

Huntington PTO Meeting

November 14th, 2024

Attendees

Board Members- President: Dorothy Dermott, Treasurer: Louis Petrocci

Administrators- Dan Killenbec

Teachers- Colleen Colabufo, Chrissy Lamirande, Kenyotta Archie, Jessica Huertas

Family Engagement Officer-Melissa Wilson-Owens

Family- Jim Johnson

Approval previous minutes

October's meeting minutes approved

Board Member Report

Financial summary presented by Dorothy Dermott. Tax filing payment out (54.99), Reimbursement for supplies for NJHS fundraisers (335.36), and deposit for apparel sales (\$581.00). Donation received for \$200.00 as a result of a legal judgement against a community member, this was allocated to the General PTO account.

Old Business

Changes to the Huntington School PTO Bylaws were approved by the attendees in a unanimous vote.

New Business

Admin Report

Enrollment is up to 936 students. Admin report. Disciplinary referrals up from last year (down from two years ago). Out of school suspensions down.

59% participation rate from parents with Parent teacher conference nights. Elementary parent engagement/participation is higher than middle school parent engagement. Difficulty in that Huntington is functionally 2-3 different schools, Pre-K, Elementary, Middle school.

Meeting with staff today: Middle school alone is larger than Clary, Brighton Academy, Syracuse STEM. Allows for more resources, but also presents challenges.

Family Engagement

Family engagement: SBC is next week (November 20th). Title 1 has been approved, starting to plan for "Winter Wonderland" event. Exact date to be emailed to PTO. Attendance data, grade level expectations for students (what they are learning, state tests), winter activities and food/meal.

Future Events

Halloween: Dan would like to do a Trunk or Treat next year at Huntington School. Could work on collaborating with Jimmy Monto- shut down streets/have a block party.

Fundraisers

Gertrude Hawk Fundraiser for the spring. Dorothy to reach out to the contact at Gertrude Hawk to set that up.

Discussed having another Luv Handlz fundraiser- a month long one possibly. Board members to reach out to Jimmy Doyle.

Louis asking Dan to send out email to staff to ask them if they are interested in class level fundraisers- specifically Krispy Kreme. Louis will send a draft email Dan to send out.

Open Discussion:

Superintendent meeting: Jamie Petrocci. Topic was safety and school searches. Parents were asked how they felt about the searches- most people were in favor with one person stating they will not attend an event at the school if they had to be searched. At Huntington, we have events in the gym around the same time that after school programs are ongoing. Dan has advocated for a separate setup for events entrance w/ metal detector, sex predator detection, identity verification. At SBC: Survey was sent out asking if there was anything parents want to bring back to Mr. Davis.

Pool is now open 2x a week for open swim. Pool doors get unlocked and there's no way to get into the main building from the pool. This is a program that is being administrated by the city parks and rec department. No district personnel are involved.

There has been discussion of a peace officer being stationed at the school (works at school, carries gun/handcuff). Parents can advocate for additional security measures to be implemented at schools. Ask about the training of school sentries. Also good to ask about administrator staffing in buildings.

With regards to having a separate entrance- this would make it easier/better for parents to come in for awards ceremonies. Safety and security of the children at the school is paramount priorities.

Award ceremonies schedules are set up in advance- staff works on trying to get information out to parents with enough advance notice to allow for people.

Staff has been great- suspensions have been down (slightly higher write ups). Pre-K arrival and dismissal has been offset which has helped with dismissal and arrival traffic. Regular traffic has still been pretty bad. Could there be a marked car stationed at the school to help monitor the Sunnycrest/Forest Hill intersection. Sgt Carlos Romaine monitors crossing guards for the city- he's the person to go to for those concerns.

Before School Program: Tiana Rocket is the person to reach out to in order to push for changes. We can push for the before school program to be for the full school year- advocate for this.

Other schools have full school year program.

Before and after school: 40 kid waiting list. Can't get teachers for 6th, 7th, and 8th grade. They had to consolidate some classes They did get some funding for programs to raise test scores

(will increase 6th grade enrollment). 11 new kids added 1st to 3rd grade. Less behavior issues, also there is a sentry and nurse for the after-school program.

Staffing openings: Kindergarten, 6th grade special ed, 4th grade openings. Dan would like for us to reach out to the community to see if there are any interested parties.

Meeting Adjourned

Meeting adjourned 7:35