

Huntington School PTO

Meeting Summary

May 11, 2017

Attendees

Board members:

Leeann Wiess

Meghan Vitale

Angie Vigliotti-Martinez

Ann Yarka

Emily Pascale

Administrators

Dr. Watkins

About 10 parents/staff/community members

Elections

No nomination forms for new Executive Board members were received prior to the meeting. Leeann asked if there were any other nominations; there were none. Therefore, no elections were held and the current Executive Board will continue to serve for the 2017-2018 school year.

Board member reports

Karate

Leeann reported on karate. The program is almost over for the year. Final test to be held on May 15, and the tournament will be on May 22, followed by a pizza party the week after Memorial Day.

Box Tops

Mary Beth reported on Box Tops. Ms. Radley's class won for March, and Ms. Hallinan's class won for April. We recently received a check.

Earth Day

Emily reported on the Earth Day cleanup, which was held at the school on April 22 in conjunction with the Girl Scouts. There was very low attendance this year, but we're grateful to those that attended. Emily received a "thank you" note from OCRRA. There wasn't much to pick up because a neighbor had picked up a lot of litter that morning before our group started.

New Business

The Talent Show is scheduled for Thursday, May 25. Auditions finished today. Leeann and Meghan attended the auditions. Mrs. Harlow will notify participants on Friday, May 12. Lisa asked about the start time. Meghan will confirm, but Dr. Watkins said it is 6:30. (Note: following the meeting, the decision was made by the administration to cancel the talent show due to the low participation from students. Some student performances will be featured on the school TV station instead.)

The middle school semi formal is scheduled for Friday, June 9, 7-9 p.m. We need volunteers to help with setup. Permission slips should go into teacher mailboxes on May 22. We'll also be requesting donations of refreshments from parents. Students need to meet behavior requirements to attend.

Leeann said that we will need to start planning for next year's back to school picnic. Meghan said we'll have to meet with Joanne about the calendar. Miranda requested healthier food items. Ms. Stroman and Ms. Perkins asked for clarification on what should constitute "open house" versus "orientation." Meghan said that PTO would support having both orientation (at the very beginning of the school year) and an Open House (later in the year, once there is student work to showcase), but we have always understood that this could create issues with staff contracts. Parents and teachers expressed that "curriculum night" was not very useful. Ms. Stroman will investigate the concepts of orientation and open house with other teachers at a School Leadership Team meeting, and report back to the PTO Board. Miranda requested that events be scheduled during good weather months to make it easier for parents who don't drive to attend. The PTO Board members reiterated that they want to support what the teachers need, and also respond to parent requests for an orientation event, especially for the younger grades.

Fund requests

Ms. Faley asked if any teachers have applied for Horizon grants (through STA). We're not sure.

7th grade

Ms. Faley and Ms. Huyck requested up to \$250 to take 40 students to Seabreeze Amusement Park on June 21. They are asking each student to contribute \$25. Bus costs \$663 (covering with class funds, leaves \$91 in account). The "up to \$250" is in case some students can't pay. They will try to ascertain who might not be going because of money and see how much they could pay. \$25 covers park admission and lunch.

Ms. Stroman stated that 5th grade is going on the same trip (different date), and the information she was given indicates \$741 for the bus. Ms. Faley will confer with Ms. Huyck. Seventh grade did participate in fundraisers, but raised a relatively low amount this year. Miranda asked why teachers don't try to use Go Fund Me.

Jenn motioned to approve the request, Angie seconded. No objections, no abstentions. Motion carries.

5th grade

Ms. Stroman requested up to \$741 to cover a bus to Seabreeze. Fifth grade is charging the students \$7 each (they raised significant funds through spirit week, Delta Sonic, and PTO fundraisers). All of their grade-level fundraisers go to the whole class (not individual students). They are taking 105 students (only those that have not met behavior expectations will stay behind). Ticket cost is \$16.50 per student, and lunch is \$5.50 per student. Total cost of trip is \$3,111: \$2,310 (tickets+lunch) + \$741 (bus) + \$60 (pavilion). They have \$2,451 in their account, so the shortfall is \$660. Some of this will be covered by the \$7 charge per student. The request for up to \$741 will cover any remaining shortfall if students are not able to contribute the \$7.

Jenn motioned to approve the request, and Ann seconded. No objections, no abstentions. Motion carries.

3rd grade

Ms. Brigati submitted a request for third grade. No one from third grade was present. Third grade has \$515 in their account. They are planning to go to LeMoyne Theater in June, and they need \$456 to pay the balance for those tickets (deposit was previously paid from their class account), so will use their class account funds for that trip. They will also be going to the Palace to see a movie, at \$4/student (about \$400) and ordering T-shirts (about \$600) for their field days. They are asking each student to bring in \$10 (total) to cover part of the cost of

all three activities. They are asking PTO for up to \$400 to cover the balance on the Palace trip and/or the T-shirts that they are not able to collect from the students.

Ms. Perkins motioned to approve the request, and Ms. Stroman seconded. No objections, no abstentions. Motion carries.

PTO requests

The PTO Board requested up to \$300 for expenses for the semi-formal, including the DJ, security guard, decorations, and cheese/crackers/pepperoni. Security is \$50 total, and the DJ is \$100.

Jenn motioned to approve the request. Lisa seconded. No objections, no abstentions. Motion carries.

The PTO Board also requested up to \$1,000 for the annual teacher luncheon, following the students' last day of school. This provides lunch to 150 people. All in favor. Motion carries.

Administrative report

Dr. Watkins gave the administrative report. She noted that NYS math and ELA tests have concluded, and we're in the middle of NYSESLAT tests. There are many class activities going on through end of June.

Added agenda items

Mary from the 21st Century Program spoke. The program ends May 31. She noted that they have had good participation in both the morning program (open 7:30-9:00 a.m.) and after-school, with 263 students regularly attending the after school program. Some parents noted that they were not aware of the morning program. Mary stated that the morning program is only for students enrolled in after-school program, and there is no busing.

This year was the last year of Round 6 of 21st Century grant. We've been awarded a Round 7 grant, which will be a K-8 program. The grant is a 5-year award, but the 21st Century program, along with Title I funding, is slated for cuts in the Federal Budget, so only year 1 (2017-2018 school year) is a certainty at this point. Years 2-5 of the grant funding maybe be in jeopardy.

The afterschool program provided many opportunities for students this year. The staff have really enjoyed it. Boys and Girls Club will continue to be our community partner. They will hold joint PD for staff next year. They brought in SU students to do ENL family orientation event, and had about 30 ENL families at an event last week. The end of year family event at the zoo is coming up. Also, the garden club is holding a Gala in the Garden on June 3, noon to 2 p.m. with ENA at Eastwood Heights. Ms. Stroman stated that better communication with after-school teachers and classroom teachers is needed to get notice out about events. She suggested fliers in mailboxes labeled just for after school students.

Emily expressed frustration with the limited schedule of the afterschool program (no Fridays, no coverage for the first few and last few weeks of the school year). Mary said she could talk to the YMCA and Boys and Girls Club about coverage for Fridays – but would need funding and probably can't get that from the district. They could also look into Friday as an "experience" day or life skills day.

The meeting concluded at approximately 7:40 p.m.