Wydown PTO Meeting Minutes

Monday, April 15, 2024 at 12 PM

Attendees: Emily Zhou, Joanna Dinsmore, Cara Downs, Betsy Meyland-Smith, Amber Kempf, Jenny Abeles and Dr. Jordan, Lori Hauslader, Whitney Lorenz

Approval of Minutes from 3/11/24 Meeting - Jenny motioned, Cara 2nd, all none opposed, passed

Principal’s Report - Jamie Jordan

Mapp testing coming up first week of May 5th-9th

8th grade promotion is finalizing plans – PTO doing breakfast, school supplying pizza for lunch, raffle off gift cards – sign up genius will go out to 8th grade parents for these gift cards

Wydown Family Survey Results received. Participation was down from last year, she asked how do we increase participation? One way mentioned was that communication was not personalized, came from someone else in the district. Staff did not know when it was coming out so that they could let parents know. Engagement had 78 responses (12%), ideas from Dr.Jordan to increase parent engagement – monthly newsletter, watch for weekly email being too long or repetitive. PTO email also suggested. CHS is sending out post cards now and it has been well received. Wydown PTO may consider doing the same. Another idea mentioned was to publicize when parents are in the school to help encourage more involvement from other parents.

Discussed how to have a set time for PTO meetings and include zoom option with ability to hear attendees in person as well as online.

Treasurer’s Report - Amber Kempf

1) As of April 9, 2024, the PTO has $103,041.77 in the bank.

- $39,980.70 in total are Restricted Funds in the Jekyll Island Scholarship Account - $26,567.71 (23) + ($14,860.00 (Raised) - $1705.28 (Expenses)) Total Raised $13,154.72 (24)

- $1433.31 are Restricted Funds in the Clayton Connections Fund

2) Highlights since our last meeting in March

- $200 for Columbia, Missouri Tournament Fee for our Chess Team

- $124.40 in Spiritwear Sales

- $271.78 – March Grab and Grub Treats

Requests for PTO Financial Assistance

6th Central Art Purchase (can view the piece in the previous meeting notes) - PTO called to vote. Jenny motioned to approve, and Lori followed with a 2nd, none opposed, passed.

Wydown Improvement Requests - Dr. Jordan and Erin L

* Move the tables outside of cafeteria to a grassy area in between the 6th-7th grade hallways. Add a 9 square piece to the open space outside the cafeteria and maybe a big Jenga and possibly a Connect Four piece. Potentially $1,200 in cost. Motion to approve by Amber,followed by a 2nd by Emily Zhou, none opposed, passed.

Proposed slate for 2024-25 school year

* 1. Betsy Meyland-Smith & Madeline Akins (from Meramec), co-chairs
  2. Whitney Lorenz, Secretary
  3. Michelle Abounader, Treasurer
  4. Joanna Dinsmore, Communications

Past Events

Staff Dinner Conference Night 3/14 - Jenny and Jessica – Pie Day- pizza and salad, went well.

Gab and Grub 4/5 - Lori – great weather and fun, advises all to keep it simple, next one is Friday before Memorial Day, will send out ask for more volunteers for this one. Lori will lead this again for next year- big thanks!

Spring Volunteer Even at KEEN – 4/14 - Jackie Stavro – wonderful, had more people than they needed, paired up each family with a child with disabilities and did activities with them, lots of fun. Big thanks to Jackie!

Upcoming Events

Spring Student Social 4/19 - Frankie S/ Rachel M.- sign up genius has gone out to parents, tickets are being sold this week $7 before, $10 at the door, students can buy tickets during lunch.

Teacher Appreciation Luncheon - 5/8 Jenny/Jessica – still working on where to get food from for this that is less than $1,200. Amber will review budget to possibly contribute more if needed.

Gab & Grub - 5/24 Lori H.

8th Grade Graduation Reception 5/28 - Jenny/Emily- pizza lunch paid for by the school. At the promotion event, they would like to get a class photo, then the promotion ceremony and the reception at the high school. For the reception they are thinking water, “2028” pretzel, and cookies.

8th Grade Breakfast 5/29 - Jenny/Emily – donuts, muffins, fruit, yogurt bar – students will go to their classrooms first and then 8th grade will come back out for breakfast and activities organized by the teachers and then leave for Six Flags.

Total for 8th grade graduation request is $1,100.00

Dine Out experience at Garbanzos THIS THURSDAY, there is an RSVP link through “Group Raise” that will be going out, 20% goes back to the Wydown PTO, the time on Thursday will be between 12:30 – 8:00 PM.

Other Items Discussed:

May try and request wellness activities for a week. TBD

CHS PTO is looking for Parent Connections help and someone for the PTO Secretary position.

Cell phone usage concern brought up – Dr. Jordan answered with their policy information which is that students cannot have cell phones on their body but can keep one in their bag. They are not allowed to use them during lunch or in the hallways. In the classrooms they use a program called Hapara that can help monitor what they are doing on their chromebooks.

Adjourned at 1:10 PM.

**Next meeting Monday, May 13th at 9:00 AM**