

# Pennwood PTO Meeting

September 13th, 2016 - 9:30AM - Student Dining Room

## I. WELCOME - BETH MCNAMARA

- A. Sign in.
- B. PTO registration - paper form or online are both available.
- C. Clearances - If you still need to get your clearances, you can do so in the office. It only takes a few seconds and once you are cleared you do not need to complete them every year while your child is at Pennwood. You will need to have your clearances recorded in order to volunteer at Pennwood. Volunteering is a fun and rewarding way to get involved with your child's school!
- D. Introductions - Parents in attendance were welcomed and asked to briefly say their name and what year their child is attending at Pennwood.

## II. STUDENT REPORTS

- A. Student Council - Advisors Ms. Becknell and Mrs. Medaglia (Mrs. Medaglia not in attendance). Student Council Rep - Matthew Maslow. Matthew mentioned that the student council will have their first meeting September 14th. The first event they will discuss is Unity Week. Unity Week is a fun week designed to remind students that Pennwood as a school is "Unique and Nurturing" filled with students who are "Involved Together to Empower" each other and embrace "Diversity". The week kicks off with a pep rally September 23rd and ends with the Walk-a-Thon Friday September 30th (rain date October 7th). Throughout the week there will be theme days for students. Mrs. Aldridge asked Matthew to provide feedback from the students' perspective as to how the renovations are affecting the student experience. Matthew shared that the appearance of the school isn't an issue. The students quickly got used to the look of the hallways. He said that the loud noises, however, were at times disruptive. He said that the boys are sorely missing the boy's gym and the locker room! But he thought the overall attitude of the students was positive and that everyone seems really excited about the end result.
- B. NJHS (National Junior Honors Society) - Advisor Ms. Gallelli (not in attendance). Student Representative not in attendance. NJHS will have officer elections coming up soon.

## III. ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

- A. PTO Representatives Mrs. Purcell (Reading Specialist) and Mrs. Payne (Gifted Support). Thank you to the PTO for providing a wonderful brunch at the beginning of the school year. It was much appreciated by all.
- B. Principal's Report - Ms. Aldridge. Ms. Aldridge wanted to address the early dismissal that became necessary on Friday. She explained that generally the

building will cool down after a hot day when the temperatures drop throughout the evening and night. Thursday night however, the temperatures remained high even throughout the night, making it so that the building temperature never went down from the prior days' heat. After the decision was made to dismiss the students early, they decided to test out the rooms to see if they had made the right call. Mrs. Mycock's room registered 111 degrees by Friday afternoon. The decision to dismiss students early is never taken lightly. Ms. Aldridge wanted to thank all the families for their gracious understanding, support and patience. Ms. Aldridge also wanted to applaud the students and teachers for their excellent response to the unplanned fire alarm that occurred Thursday. It was due to dust settling on the fire alarms that were close to the construction site. They continue to work very hard to avoid this in the future and develop a long term solution that is safe for the students and falls within the proper guidelines. Once again, the patience and understanding from families has been exceptional. PARKING: There are white dotted lines in the parking spaces behind the school that are designated for busses. Please do not park there during school hours.

- C. Asst. Principal's Report - Mr. Majikas. No separate report at this time

#### IV. OFFICERS REPORTS

- A. VP/Fundraising - Sue Deutsch. Magazine Drive is coming up soon and needs committee volunteers. It is a one-time event that does not involve much time. Please consider volunteering your time to this important fundraising event.
- B. VP/Communications - Shana Hastings. There will be a uniform swap held during OP on Friday (2:20PM). Send your student in with the uniform that they were given with instructions on what you actually ordered/need. If you haven't already checked your order for accuracy you may want to do that before Friday's swap. Also, there is a facebook page for disseminating information. Please join!
- C. Recording Secretary - Sharon Bove. No report.
- D. Treasurer - Lisa Zawacki. Our PTO account balance is currently \$8,850. We are still collecting dues from families.

#### V. COMMITTEE REPORTS - EVENTS AND FUNDRAISERS

- A. Hospitality - Karen Scott. The Faculty Brunch was originally slated for October. It was decided to move it up to before school started and Karen swiftly pulled together a great event in very little time. Karen also pulled together a successful 6th grade picnic on 9/1. Moving forward it was decided that the Faculty Brunch worked well before school starts. It was easier for families to donate since the start time was 9AM. Karen expressed the need for a co-chair, as hospitality is definitely a 2-person operation. Please consider helping out with this committee.
- B. Back to School Nights - Sept. 7th (6th grade) and Sept. 21 (7th and 8th). Mrs. Aldridge reported that the 6th grade event was well attended and families were

once again patient and supportive. Looking forward to another great night on the 21st.

