PTO meeting 3/6/24

Called to order 7:02pm by Julie Peryga

In-person Attendees
Julie Peryga, PTO Vice President
Kristy Hebert, PTO Treasurer
Nicole Harlow, PTO Secretary
Eric Larson, HKIS Principal

Online Attendees
Heather Persson, HKMS Assistant Principal
Alison Broder

PREVIOUS BUSINESS

- Motion to approve minutes made by Kristy; seconded by Nicole H.; no objections
- Fundraising effort made about $12000; 135 students registered, 104 raised funds; received feedback that it was tough to fundraise on top of the costs for the big field trips; IS parents wanted more trinkets as prizes; maybe movie night wasn't a big enough incentive
- Family Night: a Friday evening mid-April, after April break; Heather has ideas: 5 themed rounds, 10 questions per round; teams of up to 10 people, could be kid teams and parent teams or mixed, break between rounds to score (may need help scoring); possibly prizes for 1st, 2nd, 3rd ($20-$50 value each); will use cafeteria since we'll serve snacks and drinks; can play music between rounds and/or run an audio round (play a 10 sec clip of music for example); double or nothing round: 11th question is optional if answered correctly, your team's pointed are doubled, if incorrect, your team receives no points; usually 1.5-2 hours 6-8pm; Big Y sheet pizzas, cupcakes, water

President/Vice President Reports (Julie Peryga)

- Joyce is sick and apologizes for not being here
- Nothing additional to report other than items just mentioned in Previous Business

Treasurer's Report (Kristy Hebert)

- 99 pledges money was deposited today
- Venmo funds go towards donations, but ones that were on that line last month were moved to fundraising because they came from the Carnival night concessions sales
- Plan to switch to Liberty Bank; EIN number needed, no fees on any business accounts; will coordinate with Nicole H. to meet at bank and open the new account, which Kristy H. and Nicole H. will both be on

MS Principal's Report (Heather Persson)

- Administration has met with students and has been answering questions about block scheduling; kids volunteered to be part of a focus group; parents can continue to write in or call administration with questions
- Meeting with Gretchen S. about 8th grade celebration
- Spring sports signups are open; clubs coming soon
- Youth and Family services has a part-time counselor; families can reach out to Alli Benkhe if they need that resource
- Pirates of Penzance on 3/22 and 3/23
- Still collecting donations for the Lucky Charms fundraiser
- 7th grade is running a fundraiser with Oh Fudge and More!; staff can purchase through Mrs. Geoghegan and funds will support kids who need help with funding for next year's big field trips

IS Principal's Report (Eric Larson)

- Thank you, Alison Broder, for planning the staff luncheon
- HKIS will attend the MS performance of Pirates of Penzance
- Thinking about transition to HKIS; will be meeting 3rd graders next month
- Alli Benkhe is putting together a family night to address fears about moving up to MS, April 4?
- Step-up for 5th grade; taking names of parent volunteers
- Club brochure coming out next week; only funds for 5 this time

- Recess time: over 40 kids on task force to help with New Year's resolutions (during recess): cafe more pleasant, better language on bus, keeping bathrooms clean and neat
- Community input night relating to budget coming soon; check website
- Superintendent wants to come 1-2 times per year to meet with students and staff informally; date coming up mid-April

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Book Fair (Nicole Harlow)

- Met with Scholastic rep this week; she encouraged us to take the funds as Scholastic dollars, but we already have a high balance ($5254.27)
- Spring fair will be setup on Thursday, May 16; Friday and Monday will be preview days, one each for IS and MS, and Tuesday and Wednesday will be buying days; fair will also be open during AAFA night on Wednesday 6-8 pm
- Suggest offering a $5 coupon to every student in HKIMS (674 students) to shop the Spring fair; this will give EVERY student the opportunity to participate; will still have enough Scholastic dollars to support next year's Read Across America efforts, even without the proceeds from the upcoming Spring fair
- Volunteers and staff will receive 20% off their orders

Cultural Arts (Julie P.)

- BMX biking event on Field Day for IS (plus 6th grade): Wednesday June 5, afternoon
- Motivational speaker/character development route for 7th and 8th grade, maybe David Flood; Heather P. will follow up with Dorothy and will provide date range
- Julie would like to book science one that was considered last year for IS for fall 2024 (extreme science)

Fundraising (Lisa Carlson)

- See PREVIOUS BUSINESS notes above
- Raised $12,361.05; spent $350 on prizes; credit card processing fees of $443.07; Total net: $11,972.98
- Cash and checks for deposit are in the PTO box for Kristy H.; Lisa and Kristy worked together to setup direct deposit, which will take 2-4 days
- May still receive additional donations from employer match programs

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

- All set for staff appreciation lunch on Friday: Signup Genius went over well; community was generous in their support; Specialty pizza and salad from Illiano's in Middletown (they donated 5 cheese pizzas), plus desserts donated by families
- For May appreciation week: will try for a donut day (if budget permits) and will coordinate with student groups mentioned last meeting for involvement

Nothing to report for the following committees:

Bus Driver Appreciation (Mary Madonna), PTO Leadership (Lisa Carlson), Spiritwear (Jen Banaletti), Veteran's Day (Shana Paladino), Welcome Wagon (Jen Banaletti), Yearbook (Kate Courchesne)

NEW BUSINESS

- Opportunity for a fun event: Sea Unicorns baseball team in Norwich; we choose a date and receive block seating with no limit as well as $5 per ticket sold; tickets cost $10 each; could be a good option for school-initiated fundraising for next year's field trips
- Nicole H. mentioned feedback that the PTO has not done enough for the community this year and some IS parents would like PTO to have greater visibility and to offer more social opportunities for families, like they have in elementary school; It's unfortunate that the PTO lost the Cultural Arts committee head and that a second event for each school will not able to be scheduled for this year; Would like to see more activities scheduled in advance next school year; PTO needs to communicate the good they are doing more

8:07 pm meeting adjourned by Julie P.