

PTO Meeting Minutes
November 5, 2014

Location: Lower School
Minute Recorder: Kris Ellegood
Headcount: 25
Time: 7p – 8:25p

Executive Committee Present Shelly Towler, President; Jo-el Fetizanan, Vice President of Administration; Kristina Ellegood, Recording Secretary; Jen Gannon, Correspondence Secretary and Louise Antenucci, Treasurer

Guests Present Student Advisor; Kate Klemas, Parent at Large Board Member; Jen Ballas, Parent Elect Board Member; George Chambers, OCS Board President; teacher representative

Topics of Discussion

Owner

Welcome/ Introduction

Shelly

Fall Fundraiser

- \$17.2K Walk-a-Thon net profit - over \$10k expectation
- Special thanks to Amber & Shenekia who helped to make it a success
- Top three student fundraisers will get gift cards
- Top class in each grades who raised the most funds will get a classroom party

Scholastic Bookfair

- Dec. 8th through 12th with extended hours Tues./Thurs of that week
- Held in Lower in gym
- Open for purchase throughout the day with class; students must have money on hand
- Online bookfair offered week before and after
- Proceeds to upper school library
- 60% of profit in Scholastic dollars to date

Suggestion Box

Jo-EI

- Overview of Suggestion Box inquiries/comments
 - MAP scores: primarily shared during parent/teacher conferences in order to walk through with teacher on-hand to explain findings
 - STAR assessments determine response to interventions during enrichment block – letters to parents on where child is in tired process

Box Tops: Over \$1600 collected: due December

Scrip for teachers gifts & budget

Louise

- \$ SCRIP Program begins mid-November (deadline Dec. 3rd) form will be sent to

purchase for staff (donations)

- Card will be purchased for teachers and staff with names of all contributors and delivered to staff prior to break
- Parents can contact the PTO to find out staff's favorite gift card for child to personally hand over a gift to teacher
- Cash only purchases available onsite Friday's, as well as teachers wish list for parent review

Administration's Report

Kate

- Open enrollment 11/3 through Jan. 14th – Choice app for lower. Upper school no need to choice
 - DE.org – apply online (hard copy avail)
- Café – 11/12 all Upper grades in caf (phased in with rotation - 75 max capacity)
 - Lower school still under construction (more to follow Miss P)
- Accelerated Reader (2nd-7th grade)
 - Reward period has ended for marking period (3 marking period for entire school)
 - Upper 4X per yr – November 7th review coming home
 - Lower 3X per yr – Review issued before parent/teacher conferences week of Thanksgiving
 - Additional information to come from Homeroom teachers
 - New goals for each period generated by STAR report
 - Actions being made to accommodate additional testing time and teacher guidelines (more computers; before and after care utilization; mobile cart stations; teacher prompts)
 - Moving forward, reaching goal will be announced last week of marking period in order to address inconsistencies in system (100% vs. 80%)
 - Trouble finding books on testing site? Email Kate Klemas
 - Homeroom Teacher is main point of contact for AR concerns/inquiries
 - What is Accelerated Reader Newsletter recently issued to Upper School

Delaware Charter Expo for all DE Charter Schools

- Saturday, 11/8 from 10a – 2p at Community Education Building (old Bank of America www.decharternetwork.org)
- Odyssey will have presence

Board Report (Food Program, etc.)

George

- Two main areas of focus
 - Charter Renewal Process (every 4 yrs) DE Dept of Education
 - Final report to go to Board of education for renewal: academics, finances and organizational oversight
 - Financial expectations not met 2013 and 2014 Guidelines
 - Financing for buildings audit ran into same challenge and was reflected in 2013 reporting (annual income)
 - We are able to explain reasons for failing to meet expectations, but awaiting execution of transaction by end of December 2014
 - Plans for gymnasium dependent on sufficient financing; athletic program back-up considerations being made should we not be able to finance full acquisition
 - Facilities Expansion
 - Financing dependent on Charter Renewal
 - Board organization and elections
 - Every 3 years AHEPA/Parents/Executive Committee to elect president
 - Continuity in leadership with financial requests of State takes

precedence. Once we are on course by next year, election process will move forward

- Intentions: Bonds from large investment houses to fund OCS
- December 10th we will receive preliminary report from Charter School Accountability Committee
- Within a week, formal public offering for bond (interested investment houses to purchase prior to public consumption, then trading commences)
- Close by end of December 2014
- Plan B:
 - Several month extension request
 - 1 yr opportunity to extend lease in Lower/Upper, then pursue bond acquisition
 - Commercial Bank Financing could loan against building possibly – not optimal