**Huntington School Parent-Teacher Organization**

Meeting Summary

January 15th, 2019

**Board Members in Attendance:**

Meghan Vitale, President

Ann Yarka, Vice-President

Emily Pascale, Treasurer

Erin Mallory, Secretary

**Administrators:** Joanne Harlow

**Others:** 2 Staff members, 3 Parents

**Welcome:**

Meghan opened meeting at 6:34pm; Welcomed everyone to the rescheduled meeting; first order of business, Meghan asked for a motion to approve the minutes from last meeting on 11/8. Ann motioned to approve the minutes, Emily seconded the motion. Minutes unanimously approved.

**Board Member Reports:**

* Treasurers Report:
	+ Box tops: Emily Reported on Boxtops, we earned $72.50.
	+ Fundraisers: There are no new fundraisers to report on.
	+ Accounts Balances: Emily shared the current class and PTO Balances. Class and special account balances total $17,400 – 80% of that belongs to National Junior Honor Society; PTO’s general fund balance is $2,800. Attendee asked for clarification of NJHS – Emily explained what the organization is and what the kids do, that they are fundraising for eighth grade trip and PTO is holding their funds. Parent asked for clarification of who pays. Explanation of the line items of who the general PTO funds go to, and class accounts.
* Karate: Ann shared that karate continues to go well; one parent is looking for a refund for not participating as planned.
* Winter Ball: Meghan and Emily both reported on the winter ball held on January 11 in the school cafeteria. Seemed like lower attendance in comparison to last year’s winter ball. Spring Ball seems to be more popular, possibly get more eighth graders since they are leaving. Overall the dance was successful, several parents donated food and helped with decorations. Mrs. Harlow thanked everyone for their help.
* Upcoming Events: Family dance coming up on 3/8; Family Bingo night 4/5 – we will be looking for prizes
* Meghan asked about date for multi-cultural fair and science fair – Mrs. Harlow says that they need to get that on the calendar. Science fair will not be before the 3/31 CNY Science Fair for any students that wanted to participate in that as well; NYS testing begins on 4/1. Mrs. Harlow will not be adding in anything out of the ordinary between now and the NYS Assessments that are now 47 days away.
* SCSD upcoming event -Winter Wellness Expo 1/26 at PLSA at Fowler, doors open at 8 - Free, lunch provided. Fee for Defensive Driving. Mental health and first aid. Need to register.

**Old Business:**

* Request in December from Middle school asked for $200 for lunch for merit and honor roll; there was not a December meeting. Current bylaws allow for board approval for up to $200 without a vote. Board approved $200.

**New Business:**

* Two fund requests from the board:
	+ Fund request to pay the DJ for the Winter Ball – Board approved $200 to pay DJ.
	+ Fund request for $100 to pay the DJ for the upcoming spring family dance. Emily motioned, Ann seconded, approved unanimously.
* Bylaws - Last amendment in 2009 – Vote on the new Bylaws was tabled in October due to additional specifics that the board wanted to add. The Bylaws have been on the website since December; news section details the changes. Some word changes; defined terms; major changes in article ten. Definitions and amendments needed to meet the purpose of the organization per law. Concerns in the past on purchase of technology; confusion as to what happens to money when teachers change grades; funds not being used in the year they are raised – funds not being used by the students raising the money.

Letter was given to the board at the beginning of the meeting for a request to table vote on the bylaws to next meeting from a group of Huntington teachers – Meghan read the letter to the audience – Concerns surround:

* + What fundraised money can be used for.
	+ The proposed change that the balance of unspent money from PTO-fundraisers in excess of $100 will roll over to the general PTO fund.
	+ If money currently in class accounts will be affected by the new roll over if/when it takes effect and what about money in the accounts that is not PTO-raised.
	+ Where the money goes that is not used if the PTO organization ceases to exist.

The board shared as much information as possible regarding the concerns. Only one teacher that signed the letter was present. Meghan motioned to table the vote on the bylaws; Ms. Hallinan seconded her motion. Two opposed to tabling the vote; five attendees in favor of tabling the vote; two attendees abstained. Motion to table the vote on the bylaws until February approved. A meeting with those that have concerns will be set up.

**Presentation:** No presentation for this meeting

**Administrative reports:** Due to time, Mrs. Harlow passed on discussion of administrative reports.

* Preparing data meetings with all of the teams. Just finished a round Star testing. These look at student growth; look at specific targeted interventions to see if they resulted in growth.
* ANET assessment to measure learning standards in both math and ELA; using the information from the ANET to prepare for NYS assessments.
* NYS Assessments on computers this year in grades 3, 6, 7 & 8. Practice time scheduled.
* NYS designation for schools should be coming out this week; was originally scheduled for tomorrow; Already know several schools will go into receivership – have sent in appeals. Parents will be given choice of where students will go or stay in that school. Schools will not be over crowded. Will find out what our designation will be. Last year Huntington’s designation was local assistance school – one step below a school in good standing.
* This week, students in k & 1 will receive weekly post cards on student absences. Schools that have done this report attendance went up 10%.

**Discussion:**

* There was a lengthy discussion on the status of the music program regarding school concerts and elevating the experience. Meghan asked for a point person to contact so PTO is able to assist with the school concerts.
* NHJS will take over yearbook for this year – Mr. Curinga’s student will work on yearbook as a community service project. PTO will assist, with the goal of transitioning this to a primarily student run project within the next year or two.

Meeting adjourned at 8:27pm