

PTA EC Meeting 11.10.21

Attendees: Joan Ray, Dana Borda, Courtney May, Doug Rollins, Jess Russo, Kara Prickett, Shane Tolle, Mike Pascalle

- A. School updates (Joan)
 - a. CoGAT testing ongoing
 - b. Morale is good, feels like working memory and group behavior took a hit during virtual school
 - c. Staffing cuts are making remediation difficult. Hoping to make some hiring progress here with foundation dollars
 - d. Housing instability seems more prevalent
 - e. Tardiness more common?
 - f. Possibility of "lunch and learn" or webinar for parents on how to work with their kids on working memory and executive function, how to talk about anxiety
 - i. Courtney to look into resources at her school
 - ii. Jane Nelson's website, Conscious discipline videos
 - iii. Kara to look into Children's child life info
 - iv. Doug to contact GA PTA
 - g. Transition in maintenance contract through school district leading to some delays in work orders for repairs - they are working through new system and hopefully things will be moving better soon
 - h. Parents feeling need for community - to explore options for video updates from Joan
- B. Surveillance testing
 - a. Unclear start dates
 - b. Some confusion about Dekalb methodology vs. other local districts
 - c. Only have the option if parents sign up. Opting in does provide parent permission every week. Signing up does not obligate them.
 - d. School will not "force" an unwilling child to test
- C. Cookie exchange
 - a. Boxes to be ordered for teachers
 - b. Signup will come out on 11/29 in the Flash
 - c. Actual exchange will take place 12/15
- D. Clubs
 - a. Coordination for next semester has started
 - b. Parent volunteers are building a single registration website - no longer dealing with individual club google forms/registrations
 - c. In the past clubs stopped after spring break, chess had an exception
 - d. Dance and chess may have had signups for the whole year
 - e. Session tends to run 8 weeks, end after spring break

- i. Could start 2nd week in Jan or after MLK (Sarah & Courtney to look at calendar)
 - ii. Need to over communicate with parents so there are not transportation/childcare gaps
 - f. Kid's TV hoping to come in person
 - i. Some concern about appropriate supervision and care of school property
 - ii. Wasn't a big draw 1st semester
 - g. More than ~100 kids on any given day gets tough to accommodate
 - i.
- E. Love fund
 - a. To put in the Flash 11/29
 - b. Courier flyers 12/2 and 12/9
 - c. Deadline for submission 12/13
 - d. Cash/envelope stuffing sometime/card signing around 12/16. Jess to send some date options
- F. Grounds clean up
 - a. Great participation
 - b. District will hopefully come clean up remaining mulch and replace with playground wood chips
 - c. We have some PTA funds that could cover remaining pinestraw needs - Doug to reach out to Maria Locke to see if she wants to lead
- G. Book Fair
 - a. Virtual again, ready to go. Jonna leading
 - b. 11/29-12/3 through Little Shop of Stories
 - c. Flash notification next Monday
- H. Foundation updates
 - a. Exceeded fundraising goals ~100K
 - i. Donor party 11/13 at DeVries's house
 - b. Cantilevered covers in amphitheater and playground
 - c. Outdoor classroom furniture in amphitheater
 - d. Vaccine clinic seems less necessary since access doesn't seem to be a problem
 - e. Instructional help:
 - i. Reading/writing/math remediation near-term goal
 - ii. Replacing science teacher longer term goal
- I. Auction Planning
 - a. Art projects are ongoing
 - b. Sarah & Claire are heading up, only 7 classes without dedicated volunteer and Ms. Mcafferty feels like she can handle those

J. Class Party Planning

- a. Jess to meet with Stacy & Heather/room parent reps next week
- b. Can discuss with room parents options for community building outside of school - park meet-ups, picnics, etc.

K. 5th Grade Trip

- a. 140 5th graders, 72 have paid dues so far
- b. \$130/student, \$100/chaperone, \$70/teacher (all linens, all meals)
- c. Gayle & Natasha reaching out to room parents to encourage dues payment
- d. \$50 deposit when signing up for class trip
 - i. Offered installments in the past with reminders every few months (connect Gayle & Natasha to Robin)
- e. Scholarship management
 - i. There is a box to check on form if they need assistance
 - ii. Add a cost line to contribute to scholarship funds
- f. Need to confirm transit needs
 - i. Do busses need to stay vs. can they just drop off and pick up
 - ii. Sampson was the last vendor we used

L. Budget updates

- a. Overall doing well relative to budget
- b. Only received one club check from dance so far - Courtney to connect w/ club rep

M. Middle school prep

- a. Consider student ambassadors - possibly via video?
- b. Losing kids in grades 4-5 makes it hard to keep high scores to get funding
- c. Jess to reach out to Hillary re: how to best promote