PTO meeting 4/3/24

Called to order 7:02pm by Joyce W.

In-person Attendees
Joyce Waterbury, PTO President
Julie Peryga, PTO Vice President
Nicole Harlow, PTO Secretary
Eric Larson, HKIS Principal
Jeff Wihbey, Superintendent
Alison Broder
Alli Benkhe
Emily Rosenthal, HKYFS consultant

Online Attendees
Heather Perrson
Jennifer Banaletti
Lisa Carlson

Previous Business
- Motion to approve minutes made by Alison B., seconded by Julie P., no objections
- Getting info out: Joyce will put together a couple of slides for May meeting to show funds in and funds out so people can see that there is no excess
- Survey - one for parents and one for kids - about what families want to see us doing next year (Nicole will put it together); want to collect data in time to review results at next meeting
- Trivia Night: 5 families are signed up right now; families may be waiting until after break to sign up; ideally we'd have at least 50 attendees; Nicole posted again on Facebook and resent to Eric and Dorothy to share in their next communications

HK Youth and Family Services (Alli Benkhe)
- Director of HKYFS; job sharing with Jen Favalora; Oversees programming side
- Full time prevention counselor; providing services again; focusing on youth and family as opposed to the broader community
- Girls with a Purpose group
- Positive Youth Development Programs
- Trying to bring in programs that appeal to the tween/teen age
- Emily Rosenthal oversees survey data (required in order to get funding); Youth Voices Count; 15 min survey to HK high school students in Dec '23 (completed anonymously and voluntarily); will share info with parents, admin, superintendent, HKHS Ignite Student Group; April 18 will present data again at community forum

Superintendent Wihbey
- Budget referendum first Tuesday in May
- Passed out pamphlet of noteworthy achievements and accomplishments
- Over 12 years, the school budget increased 14% while the consumer price index was 31%
- Staff salaries have fallen behind, which increases flight risk, accounts for 2.1% of the budget increase; insurance is another 1%; transportation is another 1%; capital improvements (revealed in the safety audit) .9%
- Our proposed budget increase is comparable (even on the low end) to those of the surrounding towns
- Reduction of 3 certified staff and 6 non-certified
- No programs are being cut under the proposed budget
- $1,060,457 will be returned to towns as required; net change will be 2.6%
- Please vote and make your voice heard

President/Vice President Reports (Joyce Waterbury & Julie Peryga)
- Nothing additional to report

Treasurer's Report (Kristy Hebert)

- Kristy and Nicole completed the change to Liberty Bank

MS Principal's Report

- Faculty appreciation lunch was wonderful and all were very grateful
- Musical was a success
- Sports started this week
- Dorothy considering a fundraiser for yard signs for 8th grade promotion (Nicole suggested "Onward and Upward" as a phrase for signs and cups on the fence)
- Field trips coming up
- i-Ready diagnostic and SBAC testing coming soon; considering group work, movement breaks for those days
- Dorothy requested to not have meetings on Wednesdays next year as she will be continuing classes

IS Principal's Report (Eric Larson)

- Paraprofessional day was today; administration will have breakfast for them tomorrow
- Clubs started
- 6/12 will be 5th grade step up day
- Eric and Wendy will be visiting BES and KES; students will also be visiting HKIS soon

COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

- Nothing to report from these committees

Book Fair (Nicole Harlow)

- MS teachers asked not to have a preview day for middle school students, but they will come down as a class to use their $5 from the PTO and then will have the opportunity to return another day if they bring in additional funds
- All students will get $5 (as Scholastic Dollars) to spend at the fair; will not hand out paper coupons; instead the kids will just give their name at the register and will be crossed off the list; PTO will cover tax as well, so students may purchase items that are labeled $5 or less
- Sign up for volunteers will go out by the end of the month

Cultural Arts (Julie P.)

- April 15; motivational speaker for grades 6-8 booked
- Eric please provide a date for the Extreme Science program for next year

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

- Lunch was a success; Alison posted on Facebook and let people know that PTO funds contributed to the success of the event; worked well to have it on a professional development day (less tasking for volunteers and enabled staff to all eat together); Eric said the only unfortunate part was that paras were not present
- Really want student involvement for national appreciation week; may also put a signup out for snacks since the community responded well to the last one

New Business

- Wednesday May 1 next meeting
- Consider switching meeting days next year

9:01 pm meeting adjourned by Joyce W.