

Hall School PTO Meeting

November 15, 2016 - 6:30-7:30pm

1. Welcome and Introductions

2. Approval of draft minutes from October Meeting

- Available for review at meeting and online

3. Hall Updates from Dawn

New Parent Leadership Group

- Talking about how to unify the MR and neighborhood programs as a staff
- what are the things they do as two separate groups, what is common?
- Staff would like to see more unity
- big turnover in MR staff in recent years
- Evolution of instruction – core values not as distinctly different as they once were
- Conversation has been happening internally, at MR meetings, and now with PTO
- Creating Community Parent Leadership group and two parents from MR to be the facilitators of conversation to provide input in a more formal way; would like PTO Exec Comm. To nominate two parents to be representatives
- Currently, 75-80% of MR students are neighborhood kids, so want to capitalize on that community
- New school will be built for 500-550 kids, with smaller “Houses” within; hypothetically could have 3 houses, and they could have looping, multi-age (differ by house) or that they all do looping, but split out 5th grade with a math/science teachers to prep them for middle school, etc.
 - Lots of options to think about as we plan for the new school

Policy Re: Parents in Building During School Day

- Last year instituted the sign in/badge wearing procedure to be sure we know who is in the building at all times
 - Went quite well, has become practice
- This year, focus in on preventing interruptions to learning time throughout the day
 - Asking parents to not come into the classroom unannounced to discuss student issues during the school day
 - Inhibits quality of interaction/discussion parents and teachers can have, can make students self conscious about being discussed in front of their peers, is disruptive

- Administration would like to hear from/discuss any concerns parents have, so everyone can feel good about it

4. Recent Events

- Bingo Night – meant to be a community event, but also ended up being somewhat of a fundraiser. Easy, fun event and would like to do another, maybe in Spring. Looking for leadership in the community to head it up. Very easy to pull off, and have all the supplies. Lots of prizes, great donations, lots of winners. Very successful overall.

5. Upcoming Events

- Book Fair - November 21st/22nd
 - Book Fair arriving Thursday, Friday morning is teacher preview
 - Kristin asked teachers to please fill out wish lists – would like to be able to provide some of their books rather than scholastic bucks
 - Have created coupons for teachers to distribute to children in need that they know would otherwise not be able to get one, will be rung up as Scholastic bucks
 - Still in need of volunteers to work the book fair – lots of time available on Monday
 - We will post a list of needed times on the Facebook page, some parents have had trouble getting into the site to sign up
 - Carolyn asked if there are plates/cups etc to offer for teacher preview. Panera is not able to donate any pastries/baked goods for Friday. Call in to Holy Donut, but they aren't sure how much they will have leftover for product, so looking for volunteers to bake items if possible
- Science Night - December 2nd
 - 22 events planned, but that may be too much
 - Susan Hillman back again, so it will be different from past years since she did it 3 years ago, but not since
 - Very cool things
 - Sign up genius ready to go, just trying to get Book Fair staffed first – waiting to get list of how many people needed before we can ask for volunteers. Will put out a call early next week.
 - Not sure about food, typically someone bakes, but Audrey may be working on dessert or something since they are her students.
 - Dec. 2nd, 6-7:30. Start set up at 5:15, as soon as rec clears out enough to get room.

6. Teacher Treats during first conference day?

- Not needed since there is going to be an event Friday, and since there is going to be a turkey meal as well Monday. Plus, with 5th grade bake sale, we don't want to cut into profits.

7. Spirit Wear

- Flyer in teacher mailboxes hopefully before conferences
- If teachers have 30% participation in their classes, they get a free garment
- 20% of cost goes to Hall
- There are other options/colors available on the website – and there are more items available than on the flyer
- Flyer due by Dec 15th, but if you get it in by Nov 28th, the items will be shipped before Winter break
- Teachers can direct parents to the PTO website or Caitlin with any questions
- The items on the flyer are based on the feedback from parents as to what they were most interested in for items
- Other items like pants, totes, coffee mugs are available through the website
- Doesn't matter how the items are ordered, we still get the 20%
- Shipping is free, and can be shipped to their home (if they order online) or to the teacher/class if ordered by form
- Caitlin to type up note with details to go with flyers

8. Direct Appeal

- Laura and Charlie Chandler to work on drafting the letter, will look for feedback
- Plan to send out after holiday, but before Winter Break/end of year

9. Gelato Fiasco

- They have been contacted, lots of dates open, maybe looking at first week in April. Need to have at least 50 people, and if you have 50 people go, 100% of what they bought goes to Hall. They need to have a flyer.
- Avoid April vacation as a lot of people are traveling.
- Get the word out to people who work downtown to drum up participation
- Fore St. location

9. Movie Night

- Has been talked about many times
- A friend of Melissa's at another school has done it, and provided her with a very straightforward list of what needs to be done
- Biggest cost is licensing fee to show movie – so long as it's not a Disney movie, that usually works out to about \$150
- Need to have someone who is interested in heading it up, so we will continue to mention it to see if anyone would like to take the reins.
- Have had parents express interest in helping as well as people indicating they were interested on volunteer forms

- Could have people bring a sleeping bag or blanket to sit on the floor
- Could be free admission and do pizza or food for sale, or a “suggested donation”
- We already have the projectors available, just need volunteers

10. Winterfest - Brainstorm ideas

- Need to have cake walk, bounce house and games– has always been a part of things
- Would like to have outside events like cocoa and maybe sledding
- Small outside event
- Rather than selling our own food, would like to call around for some food trucks to come. Some may do as a fundraiser (Katie mentioned Locally Sauced)
- This is a fundraiser, and we make about \$3,000 typically so need to consider changes in that context. Also planning on \$1,200 cost, so if we shift to less spending on food, we can bring in less
- Basket raffles bring in a good amount of funds – each class is assigned a theme basket and parents can send in items for their own theme or another class
 - Maybe this year we can do away with individual themes per class
 - But maybe room parents can settle on theme and coordinate the process
 - Could set up a Google doc so they can see what other classes are doing, and not end up with too many duplicates
 - Only have one parent currently willing to head it up, but they don’t want to do it alone
 - Other parents have offered to help via the forms, but haven’t been reached out to/contacted yet
 - First meeting is coming up
- Teacher raffle is also very popular – Julie Lanthecomb and Beth Becker head that up (ed techs)
- What about moving some of the cake walk outside? Could name it something like “igloo walk” just to draw some kids out and break it up since it’s always so packed and there’s always a wait to do it
- Other feedback – popcorn was good, hula hooping and yoga events were good, glow party not great – don’t repeat, honey tasting, face painting. Soccer skills didn’t work well with that much space and the crowd – no need to replace. Just gives more space.

11. Other

- Update on swimming – pilot with current 2nd graders, begin Dec 1st, run through early Jan, leave at 10am for 10:30 swim time, back by quarter of twelve by latest
 - Would like to combine 2nd graders from MR with one of the neighborhood programs when they go
 - Funding from PTO is \$1,500, total cost is \$2,000 plus bussing, and it can come from activity fund and bus fund (district level)
 - However, they do not have a male teacher/staff member who can supervise the boys’ locker room – is there a parent who could volunteer, or the other option is to have a female staff member supervise

- Laura to ask if there are any MR dads are able to volunteer
- 6 week programs, parents will have to sign permission form
- Any concern about swimsuits/swim caps?
 - Swim caps are a \$1, donations for swimsuits appreciated