

PTA MEETING MINUTES 9/27/17

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Introductions from the PTA

Ms Morgan: Guidance Counselor

Usually at the Pta meetings we award Student of the Month with a value.

2-3 students per class gets nominated, receive an award

Sept: Effort

October: Responsibility

November Friendship

Dec: Kindness

Jan: Courage

Feb: Leadership

March: Respect

April: Honesty

May: Citizenship

June: Caring for the Environment

She also works with middle school / high school

First Workshop for High school is OCT 12

NOV 8 is middle school admissions workshop

Start honoring Student Of the Month next month.

Starting meetings earlier to accommodate children's bedtimes.

Treasurer's Report

Yoshi (presentation of slides)

Gen:

Looking at the expenses for the coming year

The biggest expense we have this year is recess. Half way through the year we hired Kids Orbit to manage recess.

The coordination of moving all those kids around is a lot, and we didn't have enough help.

Does anyone have questions?

Parent 1:

Was the program evaluated for success?

Gen:

We didn't do an official survey. We can do an official.. There's both. There are some people who do like it and some people who don't. Any thoughts from a parent who was here last year?

Parent 2

No two opinions are alike. I think a survey might be a good idea. From a parent's pov and a child's pov.

Bree:

The company would like some feedback. I asked curiously do you have 8th graders doing the games? Now they're offering more supervising instead of games based on what our parents have said. So that's evolving.

Gen

It's a hefty price tag. Keep researching. It's a DOE issue. Recess isn't mandated and we would like to make it mandated so we can get funded.

Parent 3:

What kind of event? fundraiser?

Gen

We did a fundraiser last year that raised 27,000 for recess. We did a fundraiser over the summer. Is she here?

Parent 4:

It was really just to raise awareness. Let people know that it's not all sorted and we need to raise some more funds. We raised a bit of money in the beginning of the summer and there's a lot more to do.

Bree:

It's just not getting enough attention from district / elected officials. Right now, we have a choice. We wanted to get the kids out every day. We hired kids orbit, but they do not have to stay. It's not permanent. We can get outside funding. If it doesn't,

Parent 5:

Recess is important to me, so it's important for my special child. Is there a gofund me?

Bree:

It's been an issue for years. If everyone wants it, we just have to fund it. We did a special fund and people did give for that part of the year.

Parent 6:

I'm new but is there a view that the school is not doing all that it can do? That maybe the school is doing something or should be doing something but doesn't have the will?

Bree:

The logistics of the gym on the 5th floor, going back and across the street, so many moving parts. So for the two hours ... we have to hire four hours of aids.

Gen:

We are never satisfied. Always open to ideas. The school wants it, and they are trying to make it happen. We negotiated some funding. Everybody is open to trying to make it work.

Parent 7:

That's a lot of money for recess. Where would that money go if we can get recess sorted out?

Gen:

That money can do whatever you want. We discussed last year getting a language teacher for younger grades, and Mr Pavone did that on his own this year, and we were willing to pay for that. Right now, 2-5 doesn't have an art teacher, so we pay for studio in a school. The possibilities are endless. We'll go through a little bit of funding and what we're hoping to do.

Parent 8:

What do the kids do for recess during inclement weather?

Gen:

There's a whole schedule and system. There's a gym, extra classroom, cafeteria. Games available.

Parent 8:

Do you guys accept board games? Or do you need anything?

Gen:

We do need to purchase them so donate to the general fund. We try to keep them current.

Parent 9:

It sounds like time is the biggest issue. DO the teachers have them do anything in class?

Gen:

The teachers use GO NOODLE: dance, movement activities and they can use that at any time. The K class gets one additional 45 period of recess a week.

Parent 10:

Why don't they just close the whole front area of the school?

Gen:

It was about a 10 year process to get the playground built. It's owned by three different companies and it was a long battle to get this space, it was all we could get. That's why we tried to get the street closed, adjacent to the school, but so far it has been denied. The only alternative right now, is to walk to the tennis courts. It's just more of a walk time.

Parent 10:

Can you use the Avalon play rooms during the middle of the day?

Parent 11:

Last year there was a line item for teacher's assistant?

