

September 18, 2017 PTO Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

BOE Conference Room, School Administration Bldg. 6:35pm

Present: Randi Alberino, Eric Rekada, Branwen MacDonald, Jose Fernandez, Randy Lichtenwalner, Mary Foster, Yolanda Guardino, Robert Brownell, Vernita Mosley, Ro Sibrizzi, Lisa Aspinall-Kellewon, Colleen Hardiman, Isabel Pipolo, Denise Lopez, Jen Carbaugh, Marisa O'Leary, Mia Shervington, Ha Wallace, Margery Rossi, Jamal Lewis

Welcome/Introductions

President's Report:

- Thanks to all who attended; we are glad to have BOE reps and PFA joining us for meetings
- Elementary schools need to spend the Scholastic dollars earned from their book fairs ASAP. Some will expire in October.

Treasurer's Report:

- PTO purchased filtering water stations at Uriah Hill, Woodside, Oakside and Hillcrest buildings at a cost of 3200.00 Each. A plaque at each one will state that PTO sponsored; see report in google drive

Committee Reports:

- **Advocacy:** no report/ meeting with district on Oct 2 regarding AQE (Alliance for Quality Education)
- **Class Parents:** getting word out to parents and teachers at orientation in October; see report in google drive
- **Communications:** brought to our attention that starting in January Fundraising and Special Events meetings overlap on the schedule. Decided it was a happy accident due to upcoming events needing collaboration; Email list has too many names to remain a free Mail Chimp account. Vote decided to eliminate paper fliers to the Middle and High schools. This will offset cost of \$25.50 per month to upgrade our Mail-Chimp account; see report in google drive
- **Finance:** collecting donations from staff appeals, only 1 parent so far; Mrs. Foster will resend appeal due to hurricane email traffic; see report in google drive
- **Fundraising:** purchased 750 magnets, so far 100 have sold for \$5 each; Chamber of Commerce is selling them as well; apparel has been ordered, waiting for product to arrive; discussed Cherrydale fundraiser, orders due Oct. 2nd/delivery 2-3 weeks later; discussed possibility of selling magnets/apparel at homecoming and alumni meeting/BBQ Oct 6,7. **Yolanda will verify if ok to sell at events.**
- **Special Events/Enrichment:** Changing the committee format to every event having its own committee chair with subcommittees. Will need many more volunteers. 4 steering committee members per event are ideal; there was discussion regarding getting help from building reps regarding guidance on "just right" books at book fair/whether books by interest rather than reading level was more important. Decided that guidance would be given to parents who request it at the book fairs. Also, what activities could be held at book fairs for older grades. Asked for building rep assistance with multi-cultural cookbooks/food

festival; students of all grades will do illustrations for the cookbook. Mia is looking into a partnership with Spins Hudson for family night with provided incentives, i.e. free laser tag and \$10 games per family; see report in google drive.

Septo:

- Selling district calendars at all back to school nights; meet and greet Oct 17th, 6:30 pm at Admin building where grants will be awarded to 2 special ed teachers; upcoming events: Breakfast with Santa, 2 sessions of adaptive basketball (Jan and Feb) and afterschool yoga

Building Updates:

- **Woodside:** Theme for the year: Dr. Seuss- All the Places You'll Go With Reading; upcoming: Meet the teacher night 7 pm Sept 26, 27; class parent recruitment ongoing
- **Hillcrest:** Reinventing PBIS with HAWKS (school mascot); back to school nights Oct 2, and Oct 10
- **PKMS:** meet the teachers Oct 4; Men's night Nov 20, 6:30 pm- Dads involved, guest speaker (basketball player); Rebranding of middle school "Together We Will Do Our Work"; changing of energy at MS, make children feel more welcome; approach literacy in a more targeted way
- **PFA:** no report

Superintendent's Report:

- Good opening of schools, all off to a good start; all parents encouraged to come to BOE meetings; discussed new superintendent search, encouraged all to attend committee meetings or fill out online survey (until Sep 26th)

BOE update:

- Discussed advocacy and meeting with Nita Lowey re: Medicaid, Foundation aid owed (7million); stressed that parents are more effective than board members to advocate to the government

New Business:

- General meeting Oct 12, 6:30 pre-meeting for Exec Committee, general meeting starts at 7 pm; childcare in gym; headset company coming to fix translation headsets, hopefully will be fixed by meeting; PTO to wear t-shirts at meeting; no commitment to filming meetings; discussed possibility of other community groups (girls scouts etc) at future meetings in order to bring in more parents

Old Business:

- Reminder to building leaders that requests for the \$500 for refreshment/supplies allotted per building must be requested 2 weeks in advance in order to process request and deliver funds

Adjournment: 8:30pm

Next meeting December 4th at 6:30 pm at the Admin Building