

Pennwood PTO Meeting

October 13, 2016 - 9:30AM - Student Dining Room

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

STUDENT REPORTS

Student Council rep. Matthew Nuzzolo:

- Thank you for all your help during the Walk-a-thon and Unity Week. Both were a great success.
- Student council will hold their first social October 28th from 7 to 9PM. Tickets will be sold in advance the week prior and will be \$3. The theme has yet to be announced.
- If you are a parent and would like to help during the social, there is a sign-up link under the PTO section of the Pennwood home page.

NJHS rep: Not yet selected.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

PTO teacher rep. Mrs. Pursell and Mrs. Payne:

- Thank you for all the parent support of the walk-a-thon. Fund raisers such as the magazine drive and the walk-a-thon are school-driven fund raisers that help our school tremendously. For instance, money raised goes toward the cost of assemblies and anti-bullying initiatives. Last year the school was also able to purchase Chrome Books for students as well as supply the band room with more appropriate seating.
- Teacher/staff PTO dues were collected and \$470 was added to the PTO budget.

Mrs. Aldridge:

- Renovations are now mainly focused on the outside of the building. Work has begun on the foundation for the new addition. Paved areas in the back are complete which allow the construction vehicles access to the site via the “old” parent drop-off road.
- The SPP (School Performance Profile) is a number generated mainly by the results of the PSSAs. Our school had a larger than normal rate of students opting out of the test last year. Opting out is completely within everyone’s rights. However, our averages are way down and the scores are not a clear reflection of actual student performance. The low SPP score reflects negatively on the school. Most importantly, the hard working teachers take the brunt of the decision to opt out. Mrs. Aldridge hopes to communicate this to families as they make the decision this year whether or not to opt out of the PSSAs.
- A suggestion was made from a parent that perhaps the letters home with the PSSA test results not be shared with the students in case they feel disappointed with their performance.
- Second Chance learning was discussed. It is meant to be a second chance to “learn” not just to retake the test. Each teacher is expected to come up with his or her own policy for second chance learning in their classroom and make it clear to the students at the beginning of the

year. Mrs. Aldridge wants to make sure this message is making its way home to families so that everyone is aware that second chance learning is available to the students in every class.

Mr. Majikas:

- The Student Council is in charge of the theme for all socials. The first social is October 28th. Usually a Halloween theme but this has not yet been decided.

OFFICER REPORTS

VP/Fundraising Sue Deutsch:

- Sue attended the PAC (Parent Advisory Council) meeting recently. The new Superintendent is Dr. William Gretzula and he will be running a Superintendent Study Councils about Excellence and Equity which addresses issues such as fair grading procedures, and meeting the needs of all students. He will run a study council on Instructional Technology as well.
- Kevin Dorsey is head of Technology. He is working on a single sign-on system to streamline students' access to district-wide computer programs, online textbooks etc. Students in grades K-12 will have QR codes to make it easier for them to sign in.
- An initiative at the High School is to start a Junior ROTC for students who might be interested in pursuing a career with the military. At least 40 students need to show interest in order for the JROTC to be established at the High School.
- LYFT is having a presentation discussing the prevalence of prescription drug use among students. "Prescription for Danger: An important event about medication and addiction". Keller Hall, 7PM October 20th.
- PHS East Haunted House October 26th to 28th (cost is \$5) lead by the HS student council.
- The PTO only has one major fundraiser in the Spring, as well as the Book Fair. (walk-a-thon and magazine drive are school-driven).
- The idea for a new kind of PTO fundraiser for Spring was to host a painting party, introduced by Charlene Livezey.

VP/Communications Shana Hastings:

- Reminder to sign up for the newsletter and LIKE the Pennwood Facebook page to stay connected.
- You can sign up for the PTO online now, and pay dues through Paypal.
- The best way to stay on top of what is going on with Pennwood day to day is to check the "Daily Announcements" section of the Pennwood website. The announcements for the day that are broadcasted to students in the morning are posted there daily.

Sharon Bove: No report

Lisa Zawacki:

- The current budget is at \$8,288. This total does not reflect additional funds added most recently.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Walkathon Feedback - Heather Errhalt (absent):

- Sharon Bove noted that the water stations were a bit chaotic. One gym teacher agreed, and said they ask every year if the students could carry their own water bottles instead of having water stations throughout. Ideas were discussed for next year.

Spiritwear - Lisa Zawacki, Denise Carey:

- Profit from Spiritwear sales was \$426. Lounge pants were a big hit. They made a special purchase of visors and beanie hats that will be for sale for \$20 each.

SAA Magazine drive and Cookie Dough: Sign up to help on collection day October 18th at 8:30. Large Cookie Dough orders will be distributed to families between 3 and 6PM after school. Also help is needed to distribute walk-a-thon prizes. Sign-ups available on the Pennwood Home Page.

ONGOING FUNDRAISERS

Jennifer Burgfechtel: Box Tops

- 1,400 boxtops were collected over the summer and the big prize was given away at Back to School night.
- November contest is a pizza party. Jennifer is soliciting ideas from the NJHS to see if we can get the kids excited about collecting and earning prizes.

Suzanne Watson: McCaffery's & Shop Rite receipts

- Trying to get the word out about McCaffery's Giant and Shop Rite rewards. Suzanne would like to have a table set up at Family Fun Night and the night of the school play to get their store cards synched up with Pennwood.

Jack Beck: Fat Tony's (absent): Mention Pennwood when purchasing from Fat Tony's.

Family Fun Night:

- Lisa Gayle and Kathy Schafer are heading the Family Night this year. The date will be December 9th. Trying to build this event every year into a bigger fundraising event. Talked about asking for help from teachers to run games. Talked about asking Mr. Pfan if there were some students who would want to perform that night.

New Business/Announcements/Comments:

- **8th Grade Happening** - Needs a chairperson. Also, someone to be in charge of decorations. Because of all the hard work that was put into last year's event, this year will be much easier. The 8th grade happening is fun to get involved with!
- **Hospitality** - needs a co-chair.
- **Play Question** - Do the kids really have to "try out" for the play even if they just and only want to be a part of the stage crew? Mrs. Aldridge is seeking an answer.
- **Date for the Play:** The play is now set for February 24th and 25th.

- **Lunch tables:** Mrs. Aldridge has worked tirelessly to come up with a solution for the lunch room. There is a new guidance council intern that is going to be collecting data to find out how to best accommodate the students.
- **Upcoming PTO meetings – Nov 17 (7 pm), Dec 8, Jan 12, Feb 9, Mar 9, Apr 6, May 11, June 8. All meetings are at 9:30 am in the Student Dining Room with the exception of the Nov meeting at 7 pm. *Please note the date change for the November meeting (formally Nov. 10)**
- **COMMUNICATIONS**
 1. <http://www.pennsbury.k12.pa.us/pennsbury/pennwood/>
click on PTO and/or go to “daily announcements” for special announcements
 2. Weekly PTO email blasts, with PTO membership
 3. Like Pennwood on Facebook!
 4. Email the PTO at ptopennwood@gmail.com

Meeting commenced at 10:50AM.