

PTO MEETING MINUTES

THURSDAY, JANUARY 22, 2014

Meeting adjourned at 7:07 p.m. In attendance were Jim Kish, Jay Bishop, Chris Skerbec, Kelly Anderson, Ilene Cesa, Bernie Swoboda, and Donna Walkuski.

Principals updates included information about new testing requirements for students that are graduating in 2018 (9th graders now) and beyond. They are working on schedules to break the children into groups so no one has several consecutive days of testing. PTO and schools will work together to find ways to de-stress both teachers and students by providing snacks and possibly, once testing is over, a dance during school time to give them a break. New testing requirements can be found on West G's website. Also will be discussed at 8th grade parent night on January 29th at 7 p.m.

Graduation is going to be held on the new turf field on June 3, 2015. Parkside Church, where it has been held for the past several years, is under construction, so they cannot accommodate, unless we use an auxiliary room and just watch on a screen. Checked other venues, but cost and visibility were factors as to why they weren't chosen. There will be alternative rain dates for graduation – most likely June 4th & June 6th.

West Geauga High School is going to be holding a College Fair again. However, this year the West G Education Foundation is partnering up with a college partnership program, and this is opened up to all of Geauga County. Last year 300 people attended, this year more like 700 are expected.

Discussed the Color Run. PTO wants to do it. Mr. Bishop was approached by the School Interact Fund, as they are interested in doing it. Discussed chairing it together.

STEM Fair on January 31, 2015 at the middle school – it is a science fair put on by the Kiwanis. Flyer is on the website.

January 30th – all 8th graders will go to the high school to create schedules.

The middle school's website is being revamped – it will be easier for teachers to update.

New front door frames were put on the middle school. The door frames had deteriorated from the salt in the winter. An insulated pain was added for security, as well as another camera. Doors on the entrance of the high school on 306 were also reframed.

The vending machines in the middle school meet all federal guidelines. One has water and juices and is available all of the time. The other one is only available after school (so sports teams can take advantage of them) and they have Gatorade in them. They are on timers and are located by the athletic corridor.

Original spring break schedule on the calendar did not list April 6 as a day off. It has now been corrected. All schools will resume after spring break on Tuesday, April 7, 2015.

6th grade camp, 7th grade Chicago trip, and 8th grade Williamsburg trip are still on track. Chicago trip is from May 21 – 22, 2015. Williamsburg trip is May 5 – 8, 2015. 6th grade camp is from March 11 – 13, 2015. Parent meeting for 6th grade camp is 2/18/15 at 7 p.m. All this information is on the website with further info.

Middle School Dance update – had tailgate dance last October that brought in \$430. Looking to do one for 7th grade in February. Thinking about having this dance in the gym instead of the cafeteria, as it has more room.

Discussed doing a free dance for all students next school year. Talked about doing a post testing dance during the school day to give students a break. Would separate into 3 groups by grade. This would be a reward for the testing they did. Discussed having raffles, pizza, and donations from neighborhood businesses and parents.

Discussed spring teacher appreciation and thanked everyone who participated in holiday staff lunch. Also reviewed fundraising – what we do now and what we could do.

Discussed whether fund requests should only be accepted from teachers who have joined the PTO, or do the ones who are members get priority? Also mentioned to see if the one time PTO fee could be taken as a payroll deduction if teachers want to join.

Treasurer's report - \$1,800 in checking account. Last year's 8th grade dance had a \$750 profit – think will exceed that this year. Cost for staff holiday luncheon was only \$159 – normally costs \$500. This was due to all of the donations and support from many of our wonderful parents. 8th grade is having their career day on March 19, 2015. Breakfast and lunch is served to all presenters, along with gifts. Usually have about 18 speakers. Need to get a list of donations from 8th grade parents to help cover meal costs. PTO will provide one meal and middle school the other – breakfast and lunch.

PTO open positions for next year are President and Vice President.

Next PTO meeting is March 19, 2015 from 7 p.m. – 8 p.m. at the middle school.

Last PTO meeting for this school year is in May.

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.