

January PTO Meeting (1.20.22)

Attendees:, Sarah Brown, Nicky Fonger, Katie McDonald, Kari Zhe-Heimerman, Jon Hecht, Meg Lyttle, Meghan Murphy, Mary Juman, Julie Gozan, Luberta Crouch, Rhonda Vesey, Lee and Ashley Kennard, Ashley Bloomer, Eric Ferguson, Matthew Fuller, Maura Ackerman, Tiffany Gratien

Principal's Report

- New Years Reboot-celebrations for student awards in cafeteria, working to improve the climate, have more fun
- New guidance on Covid almost daily-as of right now we are letting families know if there has been a close contact, more availability of home tests to send with any students who are sent home sick
- Winter Concert will be at Nottingham, waiting to confirm the date
- NWEA assessments are being given, Parent nights are being arranged so parents can learn about the NWEA data and its terminology
- Families were given a survey of who has technology-when Ed Smith had to go remote we gave out over 280 computers within 2 days

Approval of December Minutes-approved pending one revision (correction of last name)

President's Report-Sarah stated her items would be addressed in the rest of the agenda

Treasurer's Report

- Had \$217 come in from AmazonSmile and a few direct contributions. If anyone is interested in making a direct contribution you can email Lee Kennard lee.kennard@gmail.com
- Raised \$70 towards winter coats for students
- Voted to approve Ms. Juman's Teacher Request to put on Shrek Jr-will cost \$858, only \$58 more than budgeted
- Honeycomb Bakery, successful but less raised than last year. Will check to see if gift cards purchased during the fundraiser were included in Ed Smith's proceeds.
- Yearbooks-voted to approve giving them away to all 8th graders this year.

Family Engagement

- Kindergarten Orientation (virtual) will be Feb 8 and March 1st
- Jan 25th and 26th-2 CoVideos by district on How to Keep your Kids Safe
- Question came up about Chronic Student Absenteeism and whether the school has enough resources. Nicky offered PTO's ability to assist with advocating for more help, resources to address this issue.

Community Outreach

- Notes from Superintendent's Parent Council Meeting-presentation by the Health Center Department, discussing Covid and ending contact tracing. Will still be contacted by the school if contact occurs in school.

- Westcott Leadership Round Table-presentation by TNT (Tomorrow's Neighborhoods Today) addressing safety in the Nottingham and Ed Smith School area.
- There will be a Walk/Run in May that Ed Smith will be a part of
- Rhonda is still working to put together a philanthropic project helping victims in Kentucky and Philadelphia

Book Giveaway

- PTO purchases new books and gives away twice a year, usually in Fall and Spring.
- Scheduled for the week before February Break. This book giveaway will clear our inventory out, if we want to do a Spring Book Giveaway we will need to fundraise for it.

Teacher and Staff Appreciation Committee

- Want to recognize and honor Specials Teachers in February.
- Other idea: weekly questions for staff to answer, can fill out and put in a box located at school. At end of week one or two names are drawn and those staff get Ed Smith gear.
- If you want to join this committee you can contact Sarah at sarahkfbrown@gmail.com

Winter Concert-Mary Juman

- Was originally scheduled for Jan 27th, but had to be moved. Will be at Nottingham to allow for more space. Waiting for date confirmation before revealing a new date. Grades 4 and 5 will perform at 6pm, just orchestra and chorus. Approximately a 40 min concert. Middle school concert will be at 7pm. Any questions or concerns can be brought to Mary Juman or Peter Smith

Other Items

- Black History Event background-Ed Smith is the location where the new Black History stamp is revealed every year. Presentations by students, in past years has been organized by after-school program but Mr. Barber might have more information on how it will be presented this year. Do not know if it will be virtual or in-person this year.
- PTO interested in making a donation during the month of Feb to a Syracuse organization that is working to make a difference in young black lives.
- PTO information goes through listserv and talking points, social media, constant discussion of how to get new faces and families to attend. Goal to "invite a friend" to join them for the next meeting.
- Would like to get school sign up and running to help advertise upcoming dates and events. Will follow up with SCSD maintenance department to find sign letters.
- Meeting adjourned at 8:02pm. Next meeting is Thursday February 17th 7pm.

Minutes submitted by Ashley Bloomer