PENNWOOD PTO MEETING MINUTES

September 12th, 2019 – 9:30 am – Student Dining Room

1. WELCOME
2. Welcome Incoming 6th grade & new parents. Welcome back returning parents.
3. PTO registration – envelopes went home in orange folders, form or online
4. Introductions of all in attendance
5. STUDENT REPORTS
6. Student Council – Addison Hensler (Student Rep); Mrs. Becknell (Teacher Rep)
   * Addison Hensler reported that Student Council had their first meeting. They did introductions and shared goals for the year. One common goal seems to be making the school more eco-friendly and reduce waste.
   * Class representatives will be in place by next week.
   * The first social is October 25th. The Student Council will be coming up with a theme.
7. NJHS (National Junior Honor Society) – (Student Rep); Mrs. Mellor (Teacher Rep) – not in attendance

1. ADMINISTRATION REPORTS
2. PTO Teacher Rep – Mrs. Taylor
   * Mrs. Taylor wanted the PTO to know that the math department is very thankful for the white boards they received as part of the teacher wish list program last year.
   * Mrs. Taylor also reported that Mrs. Sharkey wanted everyone to know that the pyramid concert is canceled.
   * Mrs. Taylor noted that Mrs. Golder asked if the PTO would be able to support the Geo Bee again this year. The PTO agreed to help again this year as they have in the past.
3. Principal’s Report – Mr. Majikas
   * The staggered start to the year was good for 6th graders. The 6th grade picnic was on August 29th. While it was lightly attended, it was good for parents to meet each other.
   * The staff breakfast was a great event this year. Thanks to the PTO for organizing it.
   * Thank you to the PTO for the new refrigerator in the faculty room.
   * 6th grade back to school night will be tonight. Parents will meet in the auditorium and then everyone will be dismissed to their student’s homeroom. Parents will then follow their student’s schedule.
   * 7th and 8th grade back to school night is next Wednesday (September 18th).
   * We now have coaches for all of the fall sports. The heavyweight football coaches were able to run practice for both lightweight and the heavyweight teams, but now we have 2 lightweight football coaches so they will have separate practices.
   * The Unity Walk is set for October 18th. Picture day is October 8th.
   * Last Friday, we had our PBIS kick off. Mr. Majikas had his head shaved, Mr. DePaola got a pie in his face, and Mrs. Polyak was silly stringed.
   * Pennwood has a total of 786 students – 256 in 6th grade, 267 in 7th grade, and 263 in 8th grade. Next year, we will have a smaller than usual 6th grade class (only 225).
4. Asst. Principal’s Report – Mr. DePaola
   * We hope the kids had fun at the PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports) kick off on Friday. As part of PBIS, 10 teachers will get “R slips”. The teachers will give them out to students who are modeling good behavior. The students bring the slip to the office and then they get to sign a book and put their name up on the Flying Falcon board (they are given a randomly selected number where they put their name). Once there are 10 names in a row on the board, the students will get a mystery motivator prize. The board is then cleared and it starts again. We are currently waiting for the board to fill up.
   * We talked through what is good behavior in the kick off meeting. Teachers also reinforce these ideas with students.
   * The district is also moving towards an ALICE lockdown procedure, which is more like the federal model of how to handle lockdowns. There will be more information about the program once it rolls out, but it is a research based program for handling lockdowns.
5. OFFICERS REPORTS
6. VP/Fundraising – Sue Deutsch
   * We are looking for volunteers for the mixed bag fundraiser in the spring. If interested in running this fundraiser, let us know.
   * PTO will again have concessions after concerts. We have people organizing it, but if you’d like to help let us know.
7. VP/Communications – Elaine Koziak
   * The PTO newsletters come out weekly (sometimes every other week.) Newsletters are sent out by emails to families who signed up to be members of the PTO. Links to the newsletters also will be posted on our facebook page.
   * Morning announcements are also posted on the PTO facebook page.
   * Chairs of events should email Elaine if there is information you’d like added to the newsletter about your event.
8. Recording Secretary – Kathy Snyder
   * 268 families have joined the PTO so far this year, which is up from last year (230 families).
9. Treasurer – Corri Workman
   * We have recently made our annual donation of $200 to each of the Pennsbury Foundations: Arts, Education, and Music.
   * Last year, the PTO also spent about $10,000 on staff “wish lists” purchasing things like chairs, white boards, etc. that teachers requested. The PTO money goes back into the school.
10. COMMITTEE REPORTS – EVENTS AND FUNDRAISERS
11. Hospitality: Faculty & Staff Welcome Back Breakfast; 6th Grade/New Student Welcome to Pennwood Picnic
    * Carolyn Fogel reported that staff were so appreciative of the breakfast this year and really enjoyed it. The picnic was also a great event.
12. KidStuff Coupon Books: Jennifer McDuell/Snzyehana Pevzner - Deadline 9/20 – not in attendance
    * Carolyn Fogel reported that the KidStuff books went out for 6th and 7th graders. We will be getting out 8th graders soon. If you haven’t seen a book yet, they will be coming. If a family wants to keep the book, you can buy it. If you don’t want it, please return it. This fundraiser finishes on September 20th.
13. Magazine Drive: Kickoff Assembly 9/26 – Volunteers needed for collection dates: 9/27; 10/4; 10/11
    * Carolyn Fogel reported that there will be a sign up genius to get volunteers to help with the Magazine Drive. The profits of this fundraiser go to the SAA account, which pays for such things as locks, gym uniforms and other necessities for students in need.
14. Spiritwear: Jennifer Dean - Deadline 9/27 – not in attendance
    * Carolyn Fogel reported that spiritwear is still going on. Colored copies of the order form will be available at the back to school nights. You can also access them online through the PTO website.
15. Unity Walk-a-Thon: Lesya Nirschl & Ellen Labrecque - 10/18-12:30-2:45 pm - Volunteers needed for water stations. (Rain date 10/21) Need volunteers to serve popcorn at all lunches on 10/24 and Rita’s Water ice on 10/25.
    * Lesya Nirschl reported that the sign up genius asking for volunteers is ready to go. Be on the lookout for it.
16. Fall Evening Social – Maryann Doyle & Hilary Walp – 10/25 @ 7-9pm Need volunteers – not in attendance
    * Carolyn Fogel noted that Student Council plans the socials, but the PTO runs concessions and parents can also be chaperones. The socials are 7 to 9 pm. Students purchase tickets to the social during lunch.
    * Mr. Majikas said that drop off for socials is in the teacher lot. Students that attend need to stay until 9pm. No leaving early unless it is an emergency. At 9:00 pm, the students exit the door next to the teacher lot to be picked up. Two security guards and Mr. Majikas are outside.
17. Scholastic Book Fair (10/28-11/1) – Carolyn Fogel – Need a Co-chair
    * Carolyn Fogel reported that she will step in to run the Scholastic Book Fair, but is looking for a co-chair. For the book fair, students come in to purchase books during their Language Arts class.
    * The book fair uses e-wallet, so parents can pay online and have a certain amount of money available to the student. The student can spend up to that amount, but if there is any extra money left over it will be credited back to the parent.

