

Huntington School PTO

November 12, 2015

Board members present:

Leeann Wiess, President
Gia Palermo, Vice-President
Keith Gatling, Vice-President
Emily Pascale, Treasurer
Angie Vigliotti-Martinez, Treasurer
Meghan Vitale, Secretary

Meeting started at 6:35 p.m.

8 parents signed-in.

Welcome

Leeann welcomed everyone.

PTO Board Member Reports

Karate

Leeann reported on karate. It is going well. Everyone is paid for the year. First test and tournament coming up in a couple of weeks.

Box Tops

Mary Beth Wise reported that Ms. Guiffrida's class collected the most Box Tops for October. We should be getting a check in December. Leeann reminded everyone that middle school still collects Box Tops, but they don't do the monthly contest.

Genevieve's Sale

Angie spoke about the sale. Delivery is expected on the November 17 and we hope to send items home that day as well. Total sold was almost \$8,000 worth of merchandise, of which the school gets about 40 percent. All money made on this sale goes directly to classes/grade-level teams (not PTO general fund).

Raffle

Emily stated that we made about \$350. All funds from the raffle go to PTO general fund. Winners were drawn at Family Dance, and prizes were picked up that night.

Election Day Bake Sale

Leeann reported on the bake sale. It was not a big election year and no kids were allowed at the sale this year, but we still made about \$300. We need more volunteers for next year! The sale ended at about 4:30 p.m., although there were some items left, because volunteers needed to go home. A parent stated that she didn't know volunteers were needed. Leeann stated that we put notice out on Facebook and the listserv, in addition to sending fliers home. Next year is a presidential election, so we'd like to open earlier and stay later. We will probably put out volunteer sign-ups for specific time slots next year. Mrs. Harlow noted that a lot of kids wanted to go to the sale, and some parents came to give money to kids

to go to bake sale. Leeann said a teacher announced to kids that they would be able to go. We will communicate better next year that kids will not be allowed to come to the sale. This is because it is too difficult to have kids come through on half-days, especially now that school ends at 11:00 on half-days. Also, there are concerns about kids and food allergies.

Picture Make Up Day

Leeann reported that picture make-up day went well. Again this year we had a problem with the timing of delivery. Pictures arrived Monday, we had a half-day Tuesday, no school Wednesday, and make-ups were on Friday.

Family Dance

Meghan reported that about 100 kids attended the Family Dance. We made about \$80 after paying the DJ. Gia said this was typical compared to previous years. Meghan noted that Ms. Hallinan had suggested that we should have sent a second notice home. (Kindergarten staff sold refreshments at the dance, with money going directly to their class account.)

Updates on Old Business

Parent Involvement Grant

Meghan stated that we included the cell phone purchase and the website in our proposal (as discussed at previous meeting), and we have received official approval from the district. Mrs. Harlow will put a copy of that approval in the PTO mailbox. We have to work out some issues with payment for these items, but we're hoping to have them up and running this year.

Renovations Schedule

A question was raised at the October meeting about the schedule for the Phase 2 JSCB projects, which will include Huntington. Meghan emailed Tom Ferrara in the Facilities Department and received a response, which she read to the group: "A couple of months ago, the Joint School Construction Board received approval of the Financial Plan by the NYS Comptroller which allowed the JSCB to finalize the JSCB Phase 2 Comprehensive Plan. We could not proceed without Comptroller approval. A Phase 2 Program Manager, Turner Construction, has been hired and we are now in the process of soliciting architects to design the projects. The Program Manager and Architect will work with Principal Harlow and the school community to select the improvements. \$22.5 million has been budgeted for improvements at Huntington. NYS makes us go through several approval processes for this work. Construction is currently scheduled to start in 2017."

There was a question about whether the pool lockers will be included in the renovations. Meghan reviewed the priorities that the PTO submitted to the JSCB via email in August 2014. These priorities included: window replacements, accessibility enhancements to the front entry, air conditioning, removal of carpeting, and modifications to the parking lot. Meghan will follow-up with Tom Ferrara to get more details on how the community will be involved and to express that we would like the pool lockers addressed. Meghan asked if the city shares any financial responsibility for the pool since the Parks and Rec Department uses it; Mrs. Harlow said that the pool is solely the district's responsibility.

Emergency Drill - November 24

This is noted on the district calendar, and there was a question about it at the previous meeting. Mrs. Harlow said that dismissal will be just a few minutes early with no impact to busing.

