



Hopewell PTA Meeting Wednesday, October 2, 2019

AGENDA

- I. **Call to Order** – called to order by Kristen at 9:32am
- II. **Minutes from Sept** – Lisa Durkin made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from September 4th, 2019 meeting. Motion was seconded by Barbara Coleman.
- III. **Shout Outs**
 - a. Teacher Appreciation Back to School Night – Laura Capaldo, Nicole Tharp and the teacher appreciation committee.
 - i. Back to school night was later in the evening this year, which is why the committee decided to provide lunch instead of dinner. The thought was that teachers would go home between school and back to school night, however many teachers did stay. Teacher will be polled next year to see if they prefer lunch or dinner.
 - b. Dine to Donate Night – Kim DeWire – We raised \$325 for 2 hour fundraiser at La Borgata.
 - c. Hausman Fruit Farm Family Days – April Hausman (We do not have numbers at this time.)
- IV. **Principal's Report**
 - a. October – school store will be starting next week, thank you to the parents who are working with Mrs. Huffgard
 - b. Thursday – Dance for Education. Remember to wear your free school spirit T-shirt.
 - c. Fri – Spirit Day - Wear Hopewell Blue
 - d. Oct. 11th school spirit – wear your favorite color
 - e. Oct. 14th – Teacher in-service day, children do not report.
 - f. Halloween parade will be October 25, 2019.
 - i. 10:45-11 for AM kindergarten
 - ii. 2 pm for rest of school – children will walk around the route twice
 - g. PATHS - Promoting Alternative Thinking Strategies – representatives will come in once a week and spend time with the 1st, 2nd and 3rd graders.
 - i. Talks about emotions, uniqueness, respecting others and being responsible.
 - ii. Representatives will come into each classroom throughout the year to work with children to develop social emotional development and to gain a better understanding of feelings and how to deal with them.
 - h. Safety and Security – SLSD has hired a second school resource officer that is spending time between the Middle School, Intermediate School and will visit Hopewell and Liberty Bell throughout the year
 - i. Monthly fire and safety drills are being conducted
 - i. Severe weather, medical emergency, community emergency requiring lockdown, environmental, ...

- ii. Drills are purely instructional, and children are reminded that they are practicing just in case.
- iii. Students are instructed that their jobs are to remain calm, quiet and follow instructions from their teachers so they can keep them as safe as possible.
- j. ALICE –
 - i. ALICE training will be continued
 - ii. Teachers use the Alice training picture book, and remind children that we are preparing “just in case”
 - iii. The training is very developmentally appropriate
 - iv. Mrs. Katzback will be invited to our next meeting to discuss ALICE Training and Mindfulness.
- k. School Pictures – 10/9/19, must be paid in advance and forms returned to school.
- l. October is national bully awareness month – Mrs. Devonshire-Kocis will be going into classrooms to speak to children about bullying.
- m. Marion the Ventriloquist gave an assembly to the children

V. Treasurer’s Report

- a. Agendas line item has been closed out, free t-shirts line item has been closed out (slightly ahead), PTA membership drive not yet finalized (waiting for paypal account numbers), Dance for Education donations are still coming in
- b. Shop with Script Gift Cards – popular cards, Giant, TJMax, HomeGoods, Bath& Body, Panera, Barnes and Nobel are available at all PTA meetings. Great gifts for teachers and friends. You can also contact Lisa Durkin to order numerous gift cards through the Shop with Script program.

VI. PTA to PTO Discussion

- a. We will continue to have discussions over the next couple months
- b. Moving away from state and national affiliation and moving towards an independent organization
- c. Making this change would mean we would not need to pay state and national dues
- d. Benefits of remaining a PTA include board members can go to conferences, which we don’t take advantage of, Grant opportunities – generally go to under privileged schools which we generally don’t qualify for, are these benefits and resources worth the money we are spending in national dues.
- e. National Dues for this year are \$765 for 153 members. Of the \$7 that each members paid for dues, \$5 go to state and national PTA
- f. Kristen found a great article to share which compares the PTA to PTO:
<https://www.ptotoday.com/pto-today-articles/article/292-pto-vs-pta-whats-the-difference>
- g. We are continuing to research what is involved to make this transition
- h. We will have the opportunity to donate any residual funds into another non-profit, therefore we would like to have our new organization up and running in order to make it a smooth transition
- i. According to Mrs. Limpar, she is unaware of any teachers utilizing the PTA resources.
- j. If there are any major concerns, we will continue to persue the new organization

