PTA MINUTES 9/24/19

1. Call to order and flag salute (Maureen Reilly)
2. Principal’s report (Mrs. Drexinger)- Great opening
   1. A lot of new staff this year. Ms. Bandeiro, Mr. Constantino, Ms Marciano, Miss Press, Mr Rostad, Ms Tillman, Mrs Dynack, Mr Walker, Mr Gomes, Mrs Hoffman is leaving— Ms Romano is replacing her Oct 1.
   2. Assessments went out late but are out now— analyzing data but don’t get individual test results. This year students in 5/6 grades will have own devices, now we can test everyone same week
   3. Character Education— Mr Firetto couldn’t be here, Mrs Drexinger filling in
      1. HIB Policy reviewed – Harassed, Bullied or Intimidated “trigger” official investigation, raise issues when occur but realize choice of words may change how the situation is initially handled and what type of follow up communication is allowed. (HIB investigation vs. code of conduct violation). Written report to superintendent (initials only used for confidentiality), Board of Ed in closed session reviews and decide if agree with the outcome. Parents only get info about resolution if victim or person who caused issue. Social media is becoming more of an issue even in elementary school. School does educate kids about technology/safety but parents should be aware as well.
      2. New theme to be announced soon.
      3. Kids have been educated on HIB, aggressive, passive or appropriate behavior, IMessages— telling others how you feel about something, solve problem yourself/advocate for themselves, telling vs tattling, win-win guidelines— solving own problems vs going to an adult, Bystanders
      4. Pumpkin math scheduled, red ribbon week
   4. After school clubs- STEM gr 1,2,3,4,5,6, Art Club, New World language club, Service learning club, Fitness club (formerly tiger track)
   5. Oct 14 professional development day— Social emotional learning and generation Z are topics— district also researching these topics
   6. Emergency response plans- 1 fire drill and 1 emergency response drill per month required- Officer Dan involved as well as local police etc. Officer Dan sometimes gives teachers other scenarios to make sure they know what to do if situation isn’t as normally practiced
   7. Procedures— have had good weather, but green sign means they can come in instead of line up, 8:15 when teachers on duty, don’t recommend drop off before. No dogs on school property. Small children at dismissal—keep eye on. No parking in front circle even for K drop off. Make after school plans before school unless emergency or change in plans. Follow parking procedures. No idling of vehicles. If student absent, call in to office. Teachers are teaching and may not get message.
   8. Fans in all classrooms, flexible seating in classrooms — 15 K donation from PTA to provide, every teacher in building has gotten something.
3. Teacher’s representative report — No report yet
4. Treasurer’s report (Liz Lee/Kathleen Walsh—see attached) — in good financial position, remind people that PTA and classroom dues are separate things and both need to be paid if want to be in PTA….class dues are for everyone— Emily/Kori will let class parents know who hasn’t paid via a report, if you pay a PTA membership it attaches to both parents in contacts so total numbers enrolled may be higher this year. This way person who paid dues isn’t only one who has access to buy tickets,etc.
5. Officer Dan- Glad to be back, thanks for money towards safety and security as well—traffic cones bought by sixth grade committee. Security update- report to board and Mrs Drexinger last year— taking some of his suggestions and giving money to implement. New Providence police department really invested in our schools. When got here, wanted to break “fire drill mentality” where kids are desensitized and its routine as opposed to having a true understanding of what needs to be done, and thinking through scenarios instead of just going through the motions. Give teachers and students tools and teach them how to apply their instincts to situations. Put together pieces ahead of time if there is information available about a possible concern—raise issues to Mrs Drexinger or Officer Dan (electronic correspondence, other signs of issues if see them). Goes to faculty meetings and reviews drills/does debrief and gives them tactical/statistical anecdotes. For example— does anyone know how many active shootings there were across country in 2018? There were 27. About 5 were in schools. Mostly hand guns. Over last 10 years its about 15 per year. This is not to say these issues aren’t serious, but the probabilities are low, and children should now be panicking. The drills are a safety precaution, just like putting on a seatbelt—where it doesn’t worry you every time you do it. Children should feel he’s friendly and there as a resource. Some of the things he would like to get— removable posts between playground and parking lot, safety screens so windows can be open safely.
6. Correspondence Report (Kerry Fitzgerald) Mrs. Shivers thank you for gift. Mrs Kral thank you for walk to school, etc. Mrs Drexinger and BOE thank you for flexible seating. Officer Dan, thank you for equipment and support. Mrs Smargiassi- thank you for flexible seating. Lorraine thank you for using school supply kits.
7. Committee Reports
   1. Boon Supply Sale (Emily Mellow)— mixed bag bought by new company. Samples here, mostly eco friendly. Sale open on webpage. Will be promoted on FB, blast. Catalogues will be sent home through children this week.
   2. 6th Grade Committee (Kristina Yadlon for Monica Macauley).
      1. \*Still collecting dues. Some paid twice bc of new online system and getting refunded. Monica reaching out to remaining people for final reminder
      2. \*6th graders just received their Class T-shirts
      3. \*6th grad welcome back PINS night was Friday. 86 kids attended.
      4. \*pasta feast planning is well underway. Event is scheduled for 10/18 and sign ups offered to 6th grade families first. After final call, we will open up to all of SB if any seats left.
   3. Concession sales (Maureen Reilly)— new ice flavor this week!
   4. Membership and Dues (Maureen Reilly)— hopefully online system is well received. Fliers are promotion to PTA for everyone
   5. Yearbook (Kristina Yadlon): Meeting Friday morning at 9 in cafeteria for class photographers. All classes have photographer except 1MP, LLD1 and LLD2
8. Open Forum
   1. Jennifer Neiderhoffer—could we do parent education for parents on social media, technology? — District has provided training. Will see what we can provide, ask Mrs. Spoerl.
   2. Mrs Drexinger previewed movie angst — not appropriate for elementary school but possibly putting together something through district for older kids, trying to teach kids to use technology safely. Also trying to help kids be responsible and regulate how they use it.





