

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

Thursday, December 14, 2017 - 6 PM

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

1. Call to Order – Loula Merkel, PTO President
2. Comments and Q&A from Dr. Paul Hertel, Acting Superintendent
 - It is Dr. Hertel's 12th year in the district, he is on a retirement contract and will leave in the 2019/2020 school yearSome of the concerns expressed by parents at the meeting:
 - Addressing the new middle school schedule. There are thoughts that science should be taught all year long. Also, with the new ELA curriculum, there does not seem to be as much writing. Looking into possibly doing an A/B schedule where, for example, science would be offered throughout the year but on a Tuesday/Thursday schedule.
 - Substitutes may have a harder time keeping the students occupied for 90 minutes since they are not used to the longer class periods on this new schedule. There is a substitute fair coming up, this will be addressed.
 - Conferences seemed to go well. Some people thought that they went a little fast and that they should be longer. There had been discussion among the staff whether they should be 10 minutes vs. 15 minutes. One thought was to have parents choose if they would like a longer time slot. There was good participation at the conferences. Another option might be to do conferences by phone if the families are out of town or the time slots do not work.
 - Some parents would like to hear more about the curriculum at the Open House.
 - The Strategic Planning Committee has not changed its focus with the change in the superintendent. All plans are still in place to move forward with this as planned.
3. Principal's Report – Mr. Swanson/ Mrs. Vissering
 - January 9th there will be a meeting for 8th grade parents about Maine West.
 - Coat drive over the conferences was really successful, they donated the coats that were not taken.
 - There is a new projection system in the cafeteria, everyone is excited about it. Will be used for all of the meetings hosted at Chippewa and also for indoor recess.
 - The Veteran's Writing Contest had three 7th grade winners.
 - Wrapped up MAP testing before break, PARCC testing will be near spring break.

4. 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.

- Need someone to volunteer as Treasurer next year, ideally to begin shadowing James in the spring.
5. VP Report- Fundraising- Sue Duffy & Peg Martin
 - Spring fundraising opportunities will be discussed at the next meeting.
 6. Spirit Wear – Kari Schacke
 - There will be a spring spirit wear sale, more info to come.
 7. Treasurer’s Report- James Jones
 - a. 2017/18 Progress on budget
 - b. Financial Reports submission complete
 - The taxes have been filed. There is \$6,864.00 in the account after all the bills are paid.
 8. Secretary- Tracy Sommerfeldt
 - Continuing to update the facebook and website pages, sending out e-mails, Sign Up Geniuses, etc.
 9. Cultural Arts – Kelly Fitzgerald (with Christy Cangelosi and Tracy Sommerfeldt shadowing for next year)
 - Loula will follow-up with Kelly regarding the Cultural Arts.
 10. PBIS Rewards – Kelly Fitzgerald (with Patti Garcia shadowing for next year)
 - Loula will follow-up with Kelly regarding the PBIS Rewards.
 11. Staff Appreciation – Christy Cangelosi
 - Winter celebration for the teachers taking place on December 19th. Planning treats from all different holiday traditions. A Sign-Up Genius was sent out asking for help with set-up, clean-up, and bringing treats.
 12. Book Fair- Hannah Listopad
 - The Fall Book Fair was not nearly as successful as in the past; it was difficult to find volunteers and they had to rely on some staff to help out. There were some volunteers who were unsure what to do. Also unhappy with Scholastic because instead of giving books away they gave the school hats, shirts, cups. There are also not a lot of new, good books out. One thought is to maybe look into the summer reading books in the spring and have no fall book fair. Also include the Maine West freshman book list during this sale. There will be more research on what else to do in the future.
 13. Chippewa Cares – Kim Ostrander and Kim Gleeson
 - The coat drive went well. They didn’t get a ton of coats, but enough.
 - The committee will continue to replenish the stock of school supplies in the classrooms as needed.
 14. Christmas Ornaments – Tracy Sommerfeldt and Vanessa Ramirez
 - Tree decorating went well. We had a few Chippewa students help decorate. Great turn out by the community. Maybe next year tie the city’s theme in with the school curriculum in

some way. Also possibly have the students work on the ornaments during their free time at school rather than taking them home.

15. LMC and Yearbook Support – Khaled Benkara
 - Loula will follow up with Khaled.
16. Poetry Slam – Jen Beckman and Hannah Listopad
 - The date is in question. This will be tabled until the next meeting.
17. STEM/Science Night – Uzma Sattar and Loula Merkel
 - This will be tabled until the next meeting.
18. 8th Grade Dance: Patti Garcia and Amy Hoffman
 - This will be discussed at the next meeting.
19. Adjournment – Next Meeting schedule all at 6:00pm, Chippewa Cafeteria
 - a. Jan. 18, 2018
 - b. Mar. 8, 2018
 - c. Apr. 19, 2018