

Hanson PTO Meeting Minutes

Thursday, September 14, 2023

7:00 PM

Indian Head Library



✚ Approval of May 2023 Meeting Minutes

- Alison D. motioned to approve
- Tina A. seconded

✚ Board's Welcome & Business

- CORI reminder – see Lyndsay or Ms. Costa in the office
- K t-shirt order forms – due by September 22nd - PTO will send out a reminder
- K teachers have been given packets for each child who was unable to attend the Kindergarten social. Book for newly enrolled students too. – all have been dispersed
- Outdoor classroom plans discussion – we can get the plans at the Whitman town hall.
- Fun Run: processing fee and platform fee (see last pages of agenda) – discussed the two options in the September agenda. The PTO voted to stay at the 4% processing fee.

✚ Principals' Update

- Some PTO Board members spoke at a teacher staff meeting and the teachers found it very beneficial.
- Update that Mrs. Phinney (grade 2) is pursuing ASAA certification. She attends PTO meetings to get a sense of the PTO.
- Paraprofessionals for K are in place.
- This year's school theme is "You Matter" to promote belonging and self worth.
- Completed baseline assessments of students in math and literacy. They will then identify resources and Powerblocks (now called WIN – What I Need). Every child is grouped in homogenous group 4 days a week for 35 minutes. There is a challenge finding space for WIN. It will start the week of October 10 and go through December 11.
- Breakfast and lunch are free. Paraprofessionals help the kids who eat breakfast in the cafeteria.
- There is a new interventionist and new paraprofessionals. They do smaller groups for kids most in need. They work on one skill for 6 weeks. For higher proficiency kids, they work in groups of 10-15 on projects. There are no kindergarteners in WIN.
- Parents asked what it means in iReady in terms of the score. Dr. Jocelyn suggested to call the teacher, because scores can change quickly and are not always reflective of actual skill.

✚ Treasurer's Report: Balance Update and Outstanding Obligations

See report

Alison noted that spending is planned for an outdoor classroom and teacher requests. June 2023 financials will be posted to the PTO website. Also the Raise Craze fundraiser ended last May. \$19,000 was raised and expenses were \$1600.

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+ Voting Requests (\$9,472.28) – PASSED

- Deposit for Fun Run - \$2000
- PTO purchase of students' Fun Run tshirts - \$2800
- Supplies for Hanson Day PTO table – \$400
- Shelves for PTO storage room - \$400
- Monster Mash Dance - \$2,000
- 1st grade field trip to Soule Homestead Farm, buses - \$1572.28
- School supplies for school store - \$300

+ Upcoming Events / Fundraisers

- Hanson Day (Tina Arsenault) – September 16th 11-2. Trifold, flyers, candy, coloring pages. Sign Up Genius to volunteer at table. This was changed to September 23 due to rain.
- K shirt distribution
- Book Fair (Chairperson: Andrea Cipolla) – the week of October 23-27. Volunteers will be needed.
- Monster Mash Dance (Chairperson needed) – possible date October 20 or 27. Lasts 1.5 hours. Advance registration via Google Form. We agreed on October 20th. Discussed how the Book Fair will be set up in the library on that day so we cannot use the library for quiet space during the dance. Discussed maybe using the hallway or area need office. We need a Chair for the Monster Mash and a committee of volunteers. Discussed the bubble barge and DJ and maybe using outside blacktop space. We will need a plan for the October PTO meeting.
- Fun Run – kick off October 27th. Fun Run event on November 7th. Fundraising goal is for an outdoor classroom. Apple Pay will be a new feature. Parents can watch outside.
- School store – starts October. Erica mentioned she will need volunteers and she will post to the PTO Facebook page. For grades 1-4, 3 weeks each month. Kids will come in the morning and can spend \$1. Volunteers will need a CORI on file. Sign Up Genius will list the times, grade and teacher.

+ School Committee Rep Update (Maria Robbins)

- The superintendent is looking to adding unified sports to the middle school.
- The Whitman middle school repair would cost \$60 million and a new school would be \$79-80 million.
- The high school student advisory committee is next month.
- There will be a dedicated path made at Conley for two parent volunteers to honor them.
- Some discussion at the meeting about bus stops.
- Indian Head has about 20 kids per class.
- The English learner population in the district is growing.
- Internet hardware will be replaced across the district.

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+ Future Events/Fundraisers (to be discussed at future meetings)

- Holiday shop
- Polar Plunge – discussed if we need to do the Polar Plunge. Depends if the PTO needs to raise funds and the cost of the outdoor classroom.

+ Chairperson/Committee/Volunteer Opportunities

- School Committee Rep – Maria Robbins
- School Store Coordinator - Erica Burke and volunteers: grade 1-4 once per month, 2 days per week
- Monster Mash Chairperson and committee – will need soon
- Book Fair volunteers – will need soon
- Holiday Shop Chairperson and volunteers
- Polar Plunge Committee and volunteers
- Sweetheart Dance Chairperson and volunteers
- Teacher Appreciation week volunteers
- Box Tops leader
- Various other volunteer opportunities at events and fundraisers throughout the year

+ Events/Other Business

+ Open Discussion/Questions

- A question was asked if 2nd graders will have a field trip. Dr. Jocelyn encourages teachers if they can but teachers plan that. Should not be an expectation. A program could also be brought in.
- A question was asked if parents can help in kindergarten classrooms. Dr. Jocelyn advised to ask the teacher.
- A question was asked about the school budget. Explained that the PTO is separate from the school budget and is funded solely by fundraisers. Technology spending comes from the town budget not the PTO.
- A question was asked about what kind of technology the kids use. They use ChromeBooks, promethium board, iReady, etc.
- A question was asked about cursive writing. 3rd and 4th grade do cursive.
- A question was asked about how much freedom the school has on curriculum. Dr. Jocelyn said they have to follow common core standards. The school has a curriculum coordinator to meet state standards.
- A question was asked about if parents can volunteer in the classroom. In the past, there were some confidentiality issues. The school does showcases instead so parents can come into the school.
- A question was asked if we can take ideas about what other PTOs do. Yes we can.