

Huntington School Parent-Teacher Organization

Meeting Summary

February 13, 2020

Board members in attendance: Ann Yarka, President; Maureen McCarthy, Vice President; Meghan Vitale, Treasurer; Ramie Miller, Secretary

Administrators: Joanne Harlow, Principal

Office of Family Engagement: - Melissa Hidek

Others: 2 parents, 1 staff member

I. Welcome

Ann welcomed all to the meeting, and introductions were made for all present.

II. Approval of previous minutes

January's minutes were posted on the website, but not printed for review at today's meeting. Approval of minutes was tabled until next meeting.

III. Treasurer's report

Meghan presented January's Financial Summary. Copies of the summary were made available, with signatures of Meghan and Ann certifying that the summary had been reconciled with the January bank statement. The main item to highlight is that we received funds to correct the accounting discrepancy left over from the tenure of the previous treasurer. The money was distributed to the special accounts that were missing funds.

IV. Karate Update

Karate is going well. One week was sacrificed – due to rehearsal for the Annie musical put on by the after-school program.

V. Upcoming Events

Gertrude Hawk fundraiser, packets must be turned in by Feb 26th.

Bingo Night will be May 1. Maureen will be visiting many potential donors.

Family Dance, March 27th, 6:30-8:00. Melissa inquired, and the board summarized details. The Honor Society will be selling concessions. We hire a DJ, and charge \$5 per family. We don't make much money, but that is not the purpose.

Parent Engagement – Melissa reported that Dinner and Data will not be taking place on 2/25. However, an event – Black History in 4D – will be taking place 2/25 at Dr. King. This is an opportunity to experience a Dinner and Data put on by another school.

Joanne reported that she is planning two Family Nights, potentially scheduled March 19 (which coincides with the week of the book fair) and April 21. The idea is to have teachers presenting on different topics. As these dates approach, Joanne would like to include the PTO in planning.

VI. New Business

Kindergarten info sessions will be March 12 and April 1. Meghan noted that she received a flyer from the district, but knew of a person with a pre-k student who did not get a flyer. We will put this on the PTO Facebook page, and share that to promote.

Photo contract – Meghan has been contacted by the photographer to ask about dates for next year. In the past the contract has been signed by the PTO, but we are hoping that next year the school would sign the contract. Joanne indicated that this should not be a problem. Meghan will communicate that to the photographer, and tentatively request dates in early October.

Candy Sale – This is an idea from the ladies in the office to sell chocolate, out of the office, as an additional fundraiser for the PTO. Joanne indicated that there is not sufficient space to do this in the office, so this is not a possibility.

VII. Administrative Report

The Pride Party for third marking period is coming up, on March 13. This will take place during the school day. A DJ will be there, at a cost of \$200. Likely this will be paid out of the school's 'beverage account'. However, it is an option to use the PTO 'Admin' account. If Joanne chooses to use the Admin account, she will submit the fund request.

Ice Cream Sale – The second grade class has proposed to sell ice cream on Fridays. The district is supportive, and would supply the ice cream and freezer at no charge. Joanne is asking if the PTO would like to be involved. The 2nd grade class would like 50% of proceeds to go to a children's cancer charity, and 50% to the PTO. Meghan brought up a potential problem that the PTO (as a non-profit) may not be able to donate to another non-profit. There is also the complication of receiving lots of small bills, and converting into a check for the charity, without going through the PTO. (It was clarified that Social Sunshine is behind the current ice cream sale). We will have further discussion on the topic, and confer with the 2nd grade teachers to clarify their thoughts on how money would be handled.

State Assessments - ELA March 24th. Math is last week of April. Will be administered for 2 grades per day for 4-5 days. All testing will be administered on computers. Trials thus far have been successful.

VIII. Discussion

Drop off in loop - This has been a big problem recently. Cars are being parked in the circle, U-turns, congestion, general lack of safety for kids and pedestrians. The Pre-K bus using the parent loop adds to the congestion. Joanne indicated that signage has been requested, and she will follow up on this. It was questioned whether the faculty parking in the rear of the building is complete and ready for use. Joanne indicated that it is, and the faculty should be using the rear lot, though it is not clear that this has been communicated to faculty. This may be an opportunity to clear front parking spaces for drop-off use.

Crossing guards – A new one has not yet been hired. This is a position filled by the police department.

Signage on Sunnycrest – Before construction there were no-parking signs between the school driveways. They have not been replaced. It was clarified that the school did not ask for the signs to be eliminated. In the interest of safety, DPW will be approached to see if signs be supplied.

Rock Wall – rumor that all schools in the district will be getting a climbing wall. Is this true? Joanne has not heard.

Clothing Exchange – Might we consider creating a program at Huntington like the one that exists at Salem Hyde? Probably not - it turns out that the school's social workers already manage a robust clothing donation program that serves Huntington kids.