

**Thomas Middle School PTA
General PTA Business Meeting
October 9, 2024 at 7PM**

- I. Call to Order, 13 in person, 1 joined via Zoom**
- II. Welcome Dr. Kaye, Superintendent**
 - **Conferences**
 - * Modified this year because of the late start date
 - * One day in the fall, one day in the spring
 - * The intention is to compact the year as much as possible, not to reduce communication
 - * At this point, we intend on returning to the prior schedule next year
 - **District Calendar**
 - * There is PTA representation on the district committee
 - * We typically begin no more than two weeks after D214 (their start date for next year is 8/13/25)
 - * We always match winter and spring break
 - **Kindergarten Enrollment**
 - * 491 kindergartners on day 1, increase of over 100 students from last year (386)
 - * 386 in K last year, 522 enrolled in first grade this year
 - * Part time kindergarten is an option, 16 students started the year part time, now down to 10 students
 - **Elections**
 - * There is guidance for teachers about how to keep conversations academic
 - **School Pictures**
 - * The district would like one vendor to work with all 9 schools to get
 - a) Better pricing
 - b) Streamline dates
 - * The PTA will still be involved and monies will still go to each school
- III. Approval of Minutes - Approved**

IV. Illinois Youth Survey Presentation (Morgan and Kris)

- **Substance Use Prevention, specific to alcohol**
- **Illinois Youth Survey**
 - * **From University of Illinois**
 - * **Offered statewide, every other year**
 - * **Survey goes to eighth graders only, confidential**
 - * **Data is valid - noticing a steady decrease and results are evaluated**
 - * **Data is shared building wide, focusing on social norms theory, looking at the positive to challenge students to see what the norm truly is (not doing risking behaviors IS the norm)**
 - * **The data tells us**
 - a) **Students characteristics**
 - b) **Drug prevalence and behaviors**
 - c) **Drug use contributing factors**
 - d) **Academic and school experiences**
 - e) **Mental health**
 - * **Measuring past 30 day use, perception of risk, peer disapproval, parental/guardian disapproval**
 - * **Drug and alcohol trend for all measures shared has shown gradual improvement over the past 4 years**
 - * **A variety of efforts may have contributed to improvements**
 - a) **Impact of Linked Together**
 - b) **Speakers**
 - c) **Den Club - student leadership promoting healthy lifestyles**
 - d) **Target areas that we want to see improve**
 - * **Areas for Continued Improvement**
 - a) **Parental monitoring (especially from the perspective of the children - only 65% of students reported that there would be a chance that they would be caught if drinking at a party)**
 - b) **Parental communication about not drinking using marijuana, tobacco, opioids**
 - c) **Ease of access is a risk factor, students perceive it to be relatively easy to obtain alcohol or prescription drugs**
 - d) **24% of users said that they used alcohol with parent permission (could have been for a holiday or religious event)**
 - * **Delinquency Report**

- a) Correlation between delinquency and mental health
- b) Have remained stable over the past four years

- * **Bullying**

- a) 29% have reported at least one type of bullying at school
- b) When considering the building data from Majors and Minors, this is an area for improvement
- c) Students can report digitally, through a note, to a trusted adult, advocating for self and reporting is encouraged
- d) SROs a visible
- e) Clarified process for students

- * **Mental and Social Health**

- a) Strong effort building wide to ensure that students have more than one trusted adult in the building
- b) School climate - participation and connectedness - could improve
- c) Looking for ways to increase student voice and involvement

V. Reports of Officers

- **Treasurer's Report**

- * Current year's dues collection - already over budget
- * School pictures - a little bit under budget
- * Directory Spot - a little less than budgeted
- * PTA administration - IL PTA dues went up because of membership level

- **Vice President's Report - none**

- **Teacher Liaison Report**

- * Membership - dues still coming in
- * Thank You for Friday Donuts!
- * Thanks in advance for conference luncheon
- * Student of the Day - teacher walking in a student's shoes
- * Epsilon is working on a service project connected to Veteran's Day breakfast

- **Principal's Report**

- * **Attitude of Gratitude - Thank you Activities Committee for organizing Fall activity night, Friday, October 25, including a sensory hour for invited students**

- * Graduation and 8th Grade Picnic- Tuesday, June 3 at Forest View (7:30 we think)
- * Great America - Monday, June 2
- * Two weeks away from end of quarter
- * Conferences - Monday, November 4, signups open October 14
- * Veteran's Day Assembly - Form to Invite in October 15 newsletter
- * 4 Areas of Focus
 - a) Consistent academic and grading practices
 - b) Student attendance
 - c) Consistent approach to behavior, 35% of the majors and minors compared to last year at the same time
 - d) Culture of trust and effective leadership (specific to staff ratings)
- * Instructional Coaching Program Initiative - staff member working directly with teachers to analyze student data and needs and then plan to meet those needs
- * Advanced Learning Specialist role is new this year - focusing on ELA classes this year to support students in advanced learning
- * Professional development - math department, multi-language learning
- * Field Trips - band, DAD, 8th grade ELA
- * Poms, cheer, basketball, variety show tryouts wrapping up, cross-country having a great season
- * Wrestling starting in November
- * eLearning approach is an option for inclement weather again this year
- President's Report
 - * Directory Spot is up and running - Thanks Beth!
 - * Yearbook conversations already starting - Thanks to all who joined in the meeting!
 - * Final meeting of 2024! Next meeting is January 14, 2025

VI. Committee Reports

- **ABC/25**
 - * Please join if you have not yet!
 - * 25% membership provides \$2500 to the school (we did not make this last year)
 - * Grant applications for teachers due next week, notified on November 21 if they receive the grant
 - * Able to purchase additional hydroponic gardens for the district
 - * Fun fair - January 25, indoors, looking for volunteers!
- **Staff Appreciation**
 - * Donut Surprise on Friday!
 - * Conference lunch November 4
 - * 3 more surprises coming later this year
- **Membership**
- **Spiritwear**
 - * \$780 from the last sale
 - * Another one coming up before the winter holidays and another in the spring (sharing with fifth grade families)
- **Student Activities**
 - * Fall Activity Night - October 25

VII. Old Business

VIII. New Business

- **Excess Funds**
 - * Thank you to teachers who have submitted requests
 - * Going to rework the budget to include approved items
 - * Approved items must impact all students
 - * Will share approvals in January

IX. Announcements

X. Adjourn 8:27