

SJLES PTA MEETING MINUTES

Date & location: Wednesday, February 2nd at 8:00pm, Zoom

In attendance: (16) Mary Brown, Jenna Groman, Dan Notari, Meg Halvorsen, Meg Ballman, Maria Laskey, Jane Fisher, Ashley Callaway, Shelley Post, Emily Vainieri, Vanessa Zawodny, Kathy Etheridge, Avanti Shetye, Chelsea Berube, Sandi Cresswell, Deidra

Next Meeting: Wednesday, March 2nd at 8:00pm

AGENDA:

1. Welcome
2. Monthly Updates
3. PTACHC Update
4. Treasurer's Report
5. Upcoming Events
6. Principal's Report
7. Next Steps and Q&A
8. Adjournment

MINUTES:

1. Welcome: Meg Halvorsen, PTA President, welcomed attendees to the meeting.
2. Monthly Updates
 - a. Big thank you's to:
 - i. Jane and Mary for organizing staff lunch during conferences!
 - ii. Sandi and Emily for organizing the Book Fair - plans are underway!
 - b. Planning for May Day and the Silent Auction has started. We still need help with 1) planning food and 2) contacting businesses to see if they can donate to Silent Auction.
 - c. We need photos for the yearbook! Please look at what you have and share - first day of school, Movie Night, Back to School picnic and more.
 - i. Question: Can we take photos during recess? Yes - just give Mr. Notari a heads up to alert teachers.
 - ii. The school photographer has a lot of new photos and will share them.
 - d. Vanessa has been looking at Hershey Park and Dutch Wonderland tickets.

Options are:

 - i. Hershey Park: They are \$45.95 regularly and would cost \$33.95 through the fundraiser. We can sell for \$35.95 (\$10 discount) and make \$2 on each ticket. Last time 194 tickets were sold.

- ii. Dutch Wonderland: They are \$49.99 regularly. There are two fundraiser options: 1) \$39.99 ticket cost with \$5 earnings to PTA per ticket, or 2) submit a group order in which we pre-pay for tickets for \$25 and get a free ticket for every 15 tickets (use for May Day raffle?). Orders need to be placed before April 29.
 - 1. Choose option 2 and sell in advance via MemberHub (with disclaimer that there are no refunds). Deadline of April 15.
- 3. PTACHC Update: The February meeting hasn't happened yet.
- 4. Treasurer's Report: Thank you Kathy for all effort!
 - a. The school has requested a funnel ball hoop for outside, which costs \$674 - this is good particularly for younger kids (easier to reach). We currently have \$500 budgeted for recess supplies. We can consider reallocating funds from "Student Activities" to "Recess Supplies." "Student Activities" funds are usually used for assemblies, which have been done less recently due to COVID. The current "Student Activities" proposed budget is \$8,600, \$4,000 of which was intended for assemblies (1 per quarter).
 - b. Maria Laskey motioned to vote to reallocate \$174 from "Student Activities" to "Recess Supplies" to cover the funnel ball hoop. Jenna Groman seconded the motion. All attendees voted "aye" and the motion passed.
- 5. Principal's Report:
 - a. After the recent COVID spike, numbers are starting to come down - hoping to see that continue. There may be strange emails from Mr. Notari regarding classroom cohorts (3+ students and teachers who test positive) - these emails come directly from Synergy.
 - b. Report cards went out. Kids are making progress across the board. The MCAS scores were interesting to compare to prior years and to other counties/schools. There is a high percentage of children across the state not meeting expectations - the state is unpacking this data and determining next steps.
 - c. Mr. Notari is conducting mid-year assessments and exploring what the rest of the year will look like, particularly in regards to school improvement. Staff will be talking on Tuesday about the year's goals - what's been accomplished and what remains. There will be a lot of focus on student belonging.
 - d. Mr. Notari is trying to streamline communications around indoor/outdoor lunch and recess, because daily emails were too much - but reminded attendees to always check website status! They are trying to be cognizant of the need for fresh air but must balance this with child comfort.
 - i. Question: Can students stay inside at recess if it is cold for health reasons (e.g. asthma)? Generally they don't have a back-up recess monitor, but parents should talk to the health room. Sitting in the front office may be an option.
 - e. The staff lunch will be much appreciated - Mr. Notari thanks the organizing team. He requested a note to send to staff to remind them and share instructions for when/where the lunch will be.
- 6. Next Steps

- a. Send pictures for yearbook
 - b. Anyone interested in helping plan April outdoor Bingo Night - stay on the call!
7. Adjournment: Meg Halvorsen adjourned the meeting.