

MES PTA Meeting Minutes
Wednesday November 11, 2020
6:30-7:45pm via Zoom

In attendance: Jenna Huntley, Yuna Kim, Ms. Lacy, Mrs. Camuto, Mrs. Scotti, Mr. VanHise, Mr. Rooney, Ms. Evertsen, Jennifer Harris, Unnati Patel, Chris Hoffman, Jennifer Lafaman, Maria Ryan, Asma Ahmed, Jennifer Volfson, RoseAnn Sands, Lara Katz, Alex Clark, Jackie Merritt, Jessica McDonnell, Alexander Wolfson, Advik Rao, Ewa Bialobrzkeski, Aaron, Sonia

PTA Administrative Business

- Meeting called to order by Jenna at 6:34
- Approved minutes from October general meeting

Monthly Reports

President's Report - Yuna Kim

- Thank you everyone for coming
- No new updates to provide at this time

OHES Teacher Report - Mr. Rooney

- Staff appreciation wish list has been updated
- Better with more kids and staff in the building
- PTA treats us very well, thank you!
- Thank you for the treat bags

VES Teacher Report - Mrs. Evertson

- Added books for classrooms onto wish lists
 - Teachers would like the ability to choose which books
- Thank you for the treats!

VES Update – Ms. Lacy & Mrs. Camuto

- Thank you for the appreciation bags! It made teacher's day - they have been working so hard
- Week of Respect happened - activities and spirit dress
- Didn't do 3 Screens assemblies but hope to do it again next year
- Halloween was low-key
 - Kids virtually watched teachers do a read aloud with effects during the morning news
- Virtual week - kids voted on song - Cotton-eyed Joe won
 - Learned more about elections
- Spoke about Veteran's Day today in the news
- Diwali on Friday - presentation on the news to learn about it
- Parent-teacher conferences - virtual schedule, sign up on Genesis
- Thanksgiving coming up

- Book baggie pick up tomorrow and Friday 2-4
 - Teachers emailed parents directly
 - If parents can't make it, they should email teacher or Ms. Lacy
 - Will have another one in a month or so to exchange the books
- 4th Grade Chorus had music pick-up
- Young Scholars Fundraiser
 - Each class usually sponsors a student - give gifts and a holiday meal
 - Can't do the same this year - no meal or donated clothing
 - We will still collect donations
 - May need help from Room Parents - Mrs. Lacy would like to speak with the coordinator - Maria to get them in contact

Treasurer's Report – Jaime Gostkowski

- Not too much since last meeting
- Paid NJPTA for membership
 - 142 parents and 14 teachers = 156 members which have cleared the bank
 - +\$650, total \$1549
- \$127.16 1st Day School Supply profit
 - Into parent/community donation
- Donation from Bell Foundation for \$1000
- Spirit wear +\$1604 from welcome week
- Spent \$924.73 from Administrative Support on lanyards and protective shields
- Paid \$1611.50 for backpack tags
- \$823.31 in profits so far this year but slated to spend much more than we are due to bring in

MSEPTA – RoseAnn Sands

- Have not officially met since last general meeting
- Meeting Nov 17
- SEPAG met yesterday for the first time
 - Solicited questions from parents for topics to tackle
- Gently used shoe and clothing fundraiser
 - Collecting at 3 locations around town
 - Please fold and put in sealed bag
 - Nov 10-Dec 15 and may do again in Jan
- Everything updated weekly on the website
- RoseAnn happy to answer any questions

Book Fair - Unnati Patel

- OHES fair ended Nov 1
- Total sales - updated when shipped out but so far \$1768, so our profit is 448 Scholastic Dollars
- Usually sell \$12000 and make \$2000 in cash and 2000 Scholastic Dollars (which goes directly to librarian and teachers)

- A lot of teachers did not get their books back in the spring so they are looking to increase their classroom libraries
 - Talks happening on how to help teachers the best
 - Ecard drive?
- Spring book fair for VES - possibility to have outdoor fair?
- If order now only get 2% back instead of 25%
- Asked if can extend dates or have another virtual fair before the holidays
- E-gift cards went live on website on the Monday after our fair finished

OHES Update – Mr. Van Hise & Mrs. Scotti

- Virtual back to school night went well - positive feedback
- Thank you to PTA for bagged treats
- Bus evacuation drills scheduled for Monday and Wednesday
 - VES was this week
 - Will be done socially distant and safely
- Teacher's Pet Vote - school wide event by SEL team
- Parent-teacher conferences coming up
 - Early dismissal days - hybrid same but no asynchronous learning after 1:30
- School wide fundraiser for charity benefiting CHOP
- Parent question:
 - Hybrid attendance is only ~35% at LMS and UMS and lower at the highschool
 - Only 16 cases in 4800 students so far
 - There is a real loss of learning for the kids. Is there going to be an opportunity for kids who want to go more days to go?
 - Younger kids would benefit more than the older kids
- Admin response:
 - OHES has 35-40% in person
 - Did manage to have K students for 4 days and some kids with IEPs coming 4 days
 - Operate as a district K-12, not school by school
 - Have identified ESL children would benefit from 4 days
 - A new survey in December and will make a new decision for January

BOO Bash – RoseAnn Sands

- Thank you for all the support in doing something new
 - Especially thank you to admin for the support and advertising
- Was a free family event with prizes and discounted dinner, if wanted
- Over 150 families registered
 - Shifted gears since had so much interest after deadline
- Partnered with local businesses
 - Genteel's for discounted dinner
 - 7 businesses donated prizes
 - 4 put on the virtual event
- Surveyed families afterwards
 - Positive feedback - 100% said they would do it again

- Only cost is time and got a small profit
- Asked if people would like to help in future events and have sent that data to the respective VPs
- Doing a winter lights tour
 - Soliciting local community
 - Will separate by neighbourhood as the Halloween one took an hour
 - Maria coordinating - deadline to sign-up is Thanksgiving
 - Some interest so far, some same and some new

Shop With Us – Jenna Huntley

- List of places where PTA gets a percentage of the money
- North East Restaurant Direct - Jen V has used them for a while and they have been great
 - Deliver groceries to door step in box

Spirit Wear - Jenna Huntley

- American Outfitters
 - Sweatshirts from last year, yoga mat, towel, hat
 - 29 orders so far making \$472 and have 11 days left

Charleston Wrap - Jenn Lafaman

- Sold \$1357. 56 so we made \$506
- Have kept open for longer - ends Nov 30
- Will ask teachers to send a last call email out Nov 25

Box Tops - Yuna Kim

- Email about to go out with information
- All information will also be in newsletter and will have a link there

Montgomery Interact - Yuna Kim

- One on one tutoring or play games at no cost
- Sent out form in newsletter
- Highschooler earns volunteer hours
- They are great kids, please take advantage of this opportunity

New Business/Announcements/Questions

- Is the district taking the advice of CDC and Drs? How are decisions being made?
 - Principals and district administrators are meeting regularly
 - Following guidelines from CDC and Health Department
 - Are interested in bring kids back but need to do so safely
 - Not currently looking at bring kids in all day or everyday but are talking about what the next steps are
- Can the schools reconsider the ban on rolling backpacks since they are so heavy now?
 - K-4 team will discuss

- Please reach out to Yuna or Jenna if there are any questions

Next meeting Wednesday December 9 @ 6:30

Meeting concluded at 7:45