

**Huntington School PTO
Meeting Summary
February 9, 2017**

Attendees:

Board members

Leeann Wiess
Meghan Vitale

Administrators

Ms. Kirch, Vice-Principal

Parents/staff/public: 6 people

Welcome

Leeann welcomed everyone to the meeting.

PTO Board Members Report

Karate will be ready for next test and tournament right after break.

Mary Beth was not in attendance to report on Box Tops, but the Board will contact her for an update.

We are still not sure what we earned from the Five Below fundraiser. They will send a check from their corporate office to the school, but we haven't received it yet.

Updates on Old Business

Meghan reported that minutes from the previous meeting, which included a presentation from district staff regarding the proposed building renovations, are available on the PTO website along with the presentation from the meeting. The Board met with the Facilities staff as a follow-up to the January 19 meeting and continued to discuss some of the parent and staff concerns with the proposal. The Board comments to the Facilities department are also available for review on the PTO website (in the News section). A community meeting about the renovations will be held on March 23; we do not have additional details about that meeting yet but will be sure to notify parents when we know more.

A parent asked if the Board requested that more parking be added to the proposal. Meghan confirmed that staff parking was addressed in the Board comments. Another parent asked if the pool will be renovated; she stated that the water in the pool is too cold, as are the locker rooms. She feels that the pool should not be open in the winter. Leeann noted that many pools are open all winter. Leeann also noted that the locker rooms are included in the proposed renovations, but that we do not have details about the heating of the pool or locker room areas and this concern was not raised at the previous meetings about the renovations. The parent expressed frustration that her daughter has been sick and feels that "wet gym" has contributed to this.

New Business

Gertrude Hawk fundraiser has started, everyone should have received a flier home with their student. Orders are due February 28.

Next PTO meeting is Thursday, March 9, followed by the community meeting about the building renovations on March 23.

Family Bingo Night will be Friday, March 10. Leeann said that she is hoping to get Crunch tickets and SkyZone passes again, and Moe's might be able to provide gift cards. We would appreciate any additional suggestions/donations for prizes! A parent asked if Bingo would be open just to elementary students. Meghan and Leeann said they would check on what we did last year and confirm with Mrs. Harlow, but the opinion of those present was generally that middle school students would be welcome so long as accompanied by an adult since it is "family" bingo. We could also use some volunteers to help out that night! A suggestion was made for the NJHS students to assist, and earn volunteer hours. The Board will consider this suggestion and let Mr. Curinga know. We will also think about the pricing structure for bingo boards to simplify sales at the door.

Funding requests

There were no funding requests from staff, but one informational item and one fund request from the Board.

Leeann explained that we tried to use the Title I parent involvement grant Wegmans card to pay for refreshments for the January 19 meeting, but that the card had not been activated yet (though it was supposed to have been activated by that time). Meghan paid for the order with her personal credit card. The Board will try to get the district to reimburse us for the money spent, but either way PTO will reimburse Meghan for the expense (about \$123).

The Board members proposed spending up to \$200 for disinfecting wipes to distribute throughout the school given that there is a lot of sickness going around. Leeann noted that we will look for the best price, possibly using a BJ's or Sam's Club membership. Leeann asked Ms. Kirch about the existing procedure for disinfecting in classrooms. Ms. Kirch said that there is usually a heavy disinfecting during break. Darcy suggested checking with the school nurse to see if there is a list of specific approved products that can be used in the classrooms. Meghan asked if we could check with the Facilities department to see if they can provide anything to the school. Meghan also noted that we'll put out a request on Facebook and email for donations of disinfecting wipes. A parent noted that some people have sensitivities to chemicals, so we should be careful about what we request. Leeann suggested that we vote on this as an "up to amount" to be purchased if we determine that we can't get wipes from Facilities and the nurse approves certain products. A parent noted that the district recently did a robocall about keeping sick kids home, so they should help us keep the school clean.

Jenn Barr motioned to approve up to \$200 for disinfecting wipes if (a) Facilities cannot provide them and (b) Ms. Lowe can confirm what products are allowed in the school. There were no objections; the motion passed.

Administrative Reports

Ms. Kirch provided the administrative report. She reiterated that a community meeting is planned for March 23 about building renovations. The school just finished ANet testing, and teachers are developing reteach plans based on those results. There are about 200 students enrolled in the 21st Century program for winter break, which includes students from H.W. Smith school as well (but will be held at Huntington). High school Information Night had lower attendance than anticipated, but Mr. Leonardo is meeting with each 8th grade student individually to discuss plans for next year. The Middle School Honor Roll breakfast will be held tomorrow.

Added Agenda Items/other discussion

There were no added agenda items.

Darcy Jones suggested using some of the parent involvement grant money for refreshments for ESL parent meetings. Meghan and Leeann indicated that this seemed like a good use of the grant money, and Leeann will meet with Darcy to discuss further.

Meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.