

Pennwood PTO Meeting

January 12, 2017 - 9:30AM - Student Dining Room

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

STUDENT REPORTS

Student Council rep. Matthew Nuzzolo (Advisor Mrs. Becknell):

- Souls4Soles shoe drive is going great. They are collecting shoes until the end of this week. Thank you for all the donations. The team who collects the most shoes will get soft pretzels and have a crab soccer game.
- They are planning a Drug and Alcohol awareness campaign. One idea suggested is a door decoration contest. It will be around March Madness. More info. is to come.
- The student council will be electing "Senators" to be included in the student council advisory board. More info. is to come.
- The next social is March 10th. The theme has been undecided.

NJHS (National Junior Honor's Society) rep. Charlotte Giacobetti (Advisor Ms. Gallelli)

- Overwhelming response to the coat drive. They have exceeded their goal but will still collect gently used coats until the end of January.

ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

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

- Mrs. Taylor would like to thank the PTO for their help with hot chocolate on PJ day. As a school, we raised \$860 from the event.
- Mrs. Fellows thanks the PTO for approving the purchase of new jugs that will be used for field day, NJHS induction ceremony and other school-wide events.
- Mrs. Golder was able to get nice awards for the Geography Bee winners.
- 8th grade field trip will be to Neshaminy Shore. They need a deposit in advance to hold the date, and the PTO will help if need be.

Principal's Report - Mrs. Aldridge

- Construction continues. Gym B (formerly the Boys Gym) will be completed at the beginning of March. The timeline for completion was held up by decisions on proper flooring and ceiling options. These delays are well within the contingency plans and are a natural part of the process.
- Proper storage for the band equipment was discussed and decided on.
- The price to replace lockers was the same as the price to reface and repaint. Therefore we will get all new lockers that will be 12 inches wide. There will be fewer in total, but there will still be more than plenty for all students.

- After Gym B is complete, renovations to Gym A will begin as well as the auditorium which is scheduled for after the play. Spring concerts will be held at other schools.
- PSSAs will begin the first week in April, wrapping up with 8th grade testing the first week in May.
- We set a record last year with families opting out of PSSAs. The number of students opting out was unprecedented. Not contested that there are valid reasons for opting out. Families however should keep in mind that it negatively affects the rating of our school when so many do not take the test.
- Comment from a parent at the meeting: The 6th grade concert in December was wonderful and the students did a fantastic job. They noticed that the decorum of the audience was disrespectful to the students and wondered what we could do moving forward to decrease this behavior.

Assistant Principal's Report - Mr. Majikas

- No report.

OFFICER REPORTS

VP/Fundraising - Sue Deutsch (not in attendance)

- Baskin Robbins night was 1/10. Still waiting to hear from the owner if it was a success from his standpoint.
- Bertucci's Spirit Night is 1/19 from 11AM to 9PM. This is an all day event so if you can't make dinner, don't forget about lunch!
- Vince's Pizza is another all day event. Feb. 26th.
- Family Painting Party is 1/27. Register and pay by Friday so that we can tell the company how many will attend. We regret that there are other schools having events on the same night. We do our best to schedule around what appears on other school's calendars while selecting dates.
- Spring Fund Raiser needs a committee chair! This one is easy. We are using "Believe Kids" and it is a magazine based fundraiser. Please consider donating your time.
- 8th Grade Happening will have their committee meeting soon, date TBA. We have lost our food coordinator. We also need a decorations chair. The theme is Philadelphia.

VP/Communications - Shana Hastings

- No report

Recording Secretary - Sharon Bove

- No report

Treasurer - Lisa Zawacki

- Family Fun Night brought in \$960. Comment from a parent at the meeting was that many did not know about it. How can we more effectively get the word out to families about these events?
- Idea for next year was "Breakfast for Dinner" night as well as a "Color Run".

ONGOING

Box Tops - Jennifer Burgfechtel

- For the month of January there will be a homeroom contest as well as an individual contest. The homeroom that brings in the most Box Tops will win munchkins and hot chocolate. One student will also win an Amazon Echo Dot! For every 10 Box Tops the student will get one chance to win. A drawing will take place at the end of January. Also, the teacher of the winning homeroom will get a gift card to Dunkin Donuts. Send in those Box Tops! Make sure the students name and homeroom # are clearly marked on the bag.

NEW BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Stay tuned for more information on Chair Appreciation Night! We would like to honor you for helping out this year.
- Question from a parent about the backpack petition. A student was exercising the democratic process. They collected signatures of students who wanted to change the rule about carrying backpacks to class. Mrs. Aldridge applauded their efforts and certainly took their arguments into consideration. However, the rule about backpacks comes from a higher power and cannot be decided at the school level. Mrs. Aldridge will report the idea with the committee at the next meeting.
- We need to secure a storage solution for the 8th grade happening and play decorations and other things that are currently being stored under the stage. A temporary pod may be donated for now. Moving forward there will need to be a permanent solution as we will likely not be able to use the crawl space for storage due to compliance/safety.

COMMUNICATIONS

- <http://www.pennsburyisd.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 10:50