

Pennwood PTO Meeting

December 8, 2016 - 9:30AM - Student Dining Room

Meeting was called to order by Beth McNamara at 9:35AM

Gary Nolan - GOTR (Girls on the Run)

- Mr. Gary Nolan spoke about his involvement with the “Girls on the Run” organization which challenges Middle School age girls to run a 5K. Gary oversaw the meetings where 14 girls worked hard and quickly saw improvements in their physical abilities. They learned teamwork and how to build each other up while all striving toward the same goal. The 5K was over the weekend and the girls were so proud of themselves for their achievements. The PTO donated orange Pennsbury socks at cost and the girls were thrilled to receive them and wear them during the race. They were also given a great zippered tote bag with a water bottle and a “Girls on the Run” T-shirt. Gary donated one of the bags to the raffle for Family Fun Night. Gary graciously thanked the PTO for bringing this opportunity to his attention and stated enthusiastically how wonderful the experience was for him personally. Thank you Gary!

STUDENT REPORTS

Student Council rep. Matthew Nuzzolo:

- Our first PJ Day is tomorrow, Dec. 9th. Kids who pay one dollar and are wearing PJs will get free hot chocolate and a candy cane during lunch. The team with the most participation will win soft pretzels.
- Jan. 2nd to the 13th there will be a “Soles4Souls” shoe drive. Lightly used shoes will be collected, any size will be accepted. The goal is to collect 300 shoes.
- Also in January (date TBA) there will be a “Chip in 4 Chop” fundraiser to benefit the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia. The goal is to raise \$500. Ideas so far have been a roulette game and also to have donation boxes available. More to come!
- Matthew mentioned that the student council will be electing “Senators” in be included in the student council advisory board.

NJHS (National Junior Honor’s Society) (Advisor Ms. Gallelli):

- There will be an “Angel Tree” to support local families in need. Families can donate NEW, unwrapped toys to be distributed by the nurse. Dec. 12th is the toy drive.
- January 2nd to the 20th they will be collecting coats for needy families. Pennwood families can send in donated coats in a plastic bag with the Homeroom # on the bag.

ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

PTO Rep. Mrs. Pursell (Reading Specialist) and Mrs. Payne (Gifted Support)

- Thank you to the PTO for the donation of document cameras.

- The Book Fair has been a huge hit! The teachers are so grateful to be able to use Scholastic Dollars to purchase books for their classrooms. They have enjoyed being able to talk to the kids and choose books together for the classroom.
- Thanked the PTO for help with the awards that will be given to participants in the Geography Bee (still ongoing).
- Ms. Fellows would like to request new/additional water jugs to use for sporting events including Field Day. Information passed on to PTO for review.

Principal's Report - Ms. Aldridge

- Thank you families for support of our Thanksgiving food drive.
- Pennwood will have their first PJ Day Friday December 9th. There is a contest between our school and William Penn for who raises the most money. Funds raised will benefit CHOP.
- Renovations continue to progress. There has not been as many pictures shared lately because much of the work is underground, such as pipe work, which is crucial in importance to the project but doesn't make exciting photography. Soon the roofing will be complete on Gym B (formerly the Boy's Gym). The new bus loop was paved before the weather turned too cold.
- The band room received all new seating, thanks to the magazine drive! Thank you to the families that supported this fundraiser. Prior, students were sitting on folding chairs. Magazine Drive is a student-run fund raising event and students make the final decision every year as to where to allocate the money. The seating in the band room is an excellent investment and will be used for many, many years to come. A Vibraphone was also purchased for the band room.
- A question was asked: Will the lockers be replaced during renovations? The lockers in the gym will be refurbished. Negotiations are currently being discussed as to the cost of replacing the 9" lockers with 12" lockers. More to come!

Asst. Principal's Report - Mr. Majikas

- No report.

