurer's Report (Kristy Hebert)

- Wrote check for book fair $4571.03
- $40.90 check from Box Tops came in
- Joyce needs bank account info to transfer Venmo funds
- Bank charges a small fee to deposit large amounts of cash; may consider changing banks; Kristy will talk to Liberty Bank to find out if they would

charge fees of that sort

MS Principal's Report

- Winter sports went spectacularly; all are wrapping up
- Baseball, softball, and track will begin soon
- Musical (Pirates of Penzance) rehearsals are underway
- Meeting last week about proposed MS schedule changes; administration wants to be completely transparent so they are sharing all feedback they're receiving; the survey is disabled, so please call or email with feedback moving forward
- Town Meeting last week; honored students of the month and athletes

IS Principal's Report (Eric Larson)

- Spirit week starts this Friday (sports theme); Eric will share the schedule
- Winter Chorus concert last week
- Announcement board is newly installed in the front entrance; will be shared with the MS; birthdays, cougar pride award winners, other events coming up; PTO can utilize it for important messaging
- Student council went to a youth leadership conference; helped lead the last town meeting
- Eric and Wendy Scoppa met with Alli Behnke; will be partnering with HKYFS to have a gearing up night to help with the transition to intermediate school (All would also like to present at HKIMS PTO meeting in April)
- Kindness Club was visited by Channel 3 and given donations to continue their kindness efforts; Eric will communicate when the piece is expected to be aired

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Book Fair (Nicole Harlow)

- Nothing to report

Bus Driver Appreciation (Mary Madonna)

- Nothing to report

Cultural Arts (Joyce W. And Julie P.)

- Joyce asked if Eric or Dorothy have received any communication about scheduling programs; No they haven't
- PTO may have lost the CA coordinator; Julie and Joyce will look at their resources and see what can be booked
- Arts for Learning website (CT and MA)

Fundraising (Lisa Carlson)

- Proposing a direct fundraiser using the 99 Pledges platform; Spirit Day Celebrations for milestones: Hat Day at $1K raised, Tie Dye Day at $5K, PJ Day at $10K, Principal's Choice at $15K, Outdoor Movie Night at $20K; also prizes for highest earning homeroom (hot cocoa for students and $50 Amazon gift card for the teacher) and 4 individual prizes of $25 Amazon gift card for each
- Accept donations until Mar 1
- Expected expenses: $250 for Amazon gift cards and $1250 for company to host a movie night, including popcorn machine and snacks; Lisa plans to ask local businesses to donate to cover the costs of the movie night and prizes; if we're not able to get the costs covered with donations, PTO will cover it out of the funds received
- 99 Pledges keeps only 3% of credit card transactions; PTO keeps 100% of the cash and checks
- Question from Dorothy: Could the PTO handle the collection of funds by Venmo or credit card for a specific fundraiser (i.e. for the 8th grade field trip; Lucky Charms idea; the goal is to raise $2000 to cover costs of state troopers and additional rooms for students)? Yes; continue conversation with Joyce W. Offline

PTO Leadership (Lisa Carlson)

- Superintendent shared performance results; DERG schools with similar socioeconomic status, also compared our scores to the highest performing and best funded schools in the state, and we are performing very well; still examining the math scores for this year's current 7th graders, which have been historically low
- K-3 reading waiver was approved; not many waivers were, so it is exceptional that ours was approved; also, it was a huge cost savings for the district to not have to purchase new curriculum

Spiritwear (Jen Banaletti)

- $1876 Oct-Dec for the whole district; will request January numbers so we can see if there was an uptick after IMS merchandise was added

Staff Appreciation (Alison Broder on behalf of herself and Jen LoGuidice)

- March 5; staff luncheon; some food will be catered and will also ask community for donations of paper goods, desserts, etc.
- Would love to get both student councils involved in brainstorming ideas for how they can honor their teachers during the national teacher

appreciation week in May
- Snacks in lunchroom during staff appreciation week (May); donut day or something of that nature if budget permits
- Jodi Stupakevich (Kindness Club), Gretchen Schwanfelder (MS student council advisor), Alan Fortin (National Honor Society) are all good contacts that may have input

Veteran's Day (Shana Paladino)
- Nothing to report

Welcome Wagon (Jen Banaletti)
- Nothing to report

Yearbook (Kate Courchesne)
- Jen V. Suggested posting yearbook purchasing links weekly until the deadline

NEW BUSINESS
- Family Nights: Open to suggestions for community-building ideas; In the past: dances, movie night, trivia night; Everyone likes the idea of trivia night and Heather P. used to be a trivia host!; maybe include a silent auction or raffle baskets

8:13 pm meeting adjourned by Joyce W.