

Park Forest Middle School
PTSO Meeting
October 21, 2020 from 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm
Location: Google Meet and PFMS library

The meeting was called to order by PTSO President Emily Brandenburg at 5:33 pm.

Those in attendance (recorded from the Google Meet participation list):

Andrea Fryer, Austin Van Allen, Brian McGonigal, Chad Weight, Dianne Mayberry, Emily Brandenburg, Isabelle McSweeney, John Cimino, Becky Jones, Lisa Jiminez, Margo Wyckoff, Miriam Powell, Molly Gazda, Molly Tomlin, Sienna Sullivan, Timothy Dzurko, Karen Wiser, Rich Schmidt

Secretary Report by Maureen Kelliher

Motion to approve the of Minutes of September 2020 PTSO meeting

Motion to Approve: Mr. Weight

Second: Mr. Cimino

Treasurer Report by Pat Weaver

Mrs. Weaver remarked that five checks were written since the last meeting, including a mini grant for the library, envelopes from Staples, and refillable water bottles for students, which students can buy for \$1 in the office. The PTSO is also selling PFMS magnets at the front office for \$4 each. The beginning balance this month was \$17951.71, and the ending balance as of 10/21/20 is \$16959.99.

Motion to approve budget for this month

Motion to Approve: Mr. McGonigal

Second: Mr. Dzurko

Motion approved.

Mrs. Weaver next presented an application for a mini grant for the 6th grade for \$166 for kickballs and a pump.

Motion to approve the mini grant: Mr. Weight

Second: Mr. Van Allen

Motion approved.

Fundraising

Mrs. Brandenburg gave an update for Cathy Taylor, who was unable to attend. The Weis shopping program is set up and the more shoppers from PTSO who have signed up, the more money our school can get. The Champs fundraiser is this Sunday, October 25th from 4-9 pm for a Dine In or Take Out event where the PTSO gets a portion of the proceeds. Teachers will distribute slips with the information during activity periods to the students to take home.

A Get Moving fundraiser was introduced by Mrs. Brandenburg. The school can do a virtual fundraiser like a run, dance a thon, or some activity. The PTSO would pay a startup fee to Get Moving, Inc who would help with the organization and take care of the online components while taking a small percentage of online donations as a fee. More information will be sent out about it and the topic can be discussed more next month.

An additional way for parents to donate to the school is by visiting the Teacher Wishlist on the PFMS PTSO website.

Special guests from TSA

TSA students, Margo Wyckoff, Isabelle McSweeney, and Sienna Sullivan (with Mr. Dzurko) shared a presentation created by the students proposing a TSA food drive in cooperation with Weis and the Kiwanis Club. Weis will provide shopping carts, gift cards as reward incentives and boxes for packing donations. Kiwanis Club will provide potential transportation of donations, rewards for student donors, and provide a known group to communicate with the community about the drive. The food will go to the State College Food Bank. The theme of the food drive is a 'Give Thanks' food drive, with suggestions of thanksgiving food as theme, although all donations will be accepted. Donations can be dropped off at commons and room 163S during the week and Park Forest parking lot on the weekends. Food drive will collect donations November 2nd through the 13th. All food drive items will be transferred before thanksgiving break.

School overview by Dr. Wisner

Everything is going well, thanks to teachers, staff, and students. Thanks to parents and students making sure we stay safe. Also, Dr. Wisner appreciated how students have been on time for classes. The next school event this October is parent-teacher conferences at the end of the month.

Team Reports:

6th Grade Wolves. Reported by Mr. Schmidt. The math students are studying fractions and science students are working on cell projects. The teachers are having a meeting next Friday to discuss theme days for students in 6th grade.

6th Grade Mountain Lions. Reported by Mr. McGonigal. Social studies students are discussing Mesopotamia now and just finished studying hunters and gatherers. ELA students are writing blogs and doing fictional reading. Math is completing their bits and pieces unit (fractions). Science class is discussing cell theory and mitosis. Things are going well and Mr. McGonigal is trying to make school more fun at school than at home to keep students interested in continuing to come.

7th Grade Timber Rattlers. Reported by Mrs. Fryer. Math teachers are teaching circles, circumferences or systems of equations. In English, students were creating speeches on mythology and social studies students are making presentations on inventions. Not up to date

on what is happening in science and Ac Lit. The teachers are getting ready for the end of the first marking period.

7th Grade Cardinals. Reported by John Ciminio. Timber rattlers and Cardinals do a lot of the same activities. English students worked on myths and legends where students pulled the lessons out of stories and made a TED talk. The students stepped up on the presentations and the project was a good combination of research, writing and speech making. Argumentative writing will be starting next week. Thanks to students and parents for keeping everything going well.

7th/8th Grade Falcons. Reported by Mr. Van Allen. Since the Falcons have both 7th and 8th graders, some teachers have only one grade right now. In 8th grade art, the students are creating multimedia still lifes. Social studies classes are studying the executive branch. Ac Lit students are identifying bias in writing. Seventh grade students are doing similar activities to other teams.

8th Grade Gray Foxes. Reported by Mrs. Mayberry. Math classes are finishing testing on systems of equations or linear equations. In English, the students are starting the mystery unit which kids are very excited about. Social studies students are discussing elections and the electoral college. Mrs. Mayberry is amazed by how well the kids are doing, listening, wearing their masks.

8th Grade Black Bears. Reported by Mrs. Gazda: Social studies students are learning about political parties and elections. Ac Lit students are in a unit called "Discovering the Unknown". Music students are studying the development of jazz. Art class finished their ceramics and stop motion animation units and are now working on a multimedia still life unit.

World Language. Reported by Mr. Strock: Language teachers have switched rotations for 6th grade. Teaching a language and not showing your mouth has been challenging. The Germany trip was postponed from last spring and rescheduled for June (hopefully) and Herr Strock is organizing a trip for the following year now. Any student, teacher or parent interested in going should let him know.

PE/Health: Reported by Mr. Weight. The PE teachers made some changes to class based on the health and safety plans. Cleaning the equipment after each use is difficult to do between classes and the teachers are adjusting.

Tech Ed. Reported by Mr. Dzurko. Kids are doing extremely well, in the classroom setting, following safety. 7th graders are using tools, sanitizing after each use, and working cooperatively with remote students. Kids will rotate Tech Ed classes on Monday. Mr. Zimmerman is having students work through problem solving challenges by making gum ball machines using cardboard.

PTSO Webpage and PTSO Survey results by Mrs. Brandenburg

Parents and teachers received a survey the past month on how the PTSO can be more supportive. Survey responses can be found on the PTSO minutes page. Some comments were: Parents were more likely to be involved if there was a specific request and people would like a newsletter to find information, a personal note from students are great thank yous to teachers. Mrs. Brandenburg pointed families to the PTSO website that has information including meeting minutes, meeting agendas, and google meet link to meeting, teacher wish lists, and paypal link for donations (although it is not working currently on smart phones). On the PFMS home page, visit announcements page to learn about what is happening in the school.

When asked how to support student wellness, suggestions were for fun activities, gaming groups or google meets based on interests, creating places that parents could feel safe about their students being involved in. Parents would be interested in hearing how to support learners at home from guest speakers.

Meeting adjourned at 6:24 by Mrs. Brandenburg.
Motion to close meeting: Mr. Mcgonigal
Second: Mr. Strock

Minutes created by Mrs. Kelliher