

9/3/14 PTO Meeting Minutes – Upper School

Minute Recorder: Kris Ellegood

Headcount: 105

Time: 7p – 8:25p

Topics of Discussion:

PTO Admin Introductions

Fundraisers:

Money goes directly into classrooms (i.e.) Smart boards, projectors, outdoor equipment

- Paving Way to Future - spring opportunity.
- Walkathon – Lower – fall opportunity
- Dodge ball – Upper – fall opportunity

Immediate Volunteer Opportunities:

1. Sign-Up Genius to go out for:
 - a. Pretzel Tuesday
 - i. To volunteer: Tuesday mornings only; separate pretzels; deliver to classrooms
 - ii. Two payments per year for child
 - b. 5K race

Headmaster remarks:

- 3 board members introduction; Dimitri key to helping secure the new Lower School building
- Grades K-4 Lower
- Grades 5-7 Upper
- Anticipated 940 students for 2014/2015; last week to enter school ends 9/5
- 25 new teachers hired for 2014/2015 year
- Home Access Center (gr. 5-7) (k-4 optional)
- School calendar available on website with upgrades
- Sept. 17th from 7p-9p – local councilman, city reps for Possible Barley Mill Plaza expansion
- September 30th presentation for Parenting Skills at 6:30p
- Sept 18th Open House Lower: 6p-7p, Upper: 7:15p-8p)
- School will continue to use Positive Behavior Support System Program (PBS)
- MAP testing phased out / replaced with STAR Diagnostic Testing.
 - Reason for change:
 - Lengthy testing with MAP
 - MAP not aligned to common CORE State standards
 - Metrics not aligned to real classroom experience
- DCAS replaced this year with Smarter Balance
 - Full test administered once in late spring with two interim assessments (September and Feb) for grades 3-7
- **Sports Program** for 6th and 7th (140 participant max); will open to 5th grade if space is available.
 - Run by Matt Laudeman
 - Fall – soccer, played at Wilmington Friends School fields

- Winter - basketball
- Spring - volley ball and track
- **Bus Concerns:**
 - 3, 5, 10
 - First student bus company (union shop)
 - Negotiations to add bus to alleviate over-crowding on bus 3
 - Headcounts completed with each transport
 - 3 initiatives:
 - Complimentary before and after care services
 - Transition to car line
 - Phone trees for communication to parents regarding safe arrival/dismissal
 - **Action:**
 - Recommendation from parent for draft routes in advance

Board Rep Remarks:

- Encouraged parents to attend board meeting as they are advocating for parents
- Board responses should be filtered back to Kate Klemas and Jen Ballas
- Free after care program at PAL on Lancaster Pike as options for bus concerns mentioned. CONTACT: Tracie Principe if making this change as it will affect bus 3.
- Contact for Board members can be found on OCS web under “Board of Directors”
- Register on Blackboard Connect for communications (flyer discussed)
- Interest from parents to be on transportation and food committees
- Notable board meeting remarks:
 - Currently renting lower school building, but want to raise the funds to purchase campus. Goal: Dec. 31st for loan.
 - Food Program (in-house) – Sept 15th/16th decision to be made for availability
 - Free and reduced program / sign-up forms available
 - Purchase also available at higher cost for those not eligible
 - Still several things to flesh out: Dietician, allergies, product purchased; cook coordinator; purchase notifiers, OSHA, serving time
- **Action:**
 - FAQ Admin list suggested by parents on web / FAQ box

Amber Reader (Girls on the Track)

- for middle school students to help build self confidence and run a 5k
- 6th and 7th graders only
- Mondays and Thursday practices; 3:25p – 4:40p
- 15 max.; 4 spots open only; lottery ended 9/2
- \$ amount to participate; scholarships available
- Running buddy required on marathon day (over 16 yrs)
- Practice 5K at end of season
- Celebration at end of season
- Weather may affect practice

Misc:

- Grotto Family Fun Sept 9th
- School store and used uniforms before PTO meeting from 6:30p -7
Volunteers needed
- Colman Tree Farm Hay ride Sept. 3rd
- Box Tops and Campbell soup labels accepted: Volunteers welcome
- 9/20 AHEPA 5k at Rockford Park
 - American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association
 - Historical Context: Fraternal order who are founding members of school had hand Red Clay and State approve America Greek Clinic school opening
 - Sponsorship request: Asking for parent assistance in asking for sponsorships (signage, shirt ad, etc) to business contacts
 - Last year donation check to school over \$10K
 - Donations needed by 9/13
 - Sign-up available day-of, \$25. Pre-register, \$20
 - Sponsorship form available on AHEPA Face book page for form download
 - Resend link next Monday of Tuesday