

SJLES PTA MEETING MINUTES

Date & location: Wednesday, November 4th at 6:30pm, Zoom

In attendance: (12) Diana Choi, Carolyn Adams, Tara Scully, Calista K., Mary Brown, Tiffany Burns, Maria Laskey, Meg Ballman, Jenna Groman, Ward Morrow, Meg Halvorsen, Dan Notari

Next Meeting: Wednesday, December 2nd at 6:30pm

AGENDA:

1. Updates
2. Upcoming Events
3. Treasurer Update
4. PTAC Update
5. Administration Update
6. Other Business

MINUTES:

1. Updates:
 - The BOE is meeting tomorrow (Thursday November 5) to discuss the proposed hybrid model. The BOE docs are available – we should encourage people to look at the documents and tune into the BOE meeting if interested.
 - We received 36 entries for the pumpkin decorating competition! Mrs. Peddicord, Mrs. Eassa, and Mrs. Harkness are reviewing entries, and winners will be announced on Friday. Winners will receive spirit wear.
 - The online Book Fair has started and goes through November 8. Sales are much lower than normal – how can we better promote this? Mr. Notari will send out a separate email blast to promote it and will ask teachers to mention to their classes. Diana will see if we can extend the deadline.
2. Upcoming Events
 - Turkey Trot: Linda and Maria are working on plans for both the Turkey Trot and options for a canned food drive. How can we get the teachers involved? Maybe they can do a warm-up stretching video, or the PE team can promote in class and give extra credit (if allowed). A separate meeting will be held to discuss further – Meg B. and Mary volunteered to help Linda and Maria.

3. PTACHC Update

- Ward shared an update from the latest PTACHC meeting, in which they elected officers. The PTACHC President has been involved in new housing discussions within Howard County – PTACHC’s perspective is that school capacity needs to be evaluated and sufficient infrastructure must be in place before building.

4. Administration Update

- Mr. Notari shared an update from the administration, thanked parents for remaining involved, and asked that we continue to look for ways to support the teachers and staff.
- Mr. Notari is working to maintain connection-building within the school community. He has held lunch bunches with all grades, and students will also be able to use Dojo points for lunch bunches and other ways to connect. He is looking at how to run other programs (e.g. Jaguar buddies) virtually to maintain connections across grades. He is also trying to keep all special activities for students – e.g. Battle of the Books, 5th grade announcements, Bingo, Pumped Up Recess.
- Through the recent assessments, they are figuring out where students are in terms of instruction/learning and how the past 6 months have impacted students academically. They are considering what tools can be used to help to close gaps.
- American Education Week is coming up, and the administration is discussing what can be done this year without losing instructional minutes or overwhelming parents? Since parents are already involved in the educational experience on a daily basis, maybe there are opportunities for students to connect with each other instead.

5. Other Business

- The PTA will need a new President next year! If you are interested, contact Carolyn Adams at sjlesptavolunteer@gmail.com to discuss this more. Diana will still be involved in the PTA next year to help.
- For all events, we need to figure out how to improve promotion and reach families. Information is getting missed in Mr. Notari’s emails – consider separate email blasts and sharing with students directly in classes.
- How can we better support the teachers and staff? Ideas discussed are listed below – if you have more ideas or want to discuss these further, contact Carolyn at sjlesptavolunteer@gmail.com.
 - i. A dinner pick-up / drive through – Mr. Notari noted that many teachers live a distance from school. Only about 10 are at school daily.
 - ii. Gift cards for takeout – Gift cards are not recommended as it can look as if money is being diverted out of the PTA. Teachers could place dinner orders from DoorDash (or other delivery service) instead, but would need to be willing to share their home addresses for delivery.

- iii. Give teachers a budget to purchase something – Mr. Notari noted they are spending a lot of money out of pocket. However, teachers are already being allotted \$100 per teacher + \$500 per grade – would need to vote on allotting additional funds as this would have a budget impact.
 - iv. Parents could Adopt-a-Teacher and buy gift cards ourselves – perhaps sign-up via Sign Up Genius and put in money towards a wish list or sponsoring a dinner/lunch gift card. Room Parents would be helpful to coordinate this within classes.
 - v. Coordinate love for our teachers – gather input, feedback, quotes, video clips. Meg H. is willing to collect quotes and video clips to make a video for the teachers showing our support.
 - vi. Collect extra monitors for teachers. There are some issues around technology (who it belongs to, equity for distribution, service/repairs), but this is a need. Mr. Notari can survey staff to see how many more need 2nd monitors.
- Anyone interested in volunteering or just finding out more about volunteering should email Carolyn Adams (Volunteer Coordinator)
sjlesptavolunteer@gmail.com
 - Link to PTA website: <https://sjlespta.org>
 - Follow PTA on Facebook (official notices & events):
<https://www.facebook.com/SJLESPTA>
 - Join PTA families group (discussions/sharing/connect with community): *St John's Lane PTA Families*