

Hillside Elementary School

PTO BOARD MEETING

Minutes

Date April 30, 2019

Time 8:00pm

Virtually via Slack

Meeting called by	Kathleen Thomas
Type of meeting	PTO Board Meeting
Facilitator	Kathleen Thomas
Meeting Minutes by	Colleen Decker
Attendees	Emily Phelan, Kathleen Thomas, Kate Miller, Kate Kilgarriff, Krishna Patel, Laura Dimery, Natalie Hoffmann, Tracy Johnson, Colleen Decker, Maureen Sweet, Tracy Fauls, Holly Tomlinson,

Agenda Topics

Call to Order/Welcome

Discussion	Attendees have reviewed the agenda
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President's Report

Kathleen Thomas

Discussion	
<p>Kindergarten orientation: May 23rd</p> <p>Open positions will be published in highlights and a flyer will be passed out during Kindergarten orientation. Please confirm open positions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Membership and School services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Communications (website and Facebook) b. School store coordinator c. School store supplies • Fundraising <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Friends of Hillside b. Parent social c. Spring fair • Social Functions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Fall coffees b. Talent show • Cultural Arts: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Theme week <p>Updates from Liaisons to outside organizations:</p> <p>Keystone Exams Legislation Update (effective immediately)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current 10th, 11th, and 12th graders no longer need a proficiency score on all three exams to graduate; however, these students are still required to take all three exams to meet Federal accountability standards. • A proficiency score on all three exams is a graduation requirement for the Class of 2022 (current 9th grade) and beyond. • New legislation establishes four pathways to demonstrate Keystone Proficiency, which should eliminate the 	

remediation/re-testing loop in which some students were caught.

School Start Times – Reviewed survey results and answered questions

- The School Board approved the proposed new school start times on 4/22/19; these will go into effect for the 2019-2020 school year.
- Expect some additional busing hiccups as the Transportation Department will be “starting from scratch” with the routing and will be using new routing software.
- The District hopes to present the new “teacher day” to teachers and staff by the end of next week (approx.5/3).
- The District continues to coordinate with A Child’s Place (ACP) – an independent company that rents space from the District to provide before and after-care along with kindergarten enrichment – in an effort to accommodate the anticipated increase in before and after-care needs.

NEES – Every year parents and students assemble and deliver lunches for Cecil and Grace Bean’s Soup Kitchen in Norristown as a service project on MKL day. The project is fully funded and staffed by parents. This year, they delivered 1,000 lunches and had excess funds to also make a monetary gift.

TEMS – The TEMS TV Production program is staffed by two teachers and 40 students (grades 6-8) who work in teams of 12 to present and produce the daily morning announcements.

Social Functions

Tracy Johnson

Discussion

Boys Social 2020: Jacqueline Cosgrove has sent surveys home via bookbags and the highlights. The survey isn’t complete but here are the mid results.

Through April 24th, we have 83 respondents and we have results that are statistically differentiated enough to declare our findings. Since I am keeping the poll open into the beginning of May, we will refrain from calling the results final and will provide an update once the poll closes.

Boys Special Someone Social Survey

- 83 total respondents
- 88% have said they are interested in participating in a boy’s event
- 36% would prefer a Phillie Phanatic Game or 76ers Game, the next closest choice came from Gym activities at 27%
- 50% have no preference for which month the event is held
- 60% have no preference for where the event is held

We collect 15 individuals (18% of respondents) who are interested in assisting with the planning for the event.

4th Grade Celebration: Glenhardie on 6/7 with a rain date of 6/11. Planning going well. The committee is in place, the invitations have been sent home.

Teacher Appreciation Week: May 6 - 10. The special days will be:

- Flowers for teachers
- Treats in the office

- Luncheon
- Cake
- Gift Card Raffle

Vice President of Cultural Arts

Natalie Hoffmann, Maureen Sweet, Holly Tomlinson

Discussion	Natalie presented her report
Per Diane's note, I have momentarily pressed pause on confirming additional bookings pending information about the daily (i.e. lunch) schedule for next year. My only update is that Maureen has confirmed Walnut Street Theater as our partner for theme week this year. We continue to look for a third all school assembly and welcome suggestions	

Treasurer

Emily Phelan & Steve Rayme

Discussion	
Krishna has pricing for the items teachers requested as our PTO school gift. Kathleen did not post them with this agenda given we haven't gone through the budget. Kathleen proposed that once we have that info we can vote on the gift sometime later this month or the June mtg. This was approved by all members.	

Vice President of Fundraising

Kate Kilgarriff, Laura Dimery, Krishna Patel

Discussion	Kate presented her report	
Plant sale order forms are due back this week		
Fundraising Event	2019-2020 Dates	Comments
Staples Kidz Back to School	May-June 2020	
Kidstuff Coupon Books	September 3,2019	Connie Lai/Maureen Sweet co-chair
Book Fair Fall	12/9/19 -12/13/2019	Add 4 th Gr Chorus Event Add potential gift wrapping
Fun Run	10/16/19-10/25/2019	
Friends Of Hillside	ongoing	
Art to Remember	Feb-March	
Book Fair Spring		
Plant Sale	April/May 2020	
Handel's Day	May 2020	
Spring Fair	June 5, 2020	
Mabel's Labels	ongoing	
Amazon	ongoing	
Spirit Wear	Fall Sale, Spring Sale	
Box Tops for Education	ongoing	
Parent Social		Only if chairperson identified to coordinate activity

Discussion	
	Yearbook: Carolyn Noll is always looking for more pictures. Please forward to her or Laura Mills any pics you have- cgrugan77@yahoo.com , Laura368@aol.com .

