

PRS-PTO Meeting Notes- September 21, 2022

~30 attendees

1. Call to Order
2. Committee Reports
 - a. Annual Campaign-Renee Besser and Lori Oliwa
 - i. Fundraising is 9/26-10/7. Discussed benefits and the school events that are funded. The grade with the most participation will get a magic show
 - b. STEAM
 - i. Week of 10/17-Presentations from parents in Science and technology
 - ii. Please spread the word if you know of anyone in these fields who would like to assist with the program
 - c. Green Team-Lizzie Inglis
 - i. October 5th (½ day) playground cleanup
 - ii. 10/12 (tentative) Walk, bike, scoot to school day
 - iii. Mulch Spreading (TBD)
 - iv. Harvest day is scheduled for November
 - d. Cultural Enrichment-Lauren Davalla
 - i. Discussed fall programs
 - ii. 10/21 NOW(Nature On Wheels) all day for 5th grade
 - iii. Asked teachers for feedback on programs that worked

- iv. Would like to bring some past programs back, encouraged parents to ask older children their favorites
- v. Would like to team up with special olympics for field day, also reach out to other groups like Perkins School for the Blind
- e. Spirit Committee-Becca DeChristopher
 - i. Boo Bash outside 10/28 4-5:30
 - 1. 5th grade will sell pizza
 - 2. Siblings are welcome (please register online)
 - 3. Older siblings can help sell PRS gear
 - ii. Spirit Days
 - 1. This Friday- Hingham/PRS day
 - 2. There will be 1-2 per month with different themes
- f. Birthday Book Club
 - i. Bulletin Board system in library
 - ii. Buttonwood Book discount
- g. Math Olympics registration is open
 - i. Volunteers needed for grading
- h. New Families- Colleen Power
 - i. Would like to have an event for the METCO students and families
 - ii. Will welcome new students throughout the year
- i. Staff Appreciation
 - i. Restock event coming
 - 1. Signup to contribute items or send \$ via Venmo

2. Extra supplies will be stocked in staff room

- j. Road Race-Katherine Rachalski
 - i. Scheduled for 11/19
 - ii. Volunteers needed ASAP
 - iii. Fundraising to local businesses- sponsors on back of t-shirt

3. President's Report

- a. Town meeting 11/1 at 7pm
 - i. Foster school plan will be voted on
 - 1. Katherine Rachalski offered to help arrange babysitting so parents can attend
- b. 11/8 Foster School approval will be on the ballot
 - i. Needs majority approval
 - 1. If it doesn't get approved, could face less favorable contingency plans, such as moving to 3 elementary schools
 - 2. We would lose the \$25 million in state funds
 - 3. Hingham Music Parents Association is looking for a parent volunteer to represent HMPA at PRS PTO

4. Guest Speaker- A.C. Decker

- a. Executive Functioning-Can be difficult at the start of the school year
 - i. Sleep schedule is important
 - ii. Mondays can be difficult, try to stick to a bedtime routine on weekends
 - iii. May take 2-3 weeks for children to get acclimated
 - iv. Parents can help with organization

- v. 1st week- bring lunch from home so kids have more time to eat instead of waiting in line. Nourishment is important, pack good snacks
- vi. Have children pack the night before, put homework in backpack after it is completed
- vii. If your child is struggling, email the teacher to notify so that the school can help.
 - 1. New Guidance Counselor
 - 2. Good communication between parents and the school is key
- viii. If child struggles in the morning, try dropping off at a friend's house
 - 1. Switch up who drops the student off
 - 2. Come at 8:20 when most students have entered the building but staff are still outside and can easily assist getting your child into school.
- ix. If your child is missing materials- let the school know
- x. Accountability
 - 1. Give simple instructions
 - 2. Try consequences
 - a. Take away screen time
 - 3. Positive reinforcement
 - a. Try using visuals
 - 4. Charts to encourage organization
 - a. Rewards based on progress
- xi. Executive function is an important life skill

1. Can develop good habits for life
2. Males and females develop these skills at different times.

5. Principal report

a. New schedule/ 1 recess

- i. District used a consultant to ensure schools are getting 900 learning hours in the school year.
- ii. Teachers can take students outside to learn- looking into the curriculum for ways to implement this.
 1. PTO could help by purchasing new picnic benches to allow for outdoor classroom space
 2. Staff stockup- can look into outdoor resources for teachers

b. Phase 2 of windows

- i. Starting now and could be finished by 10/26.
- ii. Doors will be installed after school and on weekends

c. Phase 3

- i. Painting
 1. Need to remove some rock structures from columns to make sure iron has not softened
 2. Working with Katie Hartman

d. School year is off to a great start

- i. 1st ASM was a success
- ii. Parent Volunteers are back in the school
- iii. Nurse Whiting's retirement

1. Leaving on 10/31

a. Goal is to have a replacement nurse 1 week prior to Deb's departure so she may train the new hire.

iv. Thank you!