

*****Chippewa PTO Meeting*****

Thursday, January 18, 2018 - 6 PM

Dial in: (712) 451-0277 / Access code: 900353

1. Call to Order – Loula Merkel, PTO President
2. Principal's Report – Mrs. Vissering
 - The school's Facebook page is up and running. It will be a good communication tool.
 - The school is looking for kid-friendly movies that parents would like to donate to their DVD library. They are working on building their stock pile of movies for inside recess days. DVD or Blu-Ray format.
 - The school is having parking issues in the horseshoe driveway. During a.m. and p.m. pick-up there should be no parking in the driveway. All parent drop-offs should be on 8th Avenue.
 - Access testing will be starting soon for English Language Learners.
 - PARCC testing will be coming up in March and April around spring break. The test will be split up around the break. Three tests on either side of the break.
 - This quarter students can now sit with whoever they choose during lunchtime, but they must stay in the seat they choose for that quarter. Assigned lunch seating at the beginning of the year seemed to work out well. It took off pressure of where they would sit and kids all felt that they belonged. Eased it out as appropriate. Will probably do the same thing next year.
 - February conferences coming up. They are not mandatory and are by parent or teacher request.

3. President's Report

Mission is to encourage a positive educational and social environment for our children. We will do that by increasing parental participation and enhancing educational experiences through the PTO

Parental participation is a key priority. We welcome everyone's input and involvement. We collectively vow to honestly and humbly solicit feedback on our activities and to provide input respectfully to each other, remembering that our biggest teaching opportunity for our children is our interactions with each other.

- a. PTO Treasurer: We still need someone to volunteer as Treasurer for next year, ideally to begin shadowing James in the spring. This would ideally be a two-year commitment. Tracy will send an e-mail out to all PTO members asking if anyone might be interested.
- b. D62 Strategic Planning committee:
 - i. Christy Cangelosi and Loula Merkel will serve as alternate parent representatives on the D62 Strategic Planning committee.
 - ii. First meeting is Jan. 30. Christy will be attending that meeting and will provide an update at the next PTO meeting.

- iii. The district will be holding separate meetings for parents who might be interested in providing feedback. More info to come. (See Jennifer Bova's email from January 11).
 - iv. There will be an informational meeting on March 13 to discuss the strategic plan (What is our focus and goal for the district in the next several years?) More info will be coming.
4. VP Report- Fundraising- Sue Duffy & Peg Martin
 - Selling World's Finest Chocolate this spring. Thinking about starting the sale the beginning of March. The sale would last two weeks and would be done before spring break. Could sell during the March 8 poetry slam event. One box of 60 bars for \$60, \$1.00 a bar (\$30.00 profit). Boxes would be purchased up front. Because boxes are expensive, there is the thought of families going in on a box together or breaking them up into mini-kits.
5. Spirit Wear – Kari Schacke
 - Thinking about when to begin selling spring spirit wear. Discussion about waiting until after the spring fundraiser and after spring break before selling spirit wear. On March 14 there is a "March Mathness" event. Discussion about pre-purchasing shirts for the event. Maybe give some away as door prizes? Also, could pre-purchase shirts in various sizes and have them available for purchase at the event. Might sell if they are there and in front of people. Look into the ability for people to purchase with a credit card.
 - Stacey Weinert will take over next year; shadowing Kari this spring.
6. Treasurer's Report- James Jones
 - 2017/18 Progress on budget – nothing new to report.
 - Paid out some vouchers last month. All invoices are paid off.
7. Secretary- Tracy Sommerfeldt
 - Nothing new to report
8. Cultural Arts – Kelly Fitzgerald (with Christy Cangelosi and Tracy Sommerfeldt shadowing for next year)
 - Kelly and Mr. Swanson are going to meet. Now that we have dates for the PARCC testing, could the assemblies be done right before or after spring break?
9. PBIS Rewards – Kelly Fitzgerald (with Patti Garcia shadowing for next year)
 - Continuing to do the same thing as last year. Gift cards for various places are purchased and they are given to each of the teams. They are being distributed at the end of each quarter.
10. Staff Appreciation – Christy Cangelosi
 - The best day for the St. Patrick's Day staff appreciation event is Tuesday, March 13.
11. Book Fair- Hannah Listopad

- Hannah is still looking at options for a different format for the spring fair. Currently waiting for the Maine West summer reading book list, as well as the Cauldell reading list.
12. Chippewa Cares – Kim Ostrander
- The social workers said they could use a refresher on their supplies. Ms. Vissering will get specifics on what they need and let the committee know so supplies can be restocked.
13. LMC and Yearbook Support – Khaled Benkara
- Khaled is not able to continue in this role going forward. The position for now will be kept open, as a new parent may be able to get involved next school year.
14. Poetry Slam – Jen Beckman and Hannah Listopad
- The confirmed date for the event is Thursday, March 8. Jazz Band confirmed. Ms. Carman is reserving space.
 - Will put a call out for volunteers shortly before the date
 - Will have to find a new date for the March PTO meeting since it falls on the same date. It could be in late February or early March. Loula will check with Patti Fink about reserving the cafeteria.
15. STEM/Science Night – Uzma Sattar and Loula Merkel
- Consider holding off on this until next year. Uzma and Loula reached out to the science teachers and there was a positive response, but this might not be the right time. Proposing that maybe it be deferred until next year. In discussion now to plan for next year.
 - “March Mathness” night, Wednesday, March 14, 6:30-8:30pm, all families invited. Invitation open to the grade schools as well. There will be a pizza dinner, raffle prizes, and a variety of fun math games. Committee is finalizing activities next week. Staff members will be there and NJHS will be there to help as well. Maybe have pies for desert? Loula will talk to Uzma about other prizes.
16. 8th Grade Dance: Patti Garcia and Amy Hoffman
- Loula spoke to Patti; she is on board to do the planning. James will give her a budget. She and Amy will be putting a call out for volunteers and additional support for the dance.
17. Adjournment – Next meeting scheduled all at 6:00pm, Chippewa Cafeteria. Date to be announced soon.

Mar. 8, 2018 – reschedule due to conflict with Poetry Slam
Apr. 19, 2018