New Business

Discussion	<p><u>Vote 2019-2020 PTO Programming</u> There were 57 total responses. Summary of feedback:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Theme week: Would love to see all theme week “themes” offer a performance opportunity for the 4th graders. These rotations are NOT all equal. The art week my daughter got for her 4th grade year was nowhere near the experience of dance or circus. • Fundraising: general comments were to eliminate some of the smaller fundraising opportunities (example: coupon books). • Spirit wear: one comment noting they would prefer a more affordable spirit wear option • Fun run: one comment noting the fun run seemed very high pressure and stressful with the kids wanting to achieve the prizes. • Membership and School Services: interest in robotics and sports clubs after school. One comment mentioning the cost of clubs are high. • Social Functions: divided comments between people liking the sweetheart dance/boy’s activity night and not liking the gender specific activities. <p>The group discussed this feedback and voted to continue with scheduled programming for the 2019/2020 school year.</p> <p><u>Social Functions:</u> The Cultural Arts group refrained from voting, stating: “With all due respect, CA is a no vote on the social agenda as long as there are gender exclusive events included. We would like to see PTO move in the direction of events that include all students in order to maximize our fundraising for each event and, most importantly, to model for our kids an environment where everyone is welcome regardless of their gender, background, etc.</p> <p>That said, we want to be team players and will vigorously support the other social programs.”</p> <p>The remainder of the group approved moving forward, and as stated by Kate K: “The social programming was approved by 85% of those who completed the survey. I feel that is supportive of our current programming from a majority of parents.”</p> <p>Kathleen commented: “There were some general public comments around this topic as well. Given the district is working on diversity, I'd like to take a back seat to them making school wide changes”</p> <p><u>Regarding Fundraising:</u> Per the feedback, we discussed eliminating smaller fundraising events and focusing on the larger more profitable ones. Emily commented: “I think that we need to just be careful about eliminating smaller options that help to fill the gap”. There was general agreement about this, so Kathleen noted: “I think we should plan to go forward with what we have and eliminate as we see fit over the next few months. Sound good?” All were in agreement.</p> <p>Community engagement committee proposal presented by Kathleen Thomas</p>
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Engaging the entire organization in our 2019-2020 programming vote was met with much positivity. Some responses included ideas for clubs, fundraising and social events. I'd like to ask for 3 representatives from the community at large to form a committee (September 2019-May 2020). PTO members were in agreement that this is a great idea. Tracy Fauls recommended that there be a representative from each grade. Ideally the members would not be part of the board and not hand selected. They would report back to the PTO board monthly. Maureen suggested that we search for volunteers at Back to School Night.

Buddy Program presented by Natalie Hoffman:

In Fall 2019, I propose bringing a new parent committee to Hillside that pairs families that are new to Hillside with "buddy" families. The program was originally developed by former Hillside parent, Jen Marsala, and has had excellent success fostering smooth transitions for new families at VFMS and Conestoga.

Jen has generously offered to give us the necessary forms and materials now in use at Conestoga so preparations could begin this year to launch next Fall with no budget needed now or in the future. I would serve as our coordinator for next year with the objective of launching the project and developing the protocols so that someone else could easily continue the program in the future.

As a first step, Hillside parents interested in serving as buddies would fill out a questionnaire with information about themselves and their family (how many kids, their schools and ages, languages spoken, activities of interest). This process could begin in the final months of this school year and also continue through playground playdates and other orientation events in the summer and early school days. Interested Hillside parents could sign up to be buddies at any time as the committee list can be updated frequently.

The administration and office staff, primarily Beata, would have a role in the program, and they have graciously agreed to include information about the program, if approved, in materials given to new families. Upon receiving the information, new families will have the option of returning the Hillside Buddy Program questionnaire and, then, of being paired with an buddy. The program is completely opt-in and, after the initial outreach, new families are only contacted if they express a desire to participate.

Based on the answers provided, a new parent would be assigned to a Hillside buddy. Those individuals would then be free to develop their relationship as they see fit. The goal would be to connect parents with one or more overlapping questionnaire responses. In schools, like Conestoga, where the parent committee is robust, new families can often be matched with buddies who have multiple overlapping answers. Each buddy would be assigned one new family before any buddy would be asked to serve twice.

PTO members liked this idea. Concern arose about how to catch all new families. Krishna replied: "we can always pick out new students from the list of the raw directory data we get from district". Natalie added that Beata was willing to help and very supportive. Kathleen will bring forth this proposal to Michele Staves.

Adjournment

Discussion	The meeting was adjourned at 8:40pm Next meeting: Friday June 7, 2019 at 9am
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