Monday, September 9, 2024

HKIMS PTO Meeting Minutes

Attendance

In-person:

Joyce Waterbury, PTO President	Julie Peryga, PTO Vice President	Kristy Hebert, PTO Treasurer
Nicole Harlow, PTO Secretary	Dorothy Ventura, MS Principal	Eric Larson, IS Principal
Lisa Carlson	Kelly Drajewicz	

Online:

Heather Persson, MS VP	Paige Callahan	Crystal Henry

President's Report (Joyce W.)

- This will be Joyce W.'s and Kristy H.'s last year on the board as their kids are aging out

Vice President's Report (Julie P.)

- Nothing to report

Treasurer's Report (Kristy H.)

- Need to vote on budget: Motion to approve made by Lisa C., seconded by Kelly D., no objections
- Already paid out funds for field trips, summer learning, and welcome wagon
- 4th grade welcome back was under budget
- Welcome Wagon included 20 bags and 16 water bottles; Kristy donated supplies to make iron-ons
- Removed income line for Amazon Smiles, but retained Box Tops; we haven't had a coordinator in recent history; Nicole H. recommended that we add that as an open committee because there are benefits to having a coordinator to encourage signups, make people aware of bonus offers, and capitalize on coordinator benefits
- Hartford Athletics game only sold 14 tickets for HKIMS PTO; HK soccer had a fundraiser with them on the same night and likely cannibalized the turnout

MS Principal's Report (Dorothy V.)

- Has gotten positive feedback from kids about block scheduling
- Teacher-student relationships seem to be building faster, as designed
- Tremendous number of signups for clubs and sports; wide variety of club offerings in order to get kids involved, trying new things, and making new friends
- Open house is next Wednesday, 9/18 at 6pm
- Picture day is 9/23 for MS and 9/24 for IS

IS Principal's Report (Eric L.)

- Thank you for the popsicles for the 4th grade welcome back day; it was unfortunate that the weather required the picnic to be canceled again
- Curriculum Night this Wednesday, 9/11 at 6pm
- Club brochure coming out at the end of this week
- Auditions for school musical tomorrow and Thursday
- Student Council posters have been going up; there's still time to sign run; submit application by this Friday, 9/13

- Start thinking about Fall Festival; fun event tentatively scheduled for the afternoon of 10/31 to get parents involved in the school early in the year
- Kids are settling in well; has been a great start to the year

Committees

Spirit Wear (Joyce reporting for Jen B.)

- Links went out in the Weekly Byte
- Requests for any changes: please contact Jen Banaletti
- PTO does not profit from spirit wear sales

Welcome Wagon (Joyce reporting for Jen B.)

- See Treasurer's report for already reported information
- Principals will let Joyce W. know of any additional new students as the year continues

Teacher/Staff Appreciation (Joyce reporting for Alison B.)

- Alison B. has ideas and will present them at the next meeting

PTO Leadership

- No dates have been provided by central office yet

Bus Driver Appreciation

- Need a committee head

Cup Committee

- Joyce W. apologized for the oversight in started the year with the old design and thanked Nicole H. for swapping it out on the first day of school
- Kelly D. volunteered to help with this committee
- Nicole H. mentioned that the 8th grade volunteers were a welcome help in June

Yearbook

- Nicole H. will ask Jocelyn Proto if she's planning to help again this year; Julie P. also offered to help; Paige C. suggested that Marina Rossi, who has done the KES yearbook for several years, may be interested in helping also

Book Fair (Nicole H.)

- Fall fair will run the first week of December, ending on Saturday, 12/7 after the craft fair

Cultural Arts (Julie P.)

- Need to find a committee head
- All booked for this year
- Extreme Science for Intermediate School in October; Back Track Vocals for both schools in February
- Dorothy V. would love to have John Beede back again for the '24-'25 school year
- Eric L. asked if there would be funding for a field day presentation; Julie said there are some; will see what we can come up with

Fundraising

- Starting behind financially for the year
- PTO has considered a lot of ideas this summer
- Volunteers are the biggest obstacle
- Using a service enables us to fundraise with minimal help, but the tradeoff is that the service may take up to 50% of the collected funds

- Dorothy V. suggested selling “moving up” signs for 8th graders
- Lisa C. mentioned that wrapping paper Brough in $10K in profit when she ran it at HES; Paige C. confirmed that KES is still running that fundraiser in the fall
- Paige C. also mentioned that KES had great success with their unfundraiser, but Joyce W. said it was not a success last year at HKIMS
- Kristy H. suggested popcorn sales
- Joyce W. will find information on Little Caesar’s pizza kits
- Nicole H. mentioned that students and families showed interest in fundraising through outings; has looked into doing them at Northford Ice Pavilion and Fun-In on early dismissal days
- Bingo Night suggestion: can’t charge for the cards, but can charge for food and drinks; BES used an application to call the numbers; Shipwreck Tavern, Taino, or Truck Bar could be options for an adult bingo night
- Social Night committee proposed by Lisa C., who also volunteered to lead it and recruited Kelly D. to help with it
- Will pursue doing a Color Run on our own, so we receive all of the funds; need about 8 volunteers, white t-shirts with sponsors (Kelly D. has a list of sponsors she will share and will ask Kelly Morin if she will design the shirt; maybe next year have a contest for the kids to design it); Dorothy V. and Eric L. will look at dates; will be during the school day
- Nicole H. mentioned that bringing in more money will allow us to do more cultural arts and fun, social events for kids and families

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New Business

- Julie P. started work on a newsletter; Dorothy V. Will add it to her Weekly Byte
- Nicole H. created a PTO website, where all minutes and information will be posted; hoping to get BES and KES on it as well so there’s only one place for parents to look regardless of what school their child/ren attend

Meeting adjourned 8:12pm by Joyce W.