

Hanson PTO Meeting Minutes

Thursday, December 14, 2023

7:00 PM

Indian Head Library



+ Approval of November 2023 Meeting Minutes

- Amy A. motioned to approve
- Meghan M. seconded

+ Board's Welcome & Business

- Outdoor classroom plans update – waiting on the architect's plans
- Update on School Council – PTO Board is working with Dr. Jocelyn on names
- Voting request tonight on next Fun Run for Fall 2024. Castle Quest is the theme. Kick off would be 10/11/24 and event would be 10/23/24. Voting item tonight on deposit.
- New Box Tops Coordinator – Kristin Ernest
- \$1,000 donation and fundraiser from Bob Bethoney's Uechi-Ryu Academy Karate – generously donated to PTO by Bob Bethoney in response to the karate promotion
- Scholastic wish list items were delivered to teachers/paras/specialists – also we have enough Scholastic dollars still to pay for One School One Book
- Vice President Beth Devine had her baby!

+ Principals' Update

- Dr. Jocelyn noted there have been a lot of illnesses in the kids
- The school is reminding students to wash their hands and they are cleaning all surfaces
- The school year will wrap up with Spirit Week. Also, kindergarten has their concert tomorrow and 1st and 3rd grades will have theirs next week.
- WIN is ending and they did assessments. WIN will start again in the new year. WIN is only in one subject and is 4 times per week. Helps the kids concentrate on that one subject.
- Noted the 2nd grade field trip, where the students visited the fire department, police department, town hall and met with a veteran who does veterans services.
- The mentor program started last week. Dr. Jocelyn made another call to staff to help out. The mentors meet once a week. It's for kids who will benefit the most from having an adult mentor.
- Starting a reading academy. Made up of 70 students who meet before school three times a week for eight weeks. Helps with reading skills.
- Noted spring parent/teacher conferences will happen.

+ Treasurer's Report: Balance Update and Outstanding Obligations

See report

+ Post Event Review

- Hanson Holiday Fest (Tina Arsenault and Melissa Valachovic) was December 2nd – good turn out and all the craft kits were given out
- Toy Box store promotion was Cyber Monday, November 27 (Kristin Ernest) – raised \$175 for the PTO from this fundraiser

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- Holiday gift card fundraiser (Alison Dillon) – there was not much interest. 6-7 families participated and raised about \$50 for the PTO.

+ Upcoming Events / Fundraisers – voting requests to follow

- Holiday Shop (Elizabeth McKinnon) – week of December 11th - ongoing and is going well. Will likely make money off this event given volume of sales.
- Polar Plunge (Alison Dillon) – February 4th – Alison attended the recreation committee meeting. The event will be at the Cove and the after party will be at the Lodge. New work was done at the Cove. The dj will be the same. Because the after party was well attended last year, we will spend more this year on food. We can also waive the \$35 fee for any teachers who want to sign up to plunge.
- Sweetheart Dance – looking to form Committee. The PTO will post a Sign Up Genius to form a committee via Facebook. Amy A. and Meghan M. have supplies and feedback on Google forms as well.

+ Voting Requests (\$2,801.99) – ALL PASSED

- Grade 2 Polar Express Day – hot chocolate, bells and tickets - \$223.93
- Rose Catrone/Ms. Faraday (Grade 4) – whiteboard easel for teaching small groups of up to 8 kids - \$59.90
- Mrs. Travers (librarian) – “Center Time” library interactive items (puzzles, trivia game, Battleship game, Pictionary, Checkers, Chess, headphones, MagnaTiles) - \$506.16
- Fun Run Fall 2024 – deposit \$2,000
- Annual expense to forward PTO Yahoo emails to Gmail/document storage (and storage of Google docs, etc.) - \$12 (discussed how we want to phase into using Gmail for better use of folders and storing shared documents)

+ School Committee Rep Update – Maria Robbins

- Committee met last week.
- Presentations made by Duval 4th graders and Hanson Middle school kids.
- Noted a student council survey.
- There is a new SRO in Whitman.
- Voted on new behavior norms for the school committee.
- Did an MCAS data review.
- Noted an audit might be coming.
- Noted a balanced budget for FY23, with some excess funds.
- Noted the District wants to work with Reeds Collaborative for special education students.

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

- Polar Plunge – February 4th – Alison will need volunteers. She also needs help with getting business sponsors. She will post to Facebook and then do a Sign Up Genius for parking as it gets closer.
- Sweetheart Dance
- Cyber Sense presentation on safe internet practices for kids
- Book Fair (Andrea Cipolla) –week of May 20th

+ Chairperson/Committee/Volunteer Opportunities

- School Store Coordinator Erica Burke and volunteers
- Polar Plunge Committee and volunteers
- Sweetheart Dance Chairperson and volunteers
- Book Fair volunteers
- Teacher Appreciation week volunteers
- Box Tops leader Kristin Ernest
- Various other volunteer opportunities at events and fundraisers throughout the year

+ Events/Other Business

+ Open Discussion/Questions

- There was a question if we can get box fans for the cafeteria for the warmer months. Amy Alison mentioned how hot kids can get and there is little air circulation in the cafeteria. Dr. Jocelyn will ask Facilities if they have any ideas on using industrial size ones, as well as the fire department.
- A question was asked if we can space out parent volunteer sign ups more for School Store. Suggestion was made to only allow sign ups for half the year, then open it up again. The same parents tend to sign up for spots all year which doesn't allow other parents to volunteer. Thought if we only allow a half year at a time, then it might allow more opportunity. The PTO can talk to Erica about doing this for Fall 2024. Also, if she gets cancellations, can she post them on Facebook?

+ Next meeting: 12/14 @ 7pm Indian Head Library

+ Monthly meetings for 2023/2024 school year – 9/14, 10/12, 11/9, 12/14, 1/11, 2/8, 3/14, 4/4 & 5/9