

PTA Meeting Minutes

Date: January 30, 2020

Time: 7:00 p.m. **Location:** School Auditorium

All present stood for the pledge.

Jodi Heywood motioned to open the meeting. Brooke Pompano seconded the motion.

Presidents' Report – presented by Danielle Pomerantz and Jodi Heywood

Turkey Trot – was a success. Due to weather it was postponed and moved to the school year. All students participated. Fun day for all. Funds raised (\$12,700) will be put toward the hydroponics program.

Events that are currently being planned:

Daughter and Special Guy Events

2/28 PreK-2 Dance with entertainment and treats, gym

3/27 Gr. 3 – 8 Murder Mystery (interactive evening) with treats.

3/27 Son and Special Lady bowling event

3/18 & 3/19 - Book Fair

Michele Kourbage will be reaching out about registering to volunteer for this event.

4/3 Holly Rock – Trivia Game Night

60-70 families, in the gym

There will be an online sign up. All parents will receive notification of when signups will begin. It will be after school/work hours so that everyone has equal opportunity to register, since seating is limited.

4/30 Special Lady and Daughter Paint Night

\$25 for one canvas to share and create a painting together

5/1 Bake Sale – Test Relief

Middle School usually hosts a bake sale near Valentine's Day in order to raise money for the middle school.

5/15 Gala at the Silver Gull – Friday evening

5/27 Career Day

Pre K – 2 in the classrooms

Gr. 3 – 8 classes will visit tables set up in the gym

6/19 Luna Park – End of school year celebration for all.

All proceeds from this event come back to the school. Look out for further details regarding this event.

Principal's Report – Presented by Elizabeth Welsome

Saturday School has begun. This week will be the 3rd Saturday out of ten sessions. Ninety students registered. Only two middle school students registered. As a result, the school was not able to offer the program to any middle school students.

In the classroom there is minimal test prep being done. This means that the students are not often sitting for formal sit down practice, replicating the test. The school believes that test prep is given through good instruction.

Teacher's College – Staff development for teachers is being done at Colombia and on site, at our school. A staff developer observed and provided feedback to teachers in grades K-2. Students are writing in greater volume with increased stamina and fluency. Grades 3 – 5 are beginning a unit, *Getting Ready for Tests*. Units are always changing and being added to the program. They are free for our school because we are a Teacher's College School.

Algebra For All – Teaches a variety of approaches to solve a problem, ways to modify a task and make changes to an open-ended question.

There is a new “Turn and Talk” term being used in the classroom. “Think, Jot, Pair, Share.” Gives one minute to think before sharing with a partner.

The DOE is in the process of changing to NYS Next Generation Standards. For more information look at the NY State Education website. These standards will be in place September 2020. Teachers are going to try to bridge the gaps of these learning expectations.

Enrichment – Boys basketball team will play for one more week. After February break there will be try outs for the girls' basketball team.

Beginning Wednesday and Thursday morning – ballroom dancing will begin for grade 5.

2/13, 2/14 & 100th day of school

Many celebrations for the 100th day will be on 2/13 since Valentine's Day is the next day.

Through Eric Ulrich another play will be funded for our school for grades 4 – 8.

Middle School testing strategies workshops have begun. Next workshop – memory mnemonic.

7th grade Epic Mentoring – final workshop in February and a trip to Iona College.

2/13 Grades K – 3 Family Math Night

Grade 5 – Beautiful Me 2nd Cohort is up to the third session.

Respect For All Week – All students will be given a hand to color or write a message. They will be hung on the wall of the first floor, attached to the tree.

January Dress for a Cause – Team Rubicon Australia
School usually raises \$600 - \$800.

February is the Jumpathon kickoff. There will be an assembly for each grade.

February is Black History Month. Classes will be doing research, making mini museums, posters, etc. The teachers are deciding the activities. After February break, the projects will be showcased.

2/11 Grade 3-math workshop for parents. Grade 3 teachers will present and discuss pacing, standards and the online component. Some of the chapters are ordered differently than other programs. This program will prepare them for algebra readiness in middle school.

Parent, Sarah Bender asked to hear from other parents regarding their experience with this math program. Mrs. Welsome agreed to meet directly after the PTA meeting to discuss the math program with whoever was interested.

Sensory Integration – Presented by Assistant Principal, Deana Fulchetti-Puglin

Special Education Implementation Team – special ed. Teachers, psychologist, social worker, related service providers meet and discuss students with special needs.

The team began to think about sensory integration – link between the brain and behavior. Students who struggle with sensory integration may have a difficult time responding to situations involving noise, textures and visual stimulation. Some students are “melting down” and/or having a difficult time attending.

We do not have many resources at our school. Mrs. Fulchetti-Puglin purchased a few items at Five Below to soothe these when they are having a difficult time. The SIT would like to create a safe environment with appropriate tools for students to self regulate. Some students may even need a “sensory diet.”

We are looking for a smaller room or office to create a “sensory room” where students can have a space to de-escalate.

There are approximately 140 students with an IEP. Not all students with sensory needs are students with an IEP.

Please spread the word – there is a post on Donor’s Choose for money in order to purchase needed items. The Belle Harbor Property Owners Association just donated \$500. Still needed - \$1,386.

Looking toward the future there is a sensory machine – approximately \$6,000 (Contains Fiber optic cords, projector on the wall, bubbles, aroma therapy)

Asking that parents spread the word and hopes to get additional donations.

Questions - Parents

Parent Liz Gatos asked about the cleanliness of school. Mrs. Welsome shared that members of the Safety Meeting discussed cleanliness. With flu season here, the custodians have their cleaning schedule. They wipe down common areas with their approved cleaning solutions. These areas include handrails (1x during the day and 1x during the evening). They are contractually required to clean the bathroom 1x at the end of the day. They have been checking the bathrooms at least 2x a day. Some of the toilets are self-flushing. Some of the toilets are circular discs that are difficult to push. Weekly reminders are also sent to staff regarding cleaning.

Brooke Pompano asked for updated soap dispensers. An additional problem is that the soap dispensers are often empty. Mrs. Welsome said she would look into this.

Maria Mazzaferro asked for sanitizing stations. Mrs. Welsome said that many teachers have hand sanitizer in the classroom.

Jodi Heywood motioned to end the meeting.

Jean Belford seconded the motion.