- C. Walkathon - September 30th (rain date is October 7th) - Heather Errhalt. No report.
- D. Fall Evening Social - October 28th 7 to 9PM. Kathy Colavita and Rose Paulsen. The Fall social is a Student Council event. It is not a fundraising event. The students choose the theme and activities. Parts of the school are gated off and there is a DJ and open gym for basketball and games. In the past students dressed in costume since it is near Halloween. Tickets are sold during lunch for \$3. It is a fun night for socializing and parent chaperones help out to watch over the dancing and the food. Students should bring money in smaller denominations since food items are mostly sold for \$1 or \$2 and we often run out of small bills. If your child has a food allergy, the hope is to provide everyone with something they can buy to eat. If you know of brand names of foods (sold at BJ's for instance) feel free to make suggestions and we can try to accommodate.
- E. Spiritwear - Lisa Zawacki, Denise Carey. There will be samples to look at and size up at the 7th and 8th grade BTSN. Online sales will stay open until October 30th. A link to the online store is available on the Pennsbury web site.
- F. Magazine Drive - Looking for a Chairperson and co-chairs. The drive runs from 10/6 to 10/21. This is not a PTO event but the PTO helps to organize it. Please consider volunteering your time.

#### ONGOING

- A. Box Tops - Jennifer Burgfechtel - Last year Box Tops brought in \$2,100 for the PTO. Jennifer has a lot of ideas to generate excitement this year for the Box Tops drive. If you are interested in meeting some new people, Jennifer is hosting a "Bundle Party" at her house from 11AM to 1PM this Thursday September 15th. Email her for directions: [Burgrelo@live.com](mailto:Burgrelo@live.com)
- B. McCaffery's and ShopRite Receipts - Suzanne Watson (not in attendance). The ShopRite in Yardley currently does not participate in the rewards program, only the Fairless Hills location and the Lawrenceville, NJ location. More information about the rewards from these two grocery stores is available on the Pennwood website.
- C. Fat Tony's - Jack Beck (not in attendance). For every pizza purchased Fat Tony's gives our school \$1. You need to tell them you are from Pennwood and they have a book for you to sign.
- D. Special Events/Family Nights - Sue Deutsch. Magazine drive is coming up soon and needs volunteers. Easy, one-time event! For special events at restaurants, generally the restaurants only want to run the events Monday through Thursday. What nights are best for most families? It was suggested that as much as we

can, we rotate and use different weeknights so that no families are left out from participating. Ideas for restaurants to use for these events were generated and included: Bertucci's, Vince's, Pizza Yah, Red Robin. Also, 8th Grade Happening is a great, fun event that needs chairpersons. Most of the work was done last year and the plan is to re-use much of the New York themed decorations making the job a less time-consuming commitment. Please consider helping out! Holiday Family Fun Night is a fundraiser that has been a big success in the past. Funds generated are donated to families in need in our community. 2 chairs are needed to make this year another success.

Vi. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Open chair positions: 8th grade happenings (2), Holiday Family Fun Night (2), Spring Fundraiser (2), Special Events/Family Night Coordinator (1 co-chair position open), Magazine Drive (2).
- B. Review chair guidelines: Any correspondence from committee chairs via flyers, etc should be brought first to the PTO before being sent out. It will be determined at that point whether Ms. Aldridge needs to be brought into the loop.

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FOR THE COMING YEAR.

Q. Will construction interfere with the school musical this year?

A. No! The stage will not be touched until after the play is over. We are temporarily looking at February 10th for the show but looking to possibly move it out later into February. Final dates and details will be forthcoming. Coordinating with all other events is taken into consideration in order to best accommodate as many students as possible. Mr. Davis and his wife have signed up to do the play this year!

Q. When will the boys gym be finished?

A. The projected time for the boys gym to be ready is around the holidays. However, work will then begin on the girl's gym. Both gyms are tentatively slated to be finished by March.

Q. This year the 4PM and 5PM buses are coming to our school first. It has been hectic for parents picking up their students from after school activities having the buses coming through the loop at that time. Is there anything we can do?

A. Ms. Aldridge replied that customarily the schools rotate every year as far as which school get the late bus first. This year Pennwood is slated to be the first of the 3 middle schools, making the arrival time of the buses earlier. Ms. Aldridge will make a call to transportation and request that our school not be the first school, which should alleviate some of that confusion during after school activity pickup.

Comment: The best way to stay in touch with daily happenings at school is to check the Daily Bulletin on the school website. It is updated daily and holds all the information that was included in that day's morning announcements.

Comment: Office Max offers a rewards program that gives 5% return on sales.

#### VII. UPCOMING PTO MEETINGS

- A. Oct 13th, November 10 (7PM), December 8th, January 12th, February 9th, March 9th April 6th, May 11th and June 8th. All meeting will be held in the Student Dining Room. All meetings will start at 9:30, with the exception of the November 10th meeting which starts at 7PM.

#### VIII. ADJOURNMENT - Meeting closed at 10:50