

Chippewa PTO Meeting

Thursday, October 11, 2018

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

1. Call to Order – Loula Merkel, PTO President

PTO Executive Board:

Loula Merkel – President

Sue Duffy & Peggy Martin – Vice President

Kari Schacke – Treasurer

Tracy Sommerfeldt – Secretary

Chippewa Staff:

John Swanson – Principal

Juliana Vissering – Vice Principal

2. Mission and priorities: Our mission is to encourage a positive educational and social environment for our children. One of our priorities is to encourage parental participation in Middle School. We welcome your input and ideas.

3. Principal's Report

- The district foundation is giving Chippewa \$750.00 to put on a cultural arts or STEAM/STEM night in conjunction with the PTO. Make a decision by the December meeting on how we want to spend it. Tracy and Christy (Cultural Arts Reps) will discuss with Mr. Swanson before the next PTO meeting.
- Handed out a packet about ESSA (Every Student Succeeds Act). Right now as a school we are underperforming, but we started off behind to begin with. We do receive more Title 1 money from the state as an underperforming school (additional \$15,000). Additional resources and information will be going out to the parents in the coming weeks. A huge component is that now all schools will be graded on attendance. Currently 15-20% of our school consists of chronic absentees (more than 18 days absent). Chippewa is adding bus lines and the resource officer is acting as a truancy officer to help curb this. Absences are counted even if the student is sick or has a doctor's appointment. Administration is discouraging family vacations during the school year. **There will be a parent meeting on Oct. 23rd at Terrace Elementary to discuss ESSA. Please attend if you have any questions, would like more information, or would like to voice concerns.**
- Construction on the traffic circle is done until March. In March word is that IDOT will completely close Wolf Street. Mr. Swanson will follow-up.
- Positive feedback on weekly newsletters – parents are thankful for them!

4. President's Report- Loula Merkel- **Open position starting next school year; replacement needed**

- a. We need parents to fill open positions for next year – President, Treasurer, VP: A good opportunity for 6th grade parents. Ideally you would shadow these positions beginning in

December/January.

- b. Maine 207 forums for referendum vote: The district has been sending out information for the referendum that will be on the ballot on Nov. 6th. The PTO is posting these messages on facebook and forwarding the district's e-mails as well. It is important to learn about the big picture and how the referendum will benefit students in years to come.
5. VP Report- Fundraising- Sue Duffy & Peg Martin
 - a. Fall Sale: Mixed Bags: Still collecting order forms. Deadline is November 2nd.
 - b. Spring fundraiser: World's Finest Chocolates.
 6. Spirit Wear – Stacy Weinert
 - a. Fall Sale report: Student orders were delivered last week. Final numbers are not in yet. Sales seemed to go well, people liked being able to order online. Staff shirts are still coming. Has asked the representative to throw in samples of some of the unique items next time around.
 - b. 8th grade shirt sale: they are in and will be delivered
 - c. No Spring sale
 7. Treasurer's Report- Kari Schacke – **Open position starting next school year; replacement needed**
 - a. New budget was approved via e-mail.
 - b. See separate agenda and financial report (Bank balance for September is \$3105.16)
 8. Secretary- Tracy Sommerfeldt; to be shadowed by Bridgette Jeffries
 - a. Continuing to send out updates about various events via e-mail and facebook. Will send out a reminder about Staff Appreciation on Oct. 17th and yearbook orders.
 9. Cultural Arts – Christy Cangelosi and Tracy Sommerfeldt
 - a. Christy attended a Sept. 12 showcase. Christy and Tracy will be meeting in the coming weeks to discuss. Both will meet with Mr. Swanson to talk about the \$750.00 from the district and get dates on the calendar by December/January.
 10. PBIS Rewards – Patty Garcia
 - a. Gift card rewards: The gift cards and gum are a huge hit! Every week kids are rewarded for good behavior and they can participate in a raffle where they are rewarded with gift cards, a chance to be a DJ, etc.
 11. Staff Appreciation – Christy Cangelosi
 - a. Staff Appreciation Day on Wednesday, Oct. 17th. Need more help with clean-up and set-up. Another Sign-Up Genius will go out in the coming days.
 - b. Principal Appreciation Day on Friday, Oct. 26th. Christy planning to have students sign a banner and hang it in the hallway. Will reach out to teacher representative for help with this.

12. Book Fair- Hannah Listopad

- a. Fall book fair is discontinued.
- b. Spring purchases for summer reading support to be reviewed again in January.
- c. Mr. Swanson said the school is planning a literacy night in February. Either have students in each grade level read a book or there will be one book for the entire school. This would replace the 7th grade poetry slam which was done in the past. Mr. Swanson met with staff and they are considering various ideas. He will keep us posted.

13. Chippewa Cares – Kim Ostrander

- a. Additional supplies needed: Earbuds are always needed over pens, pencils and paper.
- b. The VFW reached out to Chippewa to help provide food to families in need. Staff is filling backpacks full of nonperishable food for families and sending the backpacks home with students. Question asked if PTO could provide casseroles in tupperware containers to send home as well. Mr. Swanson will find out if this is a possibility.
- c. Winter coat donation update: Chippewa will do this again as it was very successful last year. Kim contacted the organization Buttons and Zippers and sent an application in for them to provide us with donated coats. She is waiting to hear back to see if they will have coats in time. People can donate coats, hats and gloves as well. Kim will reach out to NJHS advisors for NJHS help.
- d. Old laptops have been given out to students in need.

14. LMC and Yearbook Support – Loula Merkel

- a. Purchasing gift cards for Reading Challenge and Yearbook Cover Design ContestSupport

15. STEM Night – Uzma Sattar

- a. Money from district may go to fund this.

16. Poetry Slam – Hannah Listopad

- a. May be replaced by Literacy Night in February

17. 8th Grade Dance – to be covered in Jan.

- a. Tracy Sommerfeldt and Christy Cangelosi will meet soon to discuss.

18. Christmas decorations – Tracy Sommerfeldt

- a. Ornament decorating will be Wednesday, Nov. 18th from 3:00-4:00pm in the cafeteria. Tree lighting event will be Friday, Dec. 7th in Metropolitan Square. No theme as of yet. Will try to match ornament to the theme.

19. Questions/Ideas

20. Adjournment: 7:05pm

21. Upcoming Meetings: (all 6-7 PM)

- a. Dec. 6
- b. Jan. 17
- c. Mar. 7
- d. Apr. 25