



PTA Meeting Friday 11/14/25

Attendees:

Allison Tragash, Kelly Piccola, Jillian Howell, Melany Orgera, Bari Epstein, Ali Schramm, Ali Singer, Jess Cabato, April Atherton, Peter Sklaver, Amelia Erwitt, Ashley Aziz, Will Meyer, Lindsey Balbierz, Rachel Korsky, Virginia Donchez, Deb Schoenblum, Justin Brumfield

Mr Mason update: (he was not here but gave a written report)

- Grades 4/5 completed NJSLA pilot
- Beyond the Bell wraps up next week
- South Essex FD met w Annex; will meet with 5th grade next week
- Annex: heat issues in caf/gym - repairs in progress; temporary cafe space
- Parent Teacher Conferences coming up - emails from teachers coming soon if not already
- SM Scoop coming back - thanks to 5th grade comm and Ms. Gutkin
- Thank You to PTA for 2 assemblies - Together we Bloom and NJ Ballet

Teachers - no update (not in attendance)

Jillian/Kelly update:

- October minutes approved - Ali Singer motion and Melany Orgera second

PC/ELEM PC update:

- PC - first meeting in 2 months; discussed SNAP
- discussed formation of local committee w political leaders to coordinate efforts, food drives
- per Mr. Bing - SOMSD will expand PREK program next year; 3 classes added - specifics TBD
- phones/electronics use - mandating no electronics during lunch and recess
- SOMSD has applied for grant funding for YONDER pouches for grades 11 and 12
- discussion re ICE activity; district security and admin have been trained on how to handle

- DEI liaisons from each school are meeting monthly - will identify most pressing concerns at each school
- SNAP/food support - SMS will have ongoing food collection for next 2 months, working on partnership with MEND for the donations
- December board only mtg to pivot to donate to local org instead of hosting at outside venue, and will have a BYO low key celebration for board only
- Hurricane Melissa - Wently (big school security guard) - family lost everything, Ms. Ducharme collecting money for him
- Nom Comm - must be elected by general membership at January meeting: comprised of 5 members - 2 board, 2 general members of PTA current PTA membership a must, let Kelly/Jillian know if anyone wants to volunteer, Ali Schramm + Bari Epstein have raised their hands

Programming - Al and Mel

- Fall fest was a huge success
- coming up next: movie night and skate night, both in February

Finance - Virginia and Rachel

- balances in revenue 20k roughly, expenses 24k roughly
- rough 3900 deficit, deficit reflects spring fair deposit
- Rachel has done bank recs through sept - Ali has approved

Volunteer Coordinator(s) - Peter

- Peter entering names into MTK from vol interest form
- Peter will be canvassing at conferences for more volunteers
- green team will be able to utilize those lists as well
- personal email reach outs help attract volunteers for specific events

Merch - Ali Singer and Jess Cabato

- Ali: really great fall fest; new merchandise - crewneck sweatshirts, jerseys, shorts sold approx \$700
- mod sale approx \$800 as of early November
- skate night shirt on horizon

Graphics - Lindsey

- Lindsey - November - pic day graphic -
- working w Fundraising on annual fund - will launch on giving Tuesday
- working on belonging corner

Fundraising - April

- recently: Annex book fair, pic day @ both schools
- deadline to order photos - 11/16, makeups 11/24

coming up:

- launch of Minted partnership - thank you KP for the idea
- thinking of passive fundraising ideas

Annual fund:

- launching Thursday 11/20
- email campaign
- flyer going home before Thanksgiving

Cultural Arts - Justin

- neuro diversity assemblies happened this week
- kids had a great response
- there will be a spring version - potentially including physically disabled representatives
- Ballet assembly coming up next week (week of 11/17) - performance from Nutcracker -
- January - In tune assembly - intro to musical instruments and songwriting just for Annex students
- February - black history month - local jazz musicians
- working on poetry in residence program and Jewish American culture

Recognition and Appreciation - Ali Schramm and Deb S.

- recently gave Mason and Cicenia personalized golf accessories for Principals Day
- Robert (crossing guard) recovering from surgery

DEI - Ashley

- Veteran's Day success - lots of write-ins
- Trying to figure out how to incorporate Jewish culture in line with curriculum
- Next open meeting: 11/23 - 830pm - via zoom - focus on World Fest

Green Team - Amelia

- clothing swap at Fall Fest was very successful
- potentially create a sign for future events to avoid any confusion/lay out the details of the clothing swap
- looking for a better drop site for the remaining items (currently using green drop)
- composting going well, approx 700lbs in the past 3 weeks, over 40 parents volunteered
- need more volunteers
- donating unopened food to community fridge
- Mr. Bing trying to get SOMSD certified as a "Green District"

5th grade comm

- pie sale going on for one more week
- can donate through soma shares

Motion to adjourn - Kelly

Will Meyer - second