

PTO Council Meeting
February 16th 2023
Noon Admin Building

12:00: Welcome and Introductions - Jenny Abeles, PTO Council Co-President

1. Bryan Lawrence - CHS
 - a. Met budget
 - b. Teachers applying for Funds for Excellence
 - c. Teacher conferences in Spring - will provide meals
2. Lynn Courter - Glenridge
 - a. Celebrate Holi with a color run in March
 - b. Book Fair/Choir concert in March
 - c. Book Study - Stamped
3. Deanna Palagallo - Family Center
 - a. Oatmeal drive happening now
4. Kristin Pollack - Meramec
 - a. Book Fair in Dec
 - b. One School/ One Book - Connected with Literacy Night
 - c. Pancake Breakfast
 - d. Peel Pizza Fundraiser coming up
 - e. Spirit Wear - Where to get more?
5. Abby Goldstein - Captain
 - a. Successful Bingo Night
 - b. Trivia Night in March
 - c. Still meeting virtually - First in-person budget forum/meeting in April
 - d. Struggling to fill Exec Board seats
6. Lee Johnson - Captain
 - a. Spirit Wear for teachers
 - b. Reading Howard's End
 - c. Interested in discussion about fundraising
7. Cara Downs - Wydown
 - a. Successful Trivia Night last weekend
 - b. Rented out the skating rink for tomorrow (no school)
 - c. Spirit Wear - bought it and then re-sold

12:20: District Update - Dr. Nisha Patel, Superintendent

1. The High School Musical was fantastic.
2. Wydown Musical coming up
3. Big thanks to PTO's for all that you're doing
4. Next week meet with small group of seniors to discuss strategic plan

12:30: Board of Education Update - Dr. Nisha Patel, Superintendent for Stacy Siwak

1. Last night board meeting - Assessment meeting
 - a. State Data is what the community sees

- b. Local Data - Dr. Patel puts more weight in local data

12:40: Treasurer's Report and Update - Tanya Hayden, PTO Council Treasurer

1. Amazon Smile is being discontinued at the end of February. Take that off your website
2. Voting on Accounting Procedures - Lee Johnson motion to approve - Kristin Pollack Second - All voted Yes.

12:50: New Business - Jenny Abeles and Jessica Graetz, PTO Council Co-Presidents

1. Alcohol Guidelines - Jessica and Jenny consulted Chris, who consulted the attorney - *Please see attached slides*
 - a. PTO can make their own rules, within the state laws and guidelines, as well as district rules regarding substances
 - b. Attorney said there was provision for wine pull and silent auction baskets containing alcohol - which makes those ok. The group decided it was ok to send email advertising wine pull and silent auction.
 - c. PTO council had event insurance through AIM, and AIM has great tips - see *slides*
 - d. Chris, Jenny and Jessica will put this information in a document.
2. PTO Name Discussion
 - a. Does "PTO" exclude non-parents and non-teachers? Changing the name is a process.
 - b. Lee - Would changing the name cause confusion? And is this the best way to improve inclusion? Collecting dues doesn't sit well.
 - c. Cara - likes the collaborative nature of the current name.
 - d. Bryan - should we put our efforts into making things more inclusive rather than all the steps it would take to change the name?
 - e. Lynn - Is this the way programs are moving? Is it possible that the name could make students who don't have parents feel excluded?
 - f. We could change the mission statement to make it more inclusive - Use only PTO, and not Parent-Teacher Organization.
3. Role of PTO Council
 - a. We want to be a "guide on the side" rather than a "sage on the stage".
 - b. Jenny and Jessica are fielding calls from parents that are complaints about PTO.
 - c. How would you feel most supported by us?
 - d. Bryan - coming to meetings make sense to him
 - e. Lynn - likes having a PTO council member at her meeting
 - f. Lee - feels like it does come across as policing
 - g. The presidents can meet with Jenny and Jessica occasionally, if that is helpful.
 - h. How can we feel like more of a community?
 - i. Cara - appreciates having a member at the meeting to help with specifics in the meeting. Can the PTO council do more for continuity of services between schools, for example new family orientation?
4. Filling school level executive boards
 - a. Dr Patel coffees - targeting younger families - revisit that list

- b. Sending out emails
- c. Take someone to coffee - personal invite to particular position
- d. Inquire from teachers and staffs

1:30pm Adjourn