Gen:

Last year we paid \$44K for 2 TAs and they were in the classes with the most students. Trying to figure out how to use the TAs that is fair to all. It's hard to distribute them fairly and evenly. Last year they were used in fourth grade. This

year there are a lot of students in 3rd grade (more than 30 students) but first grade has a lot of kids too. What are your thoughts?

Parent 12:

If I wanted to lead fundraising for the class and pay for a TA for the class, I would gather the money and give it to the PTA?

Parent 13:

Can they float? Or is that destructive?

Teacher:

last year with the TA they wanted it to be consistent and they did it strictly based on the numbers in the class.

Parent 14:

I was told they don't use student teachers

Bree:

They are open to it.

Parent 15:

Two years ago, there was one aid who rotated between the classes, and it was fantastic when you had that extra person so it has been done in the past.

Gen

So maybe it's something to look into for the third grade. Any other thoughts?

A teacher's aid is credentialed and is different from an aid. We will get more information from the School Leadership Team. They haven't met yet. Bring it up on Friday.

Parent 16:

Are aids getting background checks?

Gen

I don't know all the specifics. We'll reach out to admin,

Parent 17:

Fundraising question. Do you know what the total number is we brought in for last year? Last year, for Kindergarten parents it was kind of a surprise to give money to public school and we came to realize how important it was. Does it mean 20 or 100 or 1000 a year?

Gen:

A breakdown if you give 500 a year how much it will cost you. \$2 a day. We just ask that you do what you can and give what you can.

Only 10 percent of people who give to the general fund.

Parent 18:

You are selling yourself short. Why not ask every single person to give? If there are 750 people in this school.

The middle school is doing really well. And the more people that stick around and donate.

Parent 19:

Want to dispel the myth that middle school parents aren't as invested. Middle school parents fought to get the school and there are lots of middle school parents in this room.

Parent 20:

You can donate your time.

Parent 21:

Is there a plan to approach any corporations?

Gen:

We developed a plan to approach our neighborhood businesses and want to talk to them about being partners and we will update that packet and put it out. If you have any connections to corporations, let us know and we will give that to you.

Parent 21:

I'm happy to help

Gen:

We have some committee sign ups in the back. The only way to have fundraisers is with people at the head of them. IF you can take ownership of something, or have heard of a great idea, please approach us, so we can develop them. Love to get our children involved. Lower cost family nights, movie nights, but we need people to help us out. Email us and we'll get the ball rolling. We have our first fundraiser tomorrow night at Coffeed. Everything is donated. Emmett O'Malley will be playing music. Bring your kids.

Parent 22:

Why couldn't principal pavone be here?

Gen

He usually tries to come to every meeting, he had a district meeting.

Parent 23:

Is there any info on these events before we sign up for these?

Bree:

Meet and Greet is grade specific. Try to get a space.

Fall Festival: usually the last weekend in October. looking at LIC Flea to work out something with them. Haunted house last year, make your own cupcake station, welcome to new ideas, nothing is set in stone. Need a lot of help with this! We use signup.com for different stations. Class Parents will also send out communications.

Gen

We need to vote on the proposed budget and the proposed fundraisers.

Parent 24

Just to clarify...

Gen

We are voting on what we want to spend for this year
\$135,744

Parent 25

Nay vote. I just want to express some reservation on the cost of recess. IT's a lot of money.

Gen

If you have suggestions, we can renegotiate a lot of money back to the school. They only thing that isn't on the table is the TA.

Parent 26

It does look like a lot of money, and parents last year decided to raise money based on the cost of recess.

Gen:

She's concerned about cost of recess and doesn't want it to come at the expense of other things we could fund. It's not sustainable. We need to come up with other options. Whether it's money from council members, gofundme, etc.

Parent 27

What is the status of Learning Leaders and Parent Coordinator

Gen

Learning Leaders folded. We want more parents to be involved so we have been having discussions and i don't know whether the DOE has come up with a solution yet.

Parent 28

Just to clarify: your goal is \$200,000

Gen

Just for your information this is what we raised at your events last year

Vote

Yeah

Gen

Please come and volunteer your time. Any other questions?

Meeting adjourned: 7:34pm