

GW Childs Home and School Association

Meeting Notes for 10/19/2023

Number of Attendees: ~19-20

Agenda:

1. Welcome and Announcements
2. Mr. Laurie's Goals for 2023-24
 - a. Crowdfunding Requests. We have \$40K left from NICE. NICE was able to provide small amounts to teachers for project requests.
 - b. Finding Fun Educational Activities. Can we suggest extracurricular activities for kids inside and outside of school?
 - c. Providing Help for Neediest Students. We are a Title I school so all kids get free lunch and free breakfast. Ways to Help:
 - i. we can provide spare uniforms for kids. The school is out of spare pants. We would want blue sweatpants as they are more flexible. Could also use shoes, coats, mittens, hats and gloves.
 - ii. Could also get donated coats and bookbags.
 - iii. Food drive for thanksgiving happened in the past and we could look to restart it. Ms. Keyser can get 10-20 turkeys.
 - d. Increasing Parental Involvement.
3. Parent Survey. Mr. Laurie is sending it out electronically today. It is to ask about ways to increase communications between the school and families. Mr. Laurie would like to do a needs-based assessment for school priorities.

Questions From Attendees and Related Discussion:

1. How can we better get out the word in our community about how great our school is? We don't want enrollment to go down and lose resources.
 - a. Enrollment. How can we better promote Childs and boost enrollment? Enrollment dropped from about 500 5 years ago to about 420 today but the decrease in enrollment has leveled off and does not appear to be dropping. Mr. Laurie thinks there are 300-400 more students in the catchment who *don't* go to Childs but could. Some ideas for addressing this are more open house events, better outreach to community groups, and better PS/social media promotion.
 - b. Promotional Content. Can we get a PR committee to post to social media? Could we have a position in the HSA to coordinate this? That person could coordinate with Mr. Laurie and Ms. Fry. Need to be aware of which kids can have their images posted. Diania Liefer can convert the NICE Facebook page to an HSA Facebook page.
 - c. Open houses. Can we do an open house earlier than March? Or a monthly open house? Could the HSA be the ones to host open houses and give tours to relieve some of the load on Mr. Laurie and the school? Mr. Laurie is supportive of this. Erica Johnston has agreed to coordinate this. Once open house events are organized and schedule Jen Devor has volunteered to make promotional flyers. We should make sure we have a Spanish and Vietnamese version of everything as well.

- d. Promoting what Childs has to Offer. We should not forget to promote Kindergarten registration, the Pre-K program, and music and dance lessons.
 - e. Window Signs. Can we make window signs to show that we are GW Childs families? Jen Devor has volunteered to do this. HAS may need to cover the expense of printing signs.
 - f. Community Outreach. Aside from social media can we go meet people at community events and coordinate with community and church groups to present to. Cecily Harwitt is interested in pursuing this.
2. Volunteering. How can parents become volunteers? There is a link to fill out forms to get clearance to be an in-school volunteer. You need a background check.
 3. Before School Care. Can we set something up here to make the school more convenient for families? Stanton has a program that Jen Vincent knows about. Jen Devor will reach out to the Fund for the School District which can match schools with private donors.
 4. School Yard Maintenance. The school yard needs some love. Could be a volunteer position or we could pay someone to do landscaping. Things need to be pruned so that areas are uncovered.
 5. Thanksgiving Food Drive. People should give their email address to Ms. Keyser and she will reach out to coordinate before the next HSA meeting.
 6. Ms. Parfitt. Diana Liefer is organizing outreach to do something nice for Ms. Parfitt while she is out on medical leave.

Items for November's HSA Meeting:

1. District "FACE" officer (Mr. Lukman?) may attend to describe the necessary steps for volunteering at the school.
2. More discussion of PR/School promotion.
3. How do we want to raise money this year?
4. Vote (?) on sending money to the library and paying for the food drive.
5. Develop an HSA policy for how funds can be spent and who needs to sign off on spending.
6. Organize volunteers for PR work, community outreach, schoolyard maintenance.
7. Talk about kids being rushed at lunch.
8. Can more kids use the rooftop playground sometimes? Ms. Malone has a signup for other teachers to use it.