ONGOING

1. Box Tops – Sara Christopher
   * Sarah Christopher reported that she is reusing old ideas to get interest up for box tops, like maybe duct taping someone to the wall. The contest winners will be announced after 7/8 back to school night. We have lots of box tops already.
   * Don’t throw out expired box tops because we can get credit for them.
   * There will still be clipable box tops until 2023. Right now you can “double dip” by sending in clipped ones and scanning your receipt. You can also track submissions if you add your home room teacher on the app.
   * Last year, box tops brought in $1900. Our goal this year is $1200, but we should make as much as last year.
2. Sunshine Committee – Jenna Churchray, Sara Christopher
   * Jenna Churchray explained that the Sunshine Committee will continue with birthday treats this year – and that gluten free options like chips and water ice have been added to what students can buy with their coupon. At the beginning of each month, students with a birthday that month will receive a coupon to use in the lunchroom for a special birthday treat.
   * Jenna and Sara clarified that the Sunshine Committee is different than in elementary school. At PW, it is to help create a nice atmosphere for students and encourage community.
   * Jenna Churchray noted that last year they put together the feathers project that was really successful. This year they want to do a “Believe in Your Selfie” and have students take a selfie and then they’ll combine them into a sign that says “Believe in Your Selfie.” Mrs. Taylor will be working with them.
3. McCaffrey’s & ShopRite Receipts – Snyezhana Pevzner – not in attendance

* Send in your McCaffrey’s and ShopRite receipts all throughout the school year.
* ShopRite has a partnership with Box Tops, “ShopRite For My School.” This program adds even more value to the Box Tops products purchased at ShopRite. If you already have a Box Tops account, but have not registered for Shoprite For My School before, you must link your ShopRite Price Plus Club Card. Go to [https://www.shopriteformyschool.com](https://www.shopriteformyschool.com/) to register.

1. Giant, Office Max, Staples & Shoparoo -
   * Giant – Be sure to register your Giant Bonuscard and choose Pennwood as one of your schools to receive A+ School Rewards. If you have already registered Pennwood as your school of choice, no need to re-register this year. New this year is double A+ School Rewards when you purchase “Guiding Star” items at Giant.
   * Sue Deutsch said that you can also mention Pennwood when you do purchases at Office Max and Staples and Pennwood will receive some percentage of the purchase.
   * Shoparoo was also discussed as a way of getting a percentage of money purchased. We will look more into this and get information out to families.
2. Special Event Concessions/Spirit Dinner Nights – Nicole Augustine, Amy Haas – not in attendance.
3. NEW BUSINESS
4. Open Chair and Co-chair Positions – Bookfair (co-chair), Hospitality (co-chair), Bingo (co-chair), Spring Fundraiser (both).
5. Next School Board Meeting 9/19 at 7:30 pm at Fallsington Elementary
6. Question, comments, etc.
7. IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER
   1. Back to School Nights: 7 pm - 6th Grade on 9/12; 7th/8th Grade on 9/18
   2. No School – 9/30 & 10/1 & 10/9
   3. Picture Day – 10/8 – payment available online
8. UPCOMING PTO MEETINGS – 9:30 am in Student Dining Room: 10/10, 11/14, 12/12, 1/9, 2/13, 3/12, 4/16, 5/14.
9. COMMUNICATIONS
10. <http://www.pennwoodpto.com> is a direct link to the Pennwood PTO website.
11. For “morning announcements” go to [www.pennsbury](http://www.pennsbury)sd.org, click on Schools, then Pennwood, then Quick Links tab on top-right side, then morning announcements on left-hand side.
12. PTO email blasts sent to your inbox with PTO membership.
13. Follow Pennwood on Facebook! www.facebook.com/groups/1997500920491941/
14. Email the PTO at ptopennwood@gmail.com
15. Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 10:13 am.