

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

Thursday, September 7, 2017

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
James Jones – 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, Book Fairs, 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. Molly Van Wees, the Volunteer Coordinator at Chippewa Middle School said that all volunteers in the school must be registered in an online database. If you were registered in elementary school, it needs to be done again for middle school. If anyone needs help she is available in the library and they can use a school computer and she can walk them through the process.

4. Principal's Report

- There will be e-mails from him about once or twice a month; if there is information you need, please let him or Julianna know. They will try to get any information you need out as soon as possible
- The online Chippewa calendar is being updated to include cross country and other after school activities
- A student survey will be going out soon
- The first quarter ends October 20th.
- Feedback was given about the Open House evening. One suggestion is to have it structured like Maine West High School, where parents go to each classroom like their child does each day, and each teacher gives a 10 minute presentation.
- Discussed the assigned lunch room seating and how the intent is to build a sense of community and small teams. It seems to be working for those 15-20 minutes while they eat. They are free to go out with their friends at recess.

- Mr. Swanson said he is interested in going to a PTO meeting at each of the elementary schools to get the word out about Chippewa Middle School and to answer questions that any parents might have.
 - Substitute teachers and paraprofessionals are needed in the district.
5. President's Report
 - a. My priorities as President this year are to
 - i. increase parental participation to ensure the continuity of the PTO
 - ii. to enhance educational experiences with the programs the PTO supports
 - b. We want you as parents involved – tell us how to keep you coming
 6. VP Report- Fundraising- Sue Duffy & Peg Martin
 - a. Fall Sale – The EPI fall catalog will be going out around Sept. 22nd. It will offer an assortment of things such as kitchen items, holiday gifts, wrapping paper. The sale will end on October 13th, and all items will be delivered to the school on Nov. 17th. The sale brought in about \$1200.00 last year, expecting to make about the same amount.
 7. Spirit Wear – Kari Schacke
 - a. Fall Sale – deadline for the fall spirit wear is Sept. 11th. The orders are due in the office and take about 3-4 weeks to come in.
 - b. There will also be a spring spirit wear sale.
 - c. Happy to have a co-chair if anyone wants to help with this.
 8. Treasurer's Report- James Jones
 - a. 2017/18 Budget review and vote: There was a \$4,000.00 balance at the end of the school year. Looking at new potential activities, want to have some cushion in the budget, but also want to serve the community where needed.
 - b. Backpack drive underway. The idea is to purchase new backpacks and fill them with school supplies for kids in need. The backpacks will go to the office and the social workers will distribute as needed. \$700.00 will be used from the budget for this drive.
 - c. Budget was approved, first motion by Loula Merkel, seconded by Sue Duffy and all approved.
 9. Secretary- Tracy Sommerfeldt
 - a. Membership list and email – updated email list with new members, removed those who no longer wish to receive the updates
 - b. Website and Facebook update – in the process of updating the website, which can be found through the Chippewa website. Will post to Facebook and ask people to “like” the PTO Facebook page in the emails that are sent out, as not everyone knows about the Facebook page.
 10. Cultural Arts – Kelly Fitzgerald
 - a. Kelly will be working with Mr. Swanson to discuss Cultural Arts dates and time. She will update everyone with options once she has them.

11. PBIS Rewards – Kelly Fitzgerald
 - a. Kelly will be meeting with Mr. Swanson to discuss what the teachers want to do with PBIS rewards this year.

12. Staff Appreciation – Christy Cangelosi
 - a. Fall events – there will be a fall themed staff appreciation day on a Tuesday in October. Mr. Swanson said the best dates are 10-3 or 10-17. A sign-up genius e-mail will go out for people to volunteer to bring baked treats as it gets closer.

13. Book Fair- Hannah Listopad
 - a. Fall book fair schedule: Book fair will be held Wed. Nov. 15th, Thur. Nov. 16th, Fri. Nov. 17th during the day, and also Mon. Nov. 20th and Tues. Nov. 21st during parent/teacher conferences. Hannah is looking for volunteers for all different time slots. One person is needed per shift. A sign-up genius e-mail will go out asking for help.
 - b. There will not be a spring book fair this school year.

14. Chippewa Cares – James and Kari
 - a. Update on Backpack drive: About 15 backpacks will be purchased/donated and filled with supplies. Goal is to bring the backpacks to the office the week of Sept. 18th and the social workers will distribute as needed.
 - b. Other ideas for the Chippewa Cares team include a food donation day, filling Rubbermaid containers with needed school supplies in classrooms, a hat/coat drive, and a “clothes share” where parents could come in during conferences and pick out gently used clothing that has been donated. Discussed how kids could get involved in Chippewa Cares, as they really care and want to help others.

15. LMC and Yearbook Support – Vacancy
 - a. Reading Challenge and Yearbook Cover Design Contest Support – looking for a volunteer to purchase gift cards for these events.
 - b. Khaled Benkara volunteered to chair this effort.

16. New Ideas
 - a. Some ideas that have come up recently is sponsoring an essay contest and working with the math and science teachers to promote STEM activities (clubs, Science Fair, etc.).
 - b. Other ideas that came up that have been successful at other schools include an astronomy night, a literacy night, a poetry slam night and a mini-Olympics event.
 - c. Group agreed to focus on 3 potential activities:
 - i. STEM/Science fair – Uzma Sattar volunteered to work with Loula Merkel on this
 - ii. Poetry Slam – Ms. Lueken offered to look into this. Volunteer needed
 - iii. Mini-Olympics event, potentially tied to STEM concepts – Loula Merkel will explore and Volunteer needed
 - d. Goal is to decide on one of these events by the October PTO meeting and start planning.
 - e. Discussed the importance of elevating the enthusiasm for the clubs at the school that already exist.

17. Adjournment – Next Meeting October 19 at 6:00pm, Chippewa Cafeteria

THANK YOU FOR COMING!!!!
