



PTO meeting minutes- on 1/5/19 at 1:15 PM in Meeting Room 1 at the Carnegie Library - Homewood Branch

Attendees: Rachel Majcher, Kyle Fredrick, Theresa Green, Mr. Salmanli and Anara, Mrs. Humphries

Winter Shop - according to the Treasurer report, we made a profit! This was mainly due to products that were donated by families. Thank you notes were sent out to volunteers who helped during the week - there was only one day where we needed to close early because of not having coverage. We need to do better daily bookkeeping to decrease confusion of what we started with, what we ended with, and what we used in between to replenish - this can be for both money and products. The scheduling times like the book fair seemed to work well and setting up on the stage was nice.

Candy Cane breakfast - The collaboration between the PTO and Middle School was very successful! They raised between \$600 - 800 for the middle school field trip! There was such positive feedback from the families and staff that they would like to hold another breakfast on February 9th! They have not asked for monetary donation from PTO yet, but this idea is still in the preliminary phases. We can help again to ask for volunteers and advertise to encourage attendance.

New Enrollment and Re-Enrollment - We will be using Schoolmint for applications, lottery, enrollment and re-enrollment. This is a new site that is currently open for new families to apply. Information on how existing families can re-enroll will be sent out soon. Also, for families who are enrolling a new sibling cannot include them on the re-enrollment form but must complete a new application form but chose Sibling Preference.

Transportation Issues - Admin has heard the concerns and is currently trying to create a survey to send to parents and then take that data plus the data from the staff that works with transportation to present to parents and encourage them to attend their local school board meetings and present their concerns with this data. This is an ongoing issue that will take some time to organize and attempt to solve, however, the PTO has been asked to help with this process by advertising and talking with parents about their concerns.

Safe 2 Say Something - new program that is a collaboration of the Office of the Attorney General and the Sandy Hook Foundation. Middle School students will be educated about the program during Character Education time after January 14. Information will also be sent out to parents of all students about the program because anyone can make an anonymous tip about at

risk behavior. This program is an evolving program and there are still many questions that we have with it, especially with what to do about the follow up once a tip has been called in.

Parent Education Sessions - It has been suggested that we use some of the PTO meeting times to provide education to our parents about different programs that are happening not just in the school but in the community. Topics may include PSSA test preparation, safety updates, trauma and grief programs, etc. This may help with scheduling and transportation issues that parents may have and also creates a community discussion.

Garden Cleanup - It has been brought to our attention that the Garden is in disrepair. It has been suggested to coordinate between the school, PTO and Jamie Christian's garden club to have a scheduled family clean up day. Discussion included having the Earth Day committee involved, but that it would be encouraged to have the clean up at the beginning of March instead of waiting until the middle of April. This would be a good opportunity to start signing up families to help take care of the garden during the summer and showing a pride / purpose in the garden project.

Language Proficiency Update - A concern has been presented that parents do not feel that their children are showing proficiency in the world languages - even after being in classes for a long period of time. There has been multiple teachers in the Spanish department over the years which has impeded consistency and moving forward. Also, last year had a lot of disruptions in the language classes because of unwanted behaviors - which caused the teachers to have to stop and then restart lessons, sometimes repeating the same information. Mrs. Humphries stated that this was brought up at the last board meeting and admin is taking the concern seriously and is working on a solution which may include leveling language classes with beginner, intermediate and advanced levels. Also, Fatema from the PSU Brain Bus project had reported before Winter break that many of the students who participated would automatically say that they weren't proficient but that their brain wave activity during the assessment showed otherwise. She stated that once their project is complete, they will return to YSWPCS to present their findings to our school community. Also, the language teachers and their mentors from Duquesne, Pitt and CMU have been monitoring students over the years and have been asked to present their findings to the parents. This is a continuing project and we will keep everyone updated.

Family Comment - Mr. Salmanli stated that Anara (K) is doing well in school but was having difficulty learning Spanish. This again can go with the Language Study concerns and we can also look at how the language departments can get resources for families to learn at home.

National Junior Honor Society and Science Olympiad - Mr. Gurkan has asked the PTO to help with advertising this program to parents, finding community service opportunities for existing and new members, and even assisting with completing paperwork. This is a great opportunity for our students and families! Also, Science Olympiad is a great program that not too many of our students and families know about. We can work with the science department to advertise and celebrate the students after the competitions!