

FCAHS PTO MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday September 5, 2018 7pm

In attendance: Mike Hower, Erin Butkovic, Sandy Garcia-Tunon, Candace Uricchio, Anne Marie DeGeorge, Diane Markovitz, Liz Rambeau, Elizabeth Klamut, Joanna Patterson, Kelly DiNatale, Kelly Caracciolo, Megan Cicconi, Sandra Garbish, Laxmi Velankar, Ginger Thomas, Karlie McWilliams, Helen McWilliams, Jenna Rodrigues, Ning Li, Shilpa Sant, Frits Pil, Vinayak Sant, Tracey Marsh, Sandy Edgecombe

PRESIDENT'S WELCOME- Sandy Garcia-Tunon

- *Sandy welcomed new parents/members. All in attendance introduced themselves.
- *Thank you given to Tracey Marsh for her years of service to the PTO.
- *Nomination of Sandy Garcia-Tunon for PTO president. Liz Rambeau moved to approve the nomination. Anne Marie DeGeorge seconded. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT- Anne Marie DeGeorge

- *Current checking account balance \$27,175.
- *Overview of budget given. Biggest fundraisers are FC's Got Talent and membership. Membership numbers and income have been strong so far with many of those contributing more than the suggested donation. Candygram fundraiser has been tabled this year. \$10,000 expense was approved last year and is in reserve fund to buy patio furniture. Parents signed up for committee to assist teachers with choice/purchase. New line item in budget for \$100 contribution to District Forum to maintain their website. Budget is healthy and will be reviewed throughout the year with monies allocated as needed and approved.

ADMINISTRATION'S REPORT- Megan Cicconi

- *Administration will now have a representative at all schools' PTO meetings and will be added to the meeting agenda.
- * District is looking to hire a safety officer. Police will now be full time in every school. (currently part time at only the high school and DMS)
- *District is investigating buying/implementing a mobile app to serve as a panic alert system if emergency arises. App would be used by staff to locate students and ensure their safety and communicate with others in the building. App would work in conjunction with ALICE training.
- *Evacuation drills planned for Hartwood and DMS with plans to do them at the remaining schools at a later date.
- * The Hill group will be presenting the results of the DMS scheduling survey to both the DMS parents' group and administration.
- * Parents questioned the email sent out today with regards to Start School Later (SSL) as they were unhappy with the way information was presented, the survey question and the validity of the statements. Questions also arose as to why the administration didn't consult with the parent group who has done significant SSL research. Megan stated that changes would be made to the email that went out along with updates on Facebook and that in the future administration could possibly have parents well versed in the issue

consulted before information is sent out. Parents questioned if they could have the option to change their survey answer once the email is updated.

PRINCIPAL'S UPDATE- Mike Hower

- *Building Updates-Flooding sustained in the library over the summer. Repair of the library delayed the patio updates. Fitness Center has been overhauled and expanded.
- *Start of the school year has gone well. Class meetings and pictures have taken place.
- *Performance- Keystone scores remain good: Literature 94%, Algebra and Biology both 92% 600 AP exams were given with students scoring well.
- *Middle States Accreditation happening again this year (once every 7)
- *Graduation Requirements are changing at the state level. Fox Chapel Area High School still has a graduation project but it is being moved/modified such that juniors produce a portfolio in accordance with state requirements. College and Career Essentials class is currently taken by the majority of juniors and will be where juniors will finalize/produce their graduation (career) portfolios which fulfill the graduation requirement. Administration is looking into making the class a requirement for all students except for the students who attend A.W. Beattie as they are exempt. Class would have multiple offerings including summer and online.
- *Summer programs were successful including SAT writing and theater. Exploring a SAT Boot Camp class this fall.

ACTIVITIES REPORT-Erin Butkovic

- *Foxes Burrow opened last Friday. The Burrow is a discreet food/supply pantry for students in need. Backpack for Hunger will operate out of the same space. Donations have come from the Rotary Club and community members. Rachel Machen and the community outreach club are maintaining it. PTO will use budgeted monies for student/family needs to buy items when needed.
- *Homecoming Dance is September 29th.
- *PTO information has been moved on the high school page to make it easier to find.

FC'S GOT TALENT-Candace Uricchio

- *Work will begin in November. Number of advertisers will be decreasing as we are just trying to get a few big sponsors. Prize money is decreasing. Candace is looking for help in lots of areas. She will have job descriptions at the next PTO meeting and have volunteers form committees to work on various jobs as needed.

DISTRICT FORUM-Kelly DiNatale

- *Public meeting is October 9th at 9am in the LGI room. Topic has not been finalized, possibly budget.

NEW/OTHER BUSINESS

- *PTO members decided to not sponsor/run a game at the Homecoming Carnival.
- * Table will be set up for PTO membership at Open House on 9/13.
- *Power School will be updated in the summer of 2019 but parents are now able to reset their password. District is looking into one login to work across all platforms.
- *6 host families are still needed for Madrid Exchange students from 9/29-10/13

*Start School Later: Information was shared by Anne Marie DeGeorge with a summary of key research findings regarding healthy sleep for adolescents. FCAHS PTO voted and agreed to take the position as a group in accordance with the national PTA 2017 resolution and the American Academy of Pediatrics and support starting school later.
*PTO does not need to assist in buying feminine hygiene products for the WIT club.

Meeting adjourned at 9:05pm