VII. PTA Committee Reports

- a. Membership
 - i. 153 members
- b. AtoZ Connect Directory

- i. 192 students; 305 parents
 - ii. Up and running
 - iii. Please verify information. You should have received an email to verify your information.
 - iv. This is a password protected app found in the App Store
 - v. Can sort by grade, class teach, staff with email addresses
 - vi. You can continue to submit your information by making an account on AtoZ
 - vii. The information in there will stay from year to year until your child “graduates” onto the IS
 - viii. Mrs. Limpar requested a training or printout with instructions for the secretaries to give out when there are questions
- c. Dance for Education (Thursday, Oct. 3)
- i. 10:25 a.m. - 11:05 a.m. - AM Kindergarten and 1st grade
 - ii. 1:40 p.m. - 2:20 p.m. - PM Kindergarten, All Day Kindergarten, and 2nd grade
2:25 p.m. - 3:05 p.m. - 3rd grade
 - iii. Rain or shine, will be moved to the gym if the weather is bad.
 - iv. Volunteers will need to sign in in the vestibule and must have clearances
 - v. Donations and Go Fund Me Accounts are still being logged. You can share the Go Fund Me Link on your social media to reach out to friends and family you may not have sent labels for.
- d. Book Fair – Nov. 20-22, 25-26
- i. Please note, these are different dates than were previously sent home. These dates correspond to the parent teacher conferences. Book fair will be open during conferences, not during school.
 - ii. There will be a bookfair preview for the teachers and the PTA Teacher Appreciation Committee will hold a breakfast for the teachers. Teachers will pick out books they would like for their classroom that can be purchased and donated to the class. We also have a change drive to purchase additional books.
 - iii. Wed. Nov 20, will be a family fun night for all families to come and shop the book fair. – Jessica Keefe will be organizing this event.
- e. Holiday Festival – Fri, Dec. 6; Sat, Dec. 7
- i. Fri, Dec. 6: 6 – 8 p.m. (Penguin Patch/Holiday Marketplace only)
 - ii. Sat, Dec. 7: 8:30 a.m. – 12 noon (Breakfast with Santa with 3 seating times at 8:30, 9:30, and 10:30 a.m.; Penguin Patch Shoppe; Holiday Marketplace; Photos with Santa)
 - 1. 3 seating times so we don’t have to turn people away
 - 2. Photo with Santa is included with breakfast, but if you’re not having breakfast, can pay for photo
 - 3. ½ hot food and ½ continental (Danishes and donuts)
 - 4. We may be trying a new way to register this year by using signup genius to reserve spot, then send in money.
 - iii. Vendors – can set up and display their goods on Friday and Sat. We will reach out to previous vendors however are always looking for new ones.
 - 1. \$25 to display your goods, you bring table and display as you like.
 - 2. Penny Power ad, utilizing facebook or other social media outlooks to advertise for the Friday Night event.

VIII. Upcoming Events/Dates

- a. SkyZone Family Fun Night – Jan. 24
- b. Flowergrams – February 3 – 7 (Delivered on Feb. 14)
- c. My Heart, My Hero – Friday, Feb. 7

IX. Q&A

Barbara Coleman presented a fundraiser idea at 5 Below in Quakertown. They will give 10%, and can do up to a week at a time. Manager in Quakertown is willing to work with us.

X. Adjourn – 10:30

Attendance:
Kim DeWire
Kristen Quirk
Melissa Moffatt
Nicole Emery
Lisa Durkin
Nicole Tharp
Barbara Coleman
Natasha Nash
Aimee Kipila
Laura Capaldo
Monica Schienler
Eileen Crawford