OFFICER REPORTS

VP/Fundraising - Sue Deutsch

- Sue attended the PAC meeting this week where they discussed the transgender issues that were raised in a South Carolina school. The policies that are in place at our High School do abide by the law. The school board would love to open up conversations in the community about creative solutions to address all concerns and all needs, but so far they are unable to get parents to come to the meetings. If transgender issues are of importance to you, there are links on the website to school board meetings where a discussion is more than welcome.
- Technology was also discussed. They are moving to a 1 to 1 device solution for students. The technology will be leased and therefore more easily updated as technology changes.
- There will be a "Paint Party" for a winter fundraiser. Someone suggested a "Color Run" as something else we could do.

VP/Communications - Shana Hastings

- If you have anything to add to the newsletter let Shana know and she will include your information.

Recording Secretary – Sharon Bove

- No report

Treasurer – Lisa Zawacki

- The budget report was shared and passed around.
- The Fall Social raised \$261.04 that was donated to the Pennsbury Scholarship Fund

COMMITTEE REPORTS – EVENTS AND FUNDRAISERS

Family Fun Night - Lisa Gayle coordinator

- This will be our second annual Family Fun Night.
- The front and side doors will be open for Family Fun Night starting at 6:30 and going until 9PM.
- There will be 20+ vendors and the Book Fair will be open for families to purchase items for Christmas.
- Dodgeball in the gym will be supervised by Mr. Russell.
- Ice cream will be sold as well as pretzels, cookies, waters, etc.
- Last year the money raised at Family Fun Night went to Pennwood families in need.

Book Fair

- 12/5 to 12/9 - the Book Fair is cruising along well. Each Teacher has been able to use up to \$80 in Scholastic Dollars to purchase books for their classroom.
- At noon Friday the Book Fair will be closed to students and moved downstairs to the cafeteria in preparation for family Fun Night.

Paint Party

- Art in the Pod will be used for the paint party. Painting choices were discussed and passed around. Trying to choose a winter scene.
- Kids must be accompanied by a paying adult.
- \$15 per person - paid in advance of the evening. Cash, check or Paypal.
- Up to 180 participants.
- Deadline to pay for your spot will be January 6th.
- Sign-up Genius will be used to keep track of participants.
- Sell snack bags there.
- Snow date is the following week.

Baskin Robbins Night

- Jan. 10th following the 6th grade winter concert. Mr. Pfan will let us put a pamphlet in the program and Ms. Aldridge will mention it that evening.

Spring Fundraiser

- We need a committee head!
- This is an easy one, as it will be catalog based. We are using "Believe Kids". Here is a great chance to start getting more involved at Pennwood!

8th Grade Happening

- Stephanie Kravitz is committee head.
- Where do we move the decorations for 8th grade happening? Must move before the play or it will get ruined.
- Solutions were discussed such as asking a Storage Unit company to donate a unit for free advertising. Ask schools if they have space? Drop a pod outside the school?

ONGOING

Box Tops - Jennifer Burgfechtel

- The homeroom that won the pizza party was Mrs. Gallelli! They won the pizza party.
- The second place homeroom was Mrs. Galant and they were rewarded with soft pretzels.
- The drive brought in \$629 total from Box Tops.
- 29 out of 32 homerooms participated.
- In January the winner will receive Donuts and hot chocolate.

Special Events - Sue Deutsch

- Red Robin is no longer doing Spirit Nights. Bertuccis is another option.
- March Madness will be Buffalo Wild Wings.
- The weekend of the play will be Vince's.

NEW BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Follow up on funding request for classroom document cameras. Purchase of 3 approved at about \$470 per camera.
- Pennsbury Scholarship Foundation – PW will donate profit from Socials.
- Open Chair Positions – 8th Grade Happening (1, Decorations Chair) Spring Fundraiser (2), Hospitality (1 co-chair position open)
- Winter Break (12/26-12/30, return to school 1/2)
- Upcoming PTO meetings – Jan 12, Feb 9, Mar 9, Apr 6, May 11, June 8. All meetings are at 9:30 am in the Student Dining Room.

COMMUNICATIONS

- <http://www.pennsbury.org/pennwoodmiddleschool.home.aspx> click on PTO and/or go to “daily announcements” for special announcements
- Weekly PTO email blasts, with PTO membership Like Pennwood on Facebook!
- Email the PTO at ptopennwood@gmail.com

Meeting Adjourned at 10:47