

**Huntington School PTO
Meeting Summary
February 8, 2018**

Board members in attendance:

Ann Yarka
Meghan Vitale
Leeann Wiess
Emily Pascale

Administrators: Joanne Harlow, principal

District staff: none

Others: 2 parents

Board member reports

Leeann reported that karate is going well. There were some scheduling conflicts with the musical rehearsals in the cafeteria, but now that is over.

No update on Box Tops. We are still waiting for a total and check from 5 Below from our December fundraiser.

New business and upcoming events

We still need volunteers for Bingo Night, and we need prize donations.

Next Family Dance is Friday, March 9.

Gertrude Hawk sale is currently underway. Orders are due February 27. Delivery expected during the week of March 19 – exact date TBD. We could use help distributing the products on the day of delivery.

Yearbook group photos will be Wednesday, February 28 – sports, band, chorus, etc.

Next meeting is March 8.

Meghan asked if anyone has tried to use the photo submittal website for yearbook. No one present had tried it, but Leeann said that a staff member had submitted a few photos. Jenn asked about submitting baby photos for 8th graders. Leeann said that we will use the same website for those, and she'll send out a note about that later after group photos are done. Mrs. Harlow emailed the link to staff.

Funding requests

No fund requests.

Administrative report

Mrs. Harlow gave the administrative report.

The after-school program held their musical on February 2. It was very well done.

Kindergarten info session was held in January. About 20 families attended, and most were new to the building (i.e. just a few with existing pre-K students). Kindergarten registration is now open district-wide. Meghan asked if there was any feedback from other schools about how their events went. Mrs. Harlow has not heard any reports from other schools. Meghan also asked if there were any data available on the ratio, within kindergarten classes, of students that have transferred versus those that are attending their home school. Mrs. Harlow did not have this information available, but did note that our kindergarten classes are always full and have a wait list. This is the case at some other schools as well, but not all. Meghan noted that there seems to be a disconnect between what was said at the Superintendent's Parent Council meeting about the district "losing" students to charters and private schools, and what's said to staff about enrollment (staff understanding is that, overall, kindergarten across the district is oversubscribed).

Book fair and Art Show will be March 15, in the evening (book fair will run during the day all week). Ms. Shuster could use help with the book fair, such as running the cash register, set up, helping students find books. She'll set it up Friday before (there will be a sub for her).

"Huntington Around the World" (previously referred to as "Taste of Huntington") has been rescheduled to March 22 (still during the school day).

March 13 and 14 is school review. We do our own because of our accountability designation. Looking for areas for improvement. Parent input is a huge piece; there might be a focus group.

Parent-teacher conferences were today. These were primarily scheduled with parents of students that were identified as really in need, but usually only about half show up. There are no other scheduled parent-teacher conferences for the year.

Since our building will be shut down this coming summer for renovations, we will probably have the elementary summer school program at HW Smith, but in a separate area of building just for Huntington. Students would be bused. Middle school summer session will be at Lincoln, as usual. Likely to be about a half day program again. No 21st Century enrichment element again this year.

State assessments are scheduled for April 11-12 (ELA) and May 1-2 (Math), for grades 3-8. Eighth grade math will be on the computer this year. All assessments will be computer-based by 2020. Jenn noted that ELA tests on a computer are difficult because students can't go back to re-read. Mrs. Harlow noted

that there were technical issues with recent STAR testing, and the district decided to stop using them. A-Net is a paper test, and very closely aligned to state tests. For those that opted out of state assessments last year, Mrs. Harlow proposed sending a letter to those parents explaining that A-Net is a predictor of how their student will perform on the state assessment and is really not all that different. We need more of the students that will likely do well on state assessments to take the tests because our opt-outs are hurting the school's accountability standing. Huntington is a "local assistance plan" school, but this is due in large part to our low participation rate in state assessments.

The meeting to discuss arrival and dismissal logistics with the new site plan will be February 12 at 6:30 p.m. Mrs. Harlow met with transportation department staff today, and they are excited about the coming changes.

Climate survey is out. Parents should take the survey. Completion rate right now is very low.

Mrs. Harlow spoke about the NYU EMAT program. We are one of four schools in district that have resident interns that are working towards a Masters degree in Education from NYU. Coursework is all online. There are currently 5 people from the program at Huntington, all in middle school, who are working with mentor teachers. Already have 60 applicants for next year.

February Break is coming up. Mrs. Harlow is working with librarian to see if we can do a fun reading thing over break, to encourage students to read more.

Meghan commented that the recent musical was a nice production, and asked how we can improve our band/orchestra/chorus concerts to a similar caliber, i.e. auditorium-style seating, appropriate lighting. There was some discussion about trying to hold middle school and elementary concerts on the same night. Also, parents need more notice of the concert dates. Mrs. Harlow will email the music staff and request that they coordinate on a spring concert and schedule this far enough in advance (at least two weeks, preferably more) to order chairs from BOVA.

Meghan asked if there might be the possibility next year of running a musical as a collaborative effort between building staff and the after-school program. The director of this year's musical seems reluctant to run the program again without additional adult help. The district will provide a stipend to a staff member that runs a drama or musical program/club. Could these two fund sources (district and 21st Century program) be combined to create a musical that involves students that are in the after-school program and those that are not? Mrs. Harlow will investigate this idea.

No added agenda items.

No report from after-school program.