Monday, January 13, 2025

HKIMS PTO Meeting Minutes

Attendance

All-Remote:

Joyce Waterbury, PTO President	Julie Peryga, PTO Vice President	Nicole Harlow, PTO Secretary
Eric Larson, IS Principal	Dorothy Ventura, MS Principal	Heather Persson, MS VP
Kelly Drajewicz	Cait Zinser	Crystal Henry

Previous Business

- Motion to approve minutes made by Kelly D., seconded by Joyce W., no objections

President's Report (Joyce W.) & Vice President's Report (Julie P.)

- Need to plan a community event to show appreciation to families for participating in the Color Challenge
- Kelly D. said it would be nice to have it be free since we are trying to build community and we have a budget for it that has not yet been utilized
- Julie P. suggested putting a survey out to see what families would prefer; will send it out this week; Dorothy said there is a polling option within the Weekly Byte; would be happy to utilize that and Eric is willing to send in his email newsletter
- Cait Z. asked a question about using local colleges for performance opportunities; Heather P. added onto this idea, citing a Diversity club she used to run with a night of different experts (Zumba instructor, Mashantucket Pequot Tribe, etc); Eric cited an a cappella group that exists at Wesleyan
- Avoid Feb 7–Burr Valentine's Dance
- Tentatively planning for Feb 21 (Heather P. not available Feb 28 but is otherwise willing to host Trivia Night free of charge, if that is the preferred option)

Treasurer's Report (Nicole H. for Kristy H.)

- Just received a check from Box Tops and a company match from the Cougar Color Challenge which are not yet reflected in the budget
- Still a few thousand below where we'd like to be for revenue
- We can expect spring book fair to contribute about $1K more
- Have discussed running another small fundraiser to ensure we meet our financial goals

MS Principal's Report (Dorothy V. & Heather P.)

- Changing up benchmarks; ELA staying with iReady; math teachers using different program to mimic SBAC because MS students underperform on SBAC
- 7th and 8th grade band concert in December was wonderful
- 6th grade concert coming up tomorrow
- Dance coming up on January 31; have sold 180 tickets already; Dorothy requested that Nicole help build a balloon arch if possible
- 120 kids going to Washington, DC; registration now closed
- New student started today
- HKYFS panel discussion
- Thank you to the PTO for providing snacks to the class that won the movie day reward from the Cougar Color Challenge

IS Principal's Report (Eric L.)

- Spirit Week happened in Dec.
- Student council had a leadership conference early this month; Eric will start meeting with 3-4 members each month during lunch to take the pulse of the student body
- Recent survey; kids feel that most are following the rules; had a few suggestions on how to help each other and areas of improvement
- Clubs have started, including one in partnership with HKYFS
- 3 new students have started recently or starting soon
- New reading teacher has been hired
- Concert coming up at the end of the month
- Hot chocolate prize being coordinator for Penny Wars prize
- This Wednesday night; HKYFS program talking about The Anxious Generation
- Auditions for SpongeBob musical this week

Committees

Spirit Wear, Yearbook, and Veteran's Day

- Nothing to report

Welcome Wagon (Joyce reporting for Jen B.)

- Welcome packages already in progress for the new students

PTO Leadership

- Kelly D. is willing to attend if we need representation

Teacher/Staff Appreciation (Alison Broder)

- Pie Day; will have pie and snacks
- Ice Cream Emergency (May 6)

Bus Driver Appreciation (Jamie S.)

- Need to verify if Burr's missing check was replaced

Cup Committee (Kelly D.)

- Just need some guidance
- Nicole is putting together a folder of photos so Kelly can see how each letter is formed from the back of the fence; pointed out that current fence art continues to be damaged and seems to be happening during school hours
- Dorothy suggested asking National Junior Honor Society or Student Council to help troubleshoot the problem

Book Fair (Nicole H.)

- Thank you to Stephanie Ruth for co-chairing this past fair and agreeing to co-chair in the spring
- Total sales: $12,193.48 (this is in-between the total sales amount of the previous 2 fall fairs)
- Chose to take the profit as $2K cash and $1,557.40 as Scholastic Dollars
- Some middle school teachers expressed an interest in other book fair options, citing that there aren't enough choices with Scholastic for middle grade readers
- Nicole reached out to RJ Julia; they are not offering food truck fairs as she had been told, but did provide information about their book fairs: typically provide 5 copies each of 65-85 titles delivered to their store and picked up by book fair chair; volunteers would use Square POS app downloaded to their phones to process payments; no fee to run the fair; schools receive 15% back for sales over $2K or 12% for sales below $2K; they do not provide shelves or cases to display books, but do have metal stands which can be used with school tables to display the books; they can also provide a flyer to

promote the fair; Nicole thinks there are not enough titles for a stand-alone event, but might be a viable option if done in conjunction with a community event
- Julie suggested asking Leanne for a list of book titles for MS students and then requesting those specifically from Scholastic during set up call for Spring fair

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Cultural Arts (Julie P.)

- Backtrack Vocals Feb 5; back-to-back performances for each school that day
- Still looking for an assembly for Field Day (tentatively scheduled for June 4); asked for suggestions: Heather P. mentioned receiving an email from a group that performs a play with a message of empathy, but couldn't find reviews about it; will send to Julie for review
- Considering a Dribbler/Basketball player with an anti-bullying message, but only comes to CT at certain times of the year
- Still looking for a new committee chair for next year

Fundraising

- Little Caesar's pizza kits; entire campaign takes place online (Joyce can set up the link)
- PTO would get about $6 for most items; $4 on cheesy breads; also have new items including larger kits; no upfront cost
- Super Bowl is Feb 9; could use that as a push for orders
- Julie suggested running it from Jan 15 until Feb 15; orders are processed and shipped as they are submitted

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New Business

- Next meeting is Monday, **February 10** at 7pm ***Please note that this is a date change from the normal schedule of 1st Monday each month***

Meeting adjourned 7:56 pm by Joyce W.