

PENNWOOD PTO MEETING MINUTES
October 11, 2018 – 9:30 am – Student Dining Room

I. WELCOME – BETH MCNAMARA

- Sign in
- PTO registration – the PTO is still accepting PTO registrations through paper form or online.
- Introductions

II. STUDENT REPORTS

- Student Council – Parker Murray (Student Rep)
 - Parker Murray reported that the council has met with officers and ambassadors. The council has decided on a theme for the October social – it is Fright Fest. They are also organizing a service project to collect winter items (gloves, hats, jackets, etc.) for underprivileged people. They will provide more details as things get organized.
- NJHS (National Junior Honor Society) – Mrs. Gallelli (Teacher Rep)
 - Stephanie Adamousky, the student representative for NJHS reported that all the NJHS officers have been elected for the year. NJHS has been working on creating posters for Unity Week.

III. ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

- PTO Teacher Reps – Mrs. Pursell (Reading Specialist) - not in attendance
- Principal's Report – Mr. Majikas
 - Mrs. Taylor will talk later in the meeting about the Unity Walk.
 - The TV studios will be up and running soon. Mr. Swanson and Mr. Wehrs are getting training on how to run it. Prior to renovations the TV connections used to be run through cable but now all classrooms have interactive TVs. They are hoping to get the studio up and running within two weeks. They are excited to get kids in front of and behind the camera.
 - The lockers outside the cafeteria are still not in. They are being made in the Carolinas and were delayed due to the hurricane. The lockers will be installed soon.
 - We are excited about the first fall social – the Fright Fest theme is great. Mr. DePaola and I will be there with teachers and parent chaperones. It will be fun with the kids dressing up.

- Picture day went well. Picture retakes will happen in November.
- Asst. Principal's Report – Mr. DePaola
 - Mr. DePaola reported that he is very excited to be back at the middle school. He previously was an assistant principal at the high school. It is his 3rd week and everything is going well. He has met lots of students in the cafeteria. He is also excited to be work with the PTO and is excited for the Unity Walk on October 19th.

IV. OFFICERS REPORTS

- VP/Fundraising – Carolyn Fogel
 - Carolyn Fogel passed around a thank you card from the teachers thanking the PTO for their new microwave.
 - We are also figuring out Paint Night with Magic Art Studios. Paint Night will be in early February. We have two people help organize this activity. More details in the future.
- VP/Communications – Elaine Koziak
 - A reminder to anybody in charge of a committee, please send Elaine any updates they'd like to see in the newsletter (ejkoziak@verizon.net)
- Recording Secretary – Kathy Snyder
 - 253 families have registered for the PTO this year. This is up slightly from last year (245).
- Treasurer – Corri Workman
 - Nothing to report, but provided copies of her treasurer's report.
- PAC Meeting – Kathleen Conti
 - Kathleen Conti reported that the committee discussed the idea of e-learning during snow days. 85% of students need computers at home for this, but some students don't have access. Evaluating and discussing the idea.
 - Middle school scheduling was discussed. Pennsbury is considering taking 25% of ELA time and moving it for math. Also, considering having PE every other day.
 - Mr. Majikas commented that there is a scheduling committee with Theresa Ricci and Beth Aldridge. They will be presenting to the school board soon. There will be changes in scheduling that are targeting for next year, including an increase in math time, an intervention system where flex time can be used, and a STEM component. Mrs. Ricci can answer any concerns.
 - Kathleen Conti also reported that the strategic plan for PSD is up for review, including high school renovations. That is just a heads up if parents are interested. Parents should get involved and be aware that this is going on.

