

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

Thursday, September 6, 2018

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

1. Call to Order – Loula Merkel, PTO President

Welcome and Introductions

PTO Executive Board:

Loula Merkel – President
Sue Duffy – Vice President
Peggy Martin – Vice President
Kari Schacke – Treasurer
Tracy Sommerfeldt – Secretary

Chippewa Staff:

John Swanson – Principal
Juliana Vissering – Vice Principal
Molly Van Wees – Volunteer
Coordinator

2. Mission and priorities:

- a. Our mission is to encourage a positive educational and social environment for our children.
- b. Our programs include Cultural Arts assemblies, PBIS rewards, LMC reading incentives, Staff Appreciation events, the 8th grade dance and charitable contributions for our student body. We fund these programs through Fundraisers and Spirit Wear sales.
- c. One of our priorities is to encourage parental participation in Middle School. We welcome your input and ideas and will have time at the end of our meeting to discuss your feedback. One of the ways we do that is providing a forum for communication between parents and Chippewa staff.

3. Principal's Report - Juliana Vissering, Vice Principal

- Start of school year is going very well!
- Rolling out a new PBIS initiative that focuses on being more of a community and being active learners. The three main components are “be safe,” “be respectful” and “be ready to learn.” The behavioral matrixes for these are posted throughout the school. The goal is to keep everything very positive. If students show this behavior they receive tickets and can use the tickets for different rewards such as gift card raffles or to participate in quarterly events (“game show trivia” events).
- Friday weekly updates have started. Starting this week there will be an email with a link to a Weebly website. All past announcements will be archived. You can click on names to send e-mails and a calendar will be posted.
- Chief Camp for incoming 6th graders was very successful, 115 kids (50%) came for the half-day camp. They rotated among five different stations (scavenger hunt, combination locks, Chippewa cares, etc.). Busing was offered from the elementary schools. Please provide us with feedback. We will continue it next year and may offer it on two days to see if more kids are able to come. Might also have it a little later in August so the kids have their schedules ready. If you have any ideas, send them their way. May seek PTO participation next year; might offer Chippewa swag.

- Open House – tried a new format this year. Feedback has been positive so far; looking for ways to improve it. Were the blocks too long? Should the times be extended by a minute or two and go until 8:30pm? Please provide any feedback.
- Cell phone policy – it must be off and out of site. If cell phone goes off, the teacher will ask the student to put it away.
- Would you consider allowing the students to carry backpacks to and from class? No, usually all the kids need are a notebook and a laptop. They have time to grab their supplies for the morning, mid-day and afternoon periods. Backpacks become a tripping hazard in class.
- All students have new Macbook airs this year.
- Assigned seating is in place for lunch right now, kids must sit with their advisory teams. 8th graders can choose where they sit for Fun Fridays if the cafeteria is clean and they have done what they are supposed to. Will gradually release this as the school year goes on.
- In late Sept/early Oct there will be another opportunity for parental involvement in terms of strategic planning for the district over the next five years. The district will be sending out surveys and wanting to know what parents think. An e-mail will be sent describing the next steps in the planning process.
- There is a new act in place for the state of Illinois: ESSA – Every Student Succeeds Act, similar to No Child Left Behind. The schools must prove that what they are spending money on is helping the students academically (looking at consistent growth in MAP and PARCC scores) and will be rated accordingly. A large component of the rating is based on chronic absenteeism. If you are more than 10% absent (17.4 days of school) you are considered chronically absent, regardless of the reason why, and this will affect the school's rating. It is important that parents know that students need to be here every day. One idea is to offer rewards to kids if they only miss a small percentage of school or not at all.

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

- a. My priorities as President this year are to increase parental participation to ensure the continuity of the PTO and to enhance educational experiences with the programs the PTO supports
- b. We want you as parents involved. We will have a lot of turnover in leadership this year, including the president, treasurer, secretary and many of the chair positions (Staff Appreciation, Cultural Arts, Chippewa Cares). Ideally, we'd like to find people to "shadow" as soon as possible to ensure a smooth transition. We also have opportunities to help with LMC and yearbook support.

5. VP Report- Fundraising- Sue Duffy & Peg Martin

- a. Fall Sale: Mixed Bags (baking products, housewares, bags, etc.). All items are delivered directly to parents' homes. If ordered from the catalog the profit is 40%; if online the profit is 50%. Shipping is free if the order is over a certain amount. Catalogs will go home in early October, with the sale ending by the end of that month. Goal is to have all orders sent to peoples' homes by Thanksgiving.
- b. Spring fundraiser: World's Finest Chocolates.