Parent Seminars about cyberbullying

Gia noted that we are aiming for a weeknight at the end of January. The McMahon-Ryan agency will run the session with a focus on social media and cyberbullying. A parent suggested a Wednesday night. There was a discussion about whether students should accompany parents, and what grades should be involved. Generally, parents felt that seminars should be for parents only, and all parents should be invited. Gia noted that the same agency is also working with our social worker to hold some seminars for kids during the school day. Grades 3, 4, and 5 will be getting a no-bullying seminar. Kindergarten through grade 2 will get the High Five program. There will be an Internet safety seminar for grades 6-8. Gia will talk with our social worker to clarify what they're getting in school. A parent asked if parents could get an outline of what will be taught in school. Mrs. Harlow responded that, yes, that will happen because the school must get parent consent. A parent asked if this information could just be provided in health class. Mrs. Harlow said that only 7th grade gets health, and she wasn't sure if cyberbullying was an explicit part of the curriculum.

New Business & Upcoming Events

Next PTO Meeting is scheduled for December 10.

Leeann talked about the Moe's Night/Five Below Fundraiser. Moe's only allows a one-night fundraiser, and we're scheduled for Wednesday, December 16. Five Below allows longer, so we are scheduled for November 26 through December 24. You must bring the flier, and it is only at the Erie Boulevard locations. PTO gets 15% at Moe's, and 10% at Five Below. Leeann stressed that we cannot distribute fliers on their property; if anyone is caught doing this, our profits will be revoked.

Movie Night is on the calendar for January 22. This will again be for pre-K through grade 5. We are not sure of the movie yet.

Bingo Night is scheduled for February 26. Leeann stated that we will need a committee to plan and run the event. A parent noted that Friday night will conflict with Bingo at the American Legion. Meghan stated that the Bingo at the Legion is for substantial cash prizes; our Bingo Night will be a family-fun night (no cash prizes).

Meghan noted that we need to get committees together to plan the Talent Show in the spring, as well as Bingo. Watch for emails asking for volunteers. These events will take a lot of planning, and will not happen without a committee of volunteers.

Funding Request Review and Vote

There were no fund requests. Meghan asked if there was any follow-up on the "lunch games" fund request that was tabled at the October meeting. Mrs. Harlow stated that the administration has withdrawn the motion.

Administrative Reports

Mrs. Harlow gave the administrative report. Next Thursday, November 19, is a half-day for parent-teacher conferences in the afternoon and evening. Dismissal will be at 11:00 a.m. Middle school conferences are in cafeteria. Report cards for middle school students are available at conferences. Parents can show up anytime and meet with the team of teachers in the cafeteria.

Elementary school conferences are scheduled for specific time slots. Teachers sent sign-up forms home with students. Middle school report cards were mailed out last week. Elementary report cards are given out at conferences. Emily noted that 5th grade report cards already went home with students.

The middle school career fair is also the morning of November 19. We are trying to figure out how to deal with buses on half days when the back parking lot is full. Having buses load/unload on Sunnycrest is not ideal.

Holiday concert dates have been tentatively set as follows (Mr. Sokolowski needs to confirm): Dec 15 9:15-10:30 a.m. for pre-K through grade 2; Dec 16 9:15-10:30 a.m. for grades 3-5; Dec 17 6:00-6:40 p.m. orchestra and junior high chorus; 7:00-7:40 p.m. elementary band and chorus. A flier will go home very soon.

There is no after school program on November 18.

Mrs. Harlow also spoke about the National Junior Honor Society induction ceremony. It was very nice. Close to 30 students were inducted. Mr. Curinga and Mr. Kieffer did a great job running the event.

Tomorrow is the candy and carmel apples fundraiser. Most apples were pre-ordered. Remaining will be sold tomorrow during lunch. The school will make \$1 per apple.

Mrs. Harlow noted that Dan Romeo (school board member-elect) is visiting each school in the district. He visited our school recently, and wants to know what he can do to help. He is coming back on Monday at 8:00 a.m. Parents suggested that he visit the ISS room, BIC room, and cafeteria.

After School Program

There was no report from the after-school program.

Added Agenda Items

A parent asked why half-day dismissal is now at 11:00 a.m. instead of 11:30 a.m. Mrs. Harlow said the district sets the dismissal times, and she assumes this has to do with transportation.

Other comments

Two parents noted that they had set up a table in the mall to sell raffle tickets, and found that to be worthwhile. Mr. Ballenger had provided a banner. They received approval from someone in the district offices.

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.