

PTA Meeting Minutes

Thursday, November 18th 2021

Present: Kellie McNair, Gina Geraci, Robyn O'Grady, Patience Prinzi, Ari Elliot, Laurie Pincus, Katie Reed, Renee Yandow, Fiona Stauffer, Melissa Pletscher-Nizinsky, Michaela Wall, Molly Menge Maguire, Catherine Dean

Meeting called to order at 7:05pm

Approval of October minutes (Patience, Robyn)

Treasurer's Report (Ari Elliot):

Have spent a couple thousand dollars out of \$30,000, and we still have a lot of spending to do. Committee chairs have money to spend if they have any requests or ideas. The PTA has close to \$50,000 in the bank, which is a very fortunate position and have a lot we can be doing.

There were only 7 reimbursement requests made by teachers – asked Mrs. Yandow to remind teachers they have \$50 for classroom supplies plus an additional \$50 for a voice amplifier.

A few people volunteered to be on the audit committee. Thank you to them!

The PTA earned an award for first quarter membership.

Teacher's Report (Renee Yandow):

Cobbles Cares Holiday Helpers fliers went out in take home folders. This program looks to our school community to purchase gift cards to support local families during the holidays.

Caring Council will have a mitten drive in December and a food drive in February.

Renee will pass along to the teachers that the PTA is looking for ideas for ways to spend money for Cobbles, including guest speakers. Gina will pass along a Wish List template document.

Another request was made for pictures from any and everyone for yearbook pictures. Patience will send Renee a link for that.

BOE Report (Catherine Dean):

Their last board meeting featured a guest speaker who spoke about educational equity and diversity at their last meeting. He was a great speaker and is available for other groups.

They reviewed district priorities and school action plans. K-5 will focus on building community, amplifying parent voices, adult learning through faculty meetings, professional development and book clubs, adoption of diverse text and enhancing classroom libraries.

There was a presentation of UPK information by Mary Sapone – the Penfield goal is for the 2022-23 school year to have full day UPK for 116 students.

No updates from NYS on masking or social distancing, but kids' vaccines may result in changes for schools. Tentative start date for test-to-stay after Thanksgiving – county health dept gave the green light for this. Putman will send an email and update at Tuesdays BOE meeting. Unvaccinated students can come to school even if in quarantine and if they test negative they can stay, every day test for 7 days.

Reviewed emergency response plans

Dec. 14th – vote at PHS gym re: transportation project

Principal's Report (Mrs. McNair):

Thank you for parent participation during conferences. Parents with students in grades 3-5 got NYS test scores in the mail. This data is not going to be emphasized by teachers because of Covid. Please reach out to teachers with questions.

Had a car parade for 50 veterans to celebrate Veteran's Day, sponsored by Caring Council student group.

Information will be sent out to parents hosted by Indian Landing "Rethinking Thanksgiving" – presentation by a local expert from Ganondagon on 11/22. Link information coming in email.

Cold weather is coming – a reminder that the kids go outside while it is cold, please send in weather appropriate clothes for recess.

Will have an in-person winter concert on 12/7. Performances will be staggered and parents will receive information as it approaches.

A Happy Thanksgiving to all, she is grateful for all of the support here at Cobbles.

A question was raised about talking in cafeteria and recess being taken away. Mrs. McNair will look into this as recess being taken away is usually only to punish behavioral issues.

A question was raised about parents being able to be notified about clusters of Covid in classrooms. Per Mrs. McNair, the district does not allow information about who has Covid to be passed along because of some negative repercussions for students last year who contracted Covid.

-NOTE: Catherine Dean (BOE member) recommends anyone who has questions or feels strongly to reach out to Dr. Putnam who would be happy to discuss this. The new test-to-stay policy should also help reduce the number of healthy kids being quarantined.

LOTE (Fiona Stauffer): Languages Other Than English. This program hasn't run in full in person since 2019 because of Covid. Prior to that it is very popular with the kids. The Chair works with the head of the language dept at PHS to connect high school students with Cobbles kids to teach them foreign languages. The program runs for 4 weeks, once a week, in April. Hopefully will expand to all Penfield elementary schools this year because of how successful it has been at Cobbles. Fiona can't chair this year so we are looking for someone to take over.

PAB meeting(Robyn): Dr. Putnam wants to gather a group to show appreciation to buildings & grounds, bus drivers and food service. They work hard behind the scenes and he wants to show our appreciation. Robyn will organize this for Cobbles. Mrs. Yandow pointed out how under supported TA's are – they are shuffled all over.

Have 10 free pizzas from Cam's in Penfield. Need to think of how we want to use them – an event for kids, teacher appreciation lunch, etc.

President's Notes (Gina & Robyn)

Need ideas on how to spend money from everyone. Hopefully the reality of what we can do for events can open up a bit in the spring as kids are more vaccinated and the weather is warmer.

We think we have an assistant treasurer to take over for Ari next year.

Robyn will need a co-president next year.

PTA Sent bagels on last conference day to the teachers as a thank you, and extras were sent over to transportation.

Meeting adjourned at 7:52pm. There is no meeting in December.