



PTO Meeting: Saturday, November 10, 2018 at 2 PM

1. Call to Order - 2:20 PM because the event room was not yet available at 2 pm. Rachel Majcher and Kyle Fredrick presented. Keysha Gomez and Anjelica Salih were parent attendants.
2. PTO Mission Statement read
3. **Admin/Teacher Report** - reviewed the Thirty - One MUT (medium utility tote) fundraiser that the middle school teachers held (10 MUT donated to make raffle baskets from throughout the year). We also discussed the Community Thanksgiving Dinner that will be held on November 20th at YSWPCS. Teachers were given an electronic invitation to place on their Dojo pages - parents in attendance stated that they haven't seen anything. Rachel did add to each dojo page after the meeting and also created an event on the school and PTO Facebook pages.
4. **Results of Rummage Sale** - Kyle stated that there were suggestions to advertise future rummage sales on platforms that have message boards about these kinds of events. Also, Mr. Gurkan had passed on idea of having an area at Trader Jack's in Bridgeville during the spring / summer for rummage sale items but would also advertise the school in a community setting. It is reported that there were many community members, not just from Baldwin Township, that attended. Kyle stated that he even gave a tour to a neighbor couple who had many questions about the school and wanted clarification of some of their inaccurate thoughts of the school.
5. **Holiday Shop coming week of December 10th** - will need volunteers, look for Sign-up.com, also, we will take any donations of homemade/crafty items
 - a. Middle School is doing a Reindeer Breakfast the Saturday following the holiday shop and we are looking to have the holiday shop open then as well - Positive feedback was given from all attendees about having this community event and holding the shop in the same fashion as the book fair.
6. Soccer Team is playing their first game against the teachers on November 15th at 4:30 at Cool Springs. Come out and cheer them all on for all of their hard work, teachers, coaches and students! They have been practicing hard. - Once the schedule is released, it will be shared with all families to encourage support. Positive feedback was given about having pep rallies, posters supporting teams from Student Council and having cheerleaders be at games.
7. Treasurer Report - reviewed
8. Round Table (we want to hear from the parents)
 - a. Keysha started off by giving resources of the Pittsburgh Riverhounds holding a community soccer game on Sunday, November 18th. She forwarded the link to Rachel who will forward to Soccer

Coaches. She also gave the name of Common Threads which is a community cooking class. Keysha is the founder of Hope 4 Tomorrow which is an after school program for underserved / at risk youth in the West End. They utilize the Tickets for Kids program also and encouraged us to use this program for field trips. Rachel brought up that Mrs. Kostosky was the contact person for Tickets for Kids at YSWPCS but that it would be encouraging for parents to bring this up to teachers too that there may be an event going on that might interest their class and that tickets are available. This would prompt the teacher to get in touch with Ms. K and obtain tickets.

- b. Anjelica Salih brought up about a concern of having more clubs for younger kids. She suggested that there even be a program where older kids could mentor younger ones and try to get them involved in things like sports and robotics. Keysha then brought up about encouraging parent participation in clubs like in the past - this goes along with the need to tap into parent talents and resources. Rachel brought up that Mrs. Thomas is the after school coordinator and that ideas for this program need to have her input also.
- c. At this point, Kyle brought up about creating a survey for the parents from the PTO that asks them about not only their demographic information but their jobs, their hobbies, their interest in volunteering (including for events like Career Day and after school programs), and any ideas that they may have for field trips or guest speakers. The results of this survey can be used in multiple ways and even shared with the staff so that they can start to put together a pool of parents for different needs based off of their responses. He also brought up about Alcosan being a great place for a field trip.
- d. Kyle also brought up about grants that are out in the community to help fund field trips and activities. Rachel discussed Donors Choose and how teachers can utilize this to ask for donations for classroom items and field trips.
- e. It was also brought up about the need to advertise opportunities to join Science Olympiad, Robotics, JNHS, etc. Many parents aren't aware of these programs, what they do and what the commitment is to be part of the program. Some parents may even be discouraged by how long an application might be and have trouble completing it. PTO can assist by helping with service opportunities (or at least making parents aware of places where their kids can get hours), help to promote activities or work with the teachers to distribute information about these programs to the parents.
- f. Keysha then brought up a question about buses. Though this is not actually a PTO issue, we discussed that it is important for us to begin to know who the other parents are of the kids who ride the same bus. This way, in the event that there is an issue, we as parents can come together and either attend school board meetings (home district) or work together for car pools, etc. It was acknowledged that there are continued busing issues with multiple districts and that there are many steps of the process of securing transportation. Unfortunately, there is no easy answer for this, but we need to work together to make sure that our kids get safely to and from school.
- g. It was also brought up about the need to live stream, Facebook live, or at least video and post meetings for parents to watch. We have had some technical difficulties this year with doing this, however, we will continue to try. Rachel did relay that the school website is almost finished being updated and that IT has been given all of the information that is needed to update the PTO page.
- h. Meeting was adjourned at 4 pm. Next meeting will be held December 4th at 6:30 pm in the school cafeteria.