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS – EVENTS AND FUNDRAISERS

- Kidstuff Coupon Books – Fundraising report – Shana Hastings
 - The coupon book sale has ended. \$2,000 in profit, which is similar to last year. We still have a few straggler books out there, but otherwise the fundraising is complete.
- Spiritwear – Wrap Up – Shana Hastings
 - The spiritwear sale has ended. We should get items within 3 weeks (November). It will go to students (during OP) unless marked as a gift (in which case Shana will be in touch with parent.) Not sure of profit yet.
- Walk-A-Thon – Oct 19 (Rain Date 10/22) – Leysha Nirschl, Ellen Labrecque – not in attendance.
 - Beth McNamara reported that the PTO is just involved with helping with water and popsicles. A sign up genius is available for volunteers. If you'd like to help out, there is still space available for volunteers.
 - Mrs. Taylor also reported that the Unity Walk will next place on the 19th, weather permitting. The rain date will be Monday, October 22nd. This year, they will be doing a full day of events. In the morning, they will do a support/motivational program. Then they will have grade level activities (with 3 rotations). The walk will be in the afternoon. Thanks to the PTO for help with water and popsicles. The prizes for students will be given out a week after the walk. They have raised \$2,000 so far, which is great. Kids can still turn in money if they want before Friday.
- Magazine Drive – Colleen Veitz, Meredith O'Brien – this is not a PTO fundraiser
 - The last collection was on October 12th.
- Fall Evening Social – Kristin Milewski, Marie Donnelly – not in attendance.
 - Beth McNamara reported that there will be a sign up genius to help out with the social. The social is organized by the student council.
 - Carolyn Fogel reported that the social costs \$3 per student and students can bring a few extra dollars if they want a snack. The ticket money pays for the DJ.
- Sunshine Committee – Jenna Churchray, Joanna Steer
 - The committee reported that feathers are going out to the 8th grade to decorate. Kids can do a selfie in front of the wings made.
 - NJHS is decorating a unity banner.
 - The committee will do shamrocks and hearts as they did last year.
 - Birthday treats – Shana Hastings and the Sunshine committee discussed the logistics of doing birthday treats at Pennwood. In other schools they ask the office about whose birthday it is that month and then they put coupons for those students in their homeroom teachers boxes to give out. The PTO would only be billed for those coupons that are used. The

coupons can be used for ice cream, chips, etc. They still need to figure out if it is okay to do this project, but they would like to for the students.

- Book Fair – 11/27-11/30 – Colleen Veitz, Devina Golden
 - Devina Golden reported that a sign up genius will go out for volunteers. The book fair will be at the end of November. There is an incorrect date on the PW calendar.
- Family Night – 11/30
 - Beth McNamara reported that we now have a volunteer to help with Bingo Night. Mr. Majikas will call out the numbers like last year.

ONGOING

- Box Tops – Natalie Hogan-Brounce – not in attendance
 - Shana Hastings reported that the last day for getting in box tops for the contest is October 15th. Will announce winners afterwards.
- McCaffrey's & ShopRite Receipts – Natalie Hogan-Brounce – not in attendance
 - Beth McNamara asked that families continue to send in their receipts for this.
- Special Events/Dinner Night – Nicole Augustine, Amy Haas – not in attendance.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

- Please note November PTO meeting is November 8 at 7 pm in the SDR. If there is any interest in more evening meetings, we can discuss going forward.
- Open Chair Positions – Spring Fundraiser/Color Run (?) (2), Bingo Night (2), 8GH Decorations Chair (1)
 - Beth McNamara reported that we still have a few chair positions open.
 - Still looking for spring fundraising chair. If you have an idea or a fundraiser you'd like to do, let the PTO know. The PTO is very open to ideas on this fundraiser.
 - Still need a decorations chair for the 8th grade happening. We have gotten a food chairperson.
- Question, comments, etc.
 - Parents had a number of questions/comments about a number of different issues.
 1. Do we have a teacher to do a play? Mr. Majikas said Matthew Snyder (high school teacher) will be the director.
 2. Does Pennwood have a PAC representative? Beth said the presidents usually go, however, Kathleen Conti volunteered to be PW PTO's PAC rep for the current school year.
 3. With the potential middle school scheduling changes, will class sizes go up with the new schedule? Mr. Majikas didn't think they would.

4. With the potential middle school scheduling changes, would there be any tracking or leveling of students with new schedule? Mr. Majikas didn't see that happening.
5. The upcoming school board meeting was discussed as well as the role of the PTO in promoting it. Meeting dates and a link to the upcoming agenda will be included in PW PTO newsletters going forward.
6. Carolyn Fogel reported that the PHS PTO meeting is on October 16th at 6:00 pm in the PHS West Staff Development room. Also Prom committee meeting is October 25th at 7:00 pm at PHS East Auditorium.
7. Mr. Majikas ended the meeting saying that he is very excited to have Mr. DePaola here. His life has improved because of Mr. DePaola being here. Mr. DePaola is very dedicated and PW is lucky to have him.

VII. Upcoming PTO meetings – Nov 8 (7 pm), Dec 13, Jan 10, Feb 14, Mar 14, Apr 11, May 9. All meetings are at 9:30 am in the Student Dining Room with the exception of the Nov meeting at 7 pm.

VIII. COMMUNICATIONS

1. <http://www.pennwoodpto.com> is a direct link to the Pennwood PTO website.
2. For “daily announcements” go to www.pennsbury.org, click on Schools, then Pennwood, the Parent Information, then daily announcements on left.
3. PTO email blasts, with PTO membership
4. Like Pennwood on Facebook!
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1997500920491941/>
5. Email the PTO at ptopennwood@gmail.com

IX. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 10:15.