6. Spirit Wear – Stacy Weinert
 - a. Fall Sale: New this year is the ability to purchase spirit wear online. Sale has been extended until Tuesday, Sept. 11 and Staci will pick up order forms from the front office on Wednesday, Sept. 12. So far 77 pieces have been sold online (usually about 118 pieces total are sold in the fall).
 - b. No spring sale this year because it never does very well.
 - c. An 8th grade shirt will be available for purchase soon.

7. Treasurer's Report- Kari Schacke – **Open position starting next school year; replacement needed**
 - a. Finance Committee composition: Kari Schacke, Loula Merkel and Renee Gerstmayer. They met over summer and looked at last year's budget vs. actual spending. Biggest change is new accounting software – Quicken, a small version of Quickbooks. Inexpensive, easy to use, does well when a new treasurer transitions in, prints reports, is synced directly with our bank account.
 - b. 2018/19 Budget review and vote: Budget will be revised so no vote tonight. Would like to show a negative balance of about \$800.00 (should not show a large balance as we are a not-for-profit). Could \$800.00 in funds be cut? Decision made to cut \$500.00 from Cultural Arts and \$300.00 from Chippewa Cares (received school supply donations this year). Kari will revise budget and send to Tracy to send out for approval with meeting minutes.

8. Secretary- Tracy Sommerfeldt
 - a. Membership list and email: Tracy is working on updating the membership list and adding all new e-mails, removing graduates. Seems to have solved the problem of the spam filter when sending e-mails from the PTO gmail account.
 - b. Website and Facebook update: Website was updated to reflect 2018-19 school year. Continue to send Facebook updates.
 - c. Google Drive and Calendar access: Continuing to store documents on the drive and enter calendar items.
 - d. 6th grade parent Bridgette Jeffries would like to be Treasurer next school year and will shadow Tracy.

9. Cultural Arts – Christy Cangelosi and Tracy Sommerfeldt
 - a. Christy will be attending a showcase for school assemblies on Sept. 12 to get ideas for the upcoming year. We will have two performances of the same act due to space limitations in the gym. Are there any suggestions from the teachers? Mrs. Vissering will talk to the team leaders and let Christy and Tracy know. Patti Fink will help with room requests. A liability form will have to be completed.

10. PBIS Rewards – Patty Garcia
 - a. Gift card rewards will be available for the students for large quarterly events. Mrs. Vissering and Patty will discuss.

11. Staff Appreciation – Christy Cangelosi
 - a. Fall events – October is Principal Appreciation month. We will also hold a fall event for teachers. Mrs. Vissering will get back to Christy on some dates that work for the school. Tracy will send out a Sign-Up Genius.

12. Book Fair- Hannah Listopad
 - a. The fall book fair has been discontinued due to how hard it is to find volunteers. Also, kids complained about the selection of books (must sell what Scholastic gives us) and too many non-book items being sent. Currently we have 1800 Scholastic Dollars; asked Molly Van Wees to make a wish list.
 - b. Should we again offer the opportunity for students to buy their required summer reading books like last summer? We partnered with Barnes and Noble and also the feeder schools and made a profit of \$135.00. Even though we didn't make a lot of money, it sends a good message out the students that reading is something that we value. Will revisit.

13. Chippewa Cares – Kim Ostrander
 - a. Update on Backpacks from YMCA: We received donations so there has been no spending on school supplies yet this year.
 - b. Additional supplies needed: Mrs. Vissering will let us know if they need additional supplies and what those needs are.
 - c. Winter coat application: Kim filled out the application. Coats will be donated so it should make the process easier (last year we collected donations from Chippewa families). Coats will be available for parents to pick up during conferences the week of Thanksgiving.

14. LMC and Yearbook Support – Vacancy
 - a. Purchasing gift cards for Reading Challenge and Yearbook Cover Design Contest Support

15. STEM Night – Uzma Sattar
 - a. There is no date set yet. Mrs. Vissering will get back with a date and what they need help with. Funding this year will be different than last year due to the ESSA Act.

16. Poetry Slam – Hannah Listopad
 - a. Hannah will communicate with the teachers to see how the PTO can help.

17. 8th Grade Dance
 - a. Tracy Sommerfeldt and Christy Cangelosi will lead.

18. Questions/Ideas
 - a. A reminder from Molly Van Wees that all volunteers must register online (district required) if they have not already done so. She passed out instruction forms and is available during the day to help get people set up.

19. Adjournment – 7:40pm.

Upcoming Meetings: (all 6-7 PM)

- a. Oct. 11
- b. Dec. 6
- c. Jan. 17

- d. Mar. 7
- e. Apr. 25

THANK YOU FOR COMING!!!!
