

PTO MINUTES

Wednesday, November 14th, 2018

Present: Michelle Koffel, Jason Fine, Jordan Bain, Amy Burden, Catherine Kennedy, Tammy Yockey, Karl Kirkpatrick, Kari Rucker, Brian Shiniger, Sarah Foster, Jen Rigney, Officer John Greene, Officer Josh Luke, Tricia Petras, Cassie Friedman, Amy Campbell,

Handouts: Meeting Agenda, Bank Statements, Treasurer's Report "Highlights" handout, Teacher grant/PTO donations handout

Welcome: Michelle Koffel

- October minutes approved by Jordan Bain, second - Kari Rucker
- Introduction of Kathleen Jenney

Special Guest: Assistant Superintendent, Kathleen Jenney

- Safety is a big emphasis this year
- Excited about cultural competency groups developing and expanding
- High School Project is on schedule, ground breaking's this Spring - probably March

Principal's Report: Jason Fine

- Veterans Day celebration was so meaningful - a big thank you
- Cultural competency has kicked off at Jones. 7-10 kids attending so far, thank you Catherine and Seyla
- Pamphlet by the office about all of the club meetings and times available
- IDEA - kids to present at town meetings about the clubs
- New stomach flu bug going around - especially 6th graders

Teachers Report: Karl Kirpatrick

- Delivered a thank you note from the teachers for feeding us well during conferences. Piada did an AWESOME job. Teachers are very grateful.

Special Guests: Officer John Green & Officer Josh Luke

- Primary purpose of having a resource officers in the schools is to increase safety by being a crime deterrent. Very little criminal activity in our schools. Very careful about keeping school discipline a separate issue.

- **Officer Green** is very much a resource to kids - visits with them in the lunch room, lots of interaction with kids, educating both kids/parents.
 - Tries hard to be at both Jones/Hastings every day.
 - Spends a lot of time in health classes during DARE programs.
- **Officer Luke** will become full-time at Jones in the near future.
 - He spent 3 years in UA dept., is an airforce veteran and previously worked in Perry Township for 10 years. He is married with young kids.
 - He is involved with helping the students with the STAND project - met with steering committee last night about high schoolers presenting to the 8th graders - want to bring to the other grades and parents as well.

Assistant Principal: Tammy Yockey

- Discussed new Absence/School Attendance Policy
- Excessive Absences - Reason for the change - schools must let you know when you reach state limits. Helps create a collective picture of WHY kids are missing school. Sets up triggers to identify kids that are truly truant, why and problem solve with the principal, family, etc.
- CHANGES FOR PARENTS:
 - Always send in doctor/dentist/ortho notes. Excused absence means that your child can make up their school work, unexcused means they can not. Absences are broken down by minutes/hours - not just days. **Truent** - 72/hours of unexcused absences.
 - Pre-planned absence - can not sign off until about 2 weeks prior - no earlier. New form on PTO website - can be scanned and e-mailed or dropped off.
 - Don't worry about first letter from the State, the second letter is more serious.

President's Report: Michelle Koffel

- A lot of thank you's - bake sale brought in sales equivalent to a Presidential election.
- The 6th grade party was really fun - kids had a blast, the DJ was AWESOME, spirit wear prizes were a big hit.
- A child did have a SEVERE reaction to a latex balloon. Going forward avoid LATEX at any PTO functions - use mylar in the future. Replace latex gloves for serving food at tailgate.
- Amazing Piada teacher appreciation dinner. Veterans Day - thanks to volunteers.
- On-line directory's were sent out for PTO members. My School APP is very easy to use!

- Getting ready to pull up the slate for next year's board - Catherine and Michelle starting to look forward.

Treasurers Report: Jordan Bain

- Handouts: Bank statements & Treasurer's Report "Highlights" handout, Teacher grant/PTO donations handout.
- Veterans Day \$984 money well-spent. Dock 580 did the catering - the chicken salad had walnuts - revisit the caterer for this event - every 3 years. Food services could possibly provide? Carl/Brian to speak to the teachers who organize this event.
- Bake sale \$831
- PTO made donations to DC trip and both 6th and 7th grade camp's.
- Golden Bear Pride crushed it at \$20,474.
- J-Mart - very close to meeting annual goal already. Spiritwear is flat to expenses.

Committee Reports

*****Demo of Topographical Sand Table - SO COOL going to try it out before we commit to ordering more.**

Mini-Grants: Kari Rucker

- \$85 request from Nicole Holder/Penny Montgomery for coffee cart to purchase coffee, creamer, cups, lids. Cart will service teachers in the building. First Friday is 6 West teachers. Amy Burden motion to approve, Jordan Bain second.

Spiritwear: Cassie Friedman

- JMart - Normally \$20 on Fridays. 14 staff members bought hoodies. Putting extra spirit wear on buy/sell/trade. XS adult, S sweatpants avail. Possibly sell at Tremont Holiday Fair. **IDEA:** Maybe include some spirit wear in "Thanksgiving in a Bag," Cassie to reach out to guidance counselors.

Cultural Competency: Catherine Kennedy

- Sela Kramer is co-chair.
- Met with all of the chairs in the district. Coming up with a common story. This committee should be a sounding board to help ensure all events are sensitive to diversity. Each school is taking on specific tasks to open up

- to all other school's - e.g., "parents of color" meeting at Wickliffe (? Or possibly Windimere)
- Jones/Hastings - building on the ambassador program with parents as well.
 - ***Trying to find a date for first meeting to open to all parents - maybe in January?
 - Creating a cultural calendar that can be distributed/referred to by everyone is a goal.

7th Grade Party: Sarah Foster

- Friday, November 30th, Sawmill Lanes, busing, pizza.
- 165-170 Kids attending
- Still needing parents to help - need 4-6 more volunteers.

Have a great week! See you in January!!!

Notes typed by Amy Burden