South Row PTO Meeting Minutes – February 5, 2024

Location: South Row Cafeteria

Board Members Present: Liz Haughner, Courtney Cooper, Ashley Cakounes

Members Present: Brenna Thornton, Maureen Stone, Kate Fredette, Johanna Shaw, Class Officers CHS Class of 2024 (Rohan, Sherry, Sara).

The February PTO General Meeting was called to order at 7:04pm.

- Motion to approve November meeting minutes Maureen Stone; seconded by Kate Fredette
- Presentation from Chelmsford High School Senior Class Officers for proposal for Senior Breakfast at South Row on the day of the Clap Out/Walk Through for graduating CHS Seniors, May 28th, 2024.
    - Rohan, Sherry, Sara
        - The proposal is for CHS graduating seniors who previously attended South Row School to partake in a light breakfast at the school prior to the start of the day. Teachers would be encouraged to stop in and chat with former students of theirs.
            - Parents will not be invited to the breakfast in the interest of space and capacity numbers. This will be a CHS Seniors-only breakfast.
        - The Seniors had expressed interest because in the past they had seen their teachers along the walk through, but were not able to break away and chat with them. This breakfast time would allow them to do so BEFORE the walk and would be a great thing for the students AND their former teachers.
        - Students would then be invited (along with their parents) to walk through the school with the K-4 classes clapping for them.
        - Proposal is for the PTO to provide items (either donated or catered) for the breakfast.
            - Officers are reaching out to local businesses for donations for this event to lessen the costs to the PTOs at the various schools.
            - Liz to contact Ms. Kaverud – Kaverudk@chelmsford.k12.ma.us (class advisor) and Sherry to coordinate Senior Breakfast and what needs there are for parent volunteers/donations.
    - PTO voted to move forward with this and see how it goes this year with the intent to continue this tradition moving forward.

- Donna Newcomb asked – is there any opportunity for the Seniors to meet with the 4th graders/Student Council members to discuss preparing for transitions. 4th graders will soon transition to middle school – the Seniors could discuss their own middle school transitions and their own as they prepare to go off to college.
- Jayson Ramalho mentioned the preferred timing for this breakfast would ideally be 8:00-8:50, before school. Teachers would be notified of this event happening ahead of time so they could plan to arrive to school earlier that morning to meet with the Seniors.

- Principal's Update – Terri Gilbert & Jayson Ramalho
  - January wrapped up assessments month – iReady diagnostics & ACCESS testing completed
  - Parent Engagement Night happened last week. It went well.
  - Science Fair is coming up February 28th
    - Look for information on the Science Fair coming home and in the Home Link.
  - Kindness Week was 2 weeks ago. The students completed kind acts
  - Winter Week was a BLAST! The students love it! Mrs. C did a take-home project this year instead of the wall mural. This was well-received by students and parents.
    - Principals to have meeting to discuss feedback with the Specialist teachers going forward with this activity.
  - Kindergarten registration has taken place over the last couple weeks
    - 55 students registered so far, plus 18 students from CHIPS = 73 so far.
    - Good to have preliminary numbers going into the next school year so they can begin planning for incoming students.
  - Safety & Security: State of MA donated $70,000 towards replacing the school's lightning rod replacement system. School has been struck by lightning twice over the last year and the fire panel was compromised. While students present, a member of the Fire Department needed to be present on site. NEEDS to be replaced for safety measures.
- Assistant Principal's Update – Jayson Ramalho
  - Friday 2/2 was the 100th Day of School & Groundhog Day
  - Tuesday 2/3 is Try it Tuesday – clementines (sure to be a win with many kids!)
  - This year's Student Council is over 50 students. Advisors include Mrs. Webber, Mrs. Matthews, and Mrs. Tice (helping with the newspaper)
    - Created sub-groups to allow all students to take part in a larger way
      - Kindness Committee, Welcome to South Row committee, Passport Groups
  - Thursday 2/8 is Early Release and Teacher Professional Development
    - Partnering with Byam and Parker for DEI
      - Every Child – Teaching Through Equity

- Spirit Days coming up:
    - South Row Spirit Day – Friday, 2/6
- Choralfest happening Saturday, 2/10
    - Some 4th graders taking part in this event, come check it out!
- PRIDE Push Week coming up the week before vacation
    - Teachers to target specific behaviors they would like to reinforce in their classes
    - Kids also will be giving out tickets to classmates for expected behaviors
- Global Day of Play, Wednesday, 2/7
    - Students will take part in a dedicated 1-2 hours of student led, unstructured play
        - Some classes are asked to bring in games from home, others will use the materials within their classrooms for this free play.
            - Spearheaded by Mrs. Patriquin (Kindergarten)
        - The goal: to help students build up their social skills and problem solving skills.

- District News: Donna Newcomb
    - It's "All South Row, all the time" these days in terms of the district!
        - Funds from the State for the replacement of the lightning rod structure
        - A request has been made to Mass Building Association for a new roof
        - South Row being highlighted at the School Committee meeting tomorrow night, Tuesday, 2/6
        - Awaiting approval from the budget to replace the ceiling tiles and lighting in the hallways at South Row
    - At School Committee coming up:
        - At the meeting tomorrow, go through the overview of the budget for the upcoming school year
            - $3.4 million has been asked for due to need for additional staff members needed throughout the district
            - Feasibility study getting approved
    - Fights going on at the middle schools and being filmed – fights beginning on social media
        - At Donna's school (Lowell High) students must lock their phones in a box during class
            - This is allowing students to better engage with the class and their peers as well as staff

    - The purpose of DEI is to help staff and students become more culturally aware and allow all students to feel represented and appreciated.
- Treasurer's Update – Courtney Cooper
    - Vote to increase South Row Scholarship amount from $500 to $1000 due to rising costs of college, inflation. Other elementary schools are doing the same.
        - Motion to accept the increase from $500 to $1000: Kate Fredette
            - Second: Brenna Thornton
            - All in favor to increase the scholarship amount from $500 to $1000.
- Multicultural Fair Update – Brenna Thornton
    - Saturday, April 6th – 1-3pm
    - 45 minutes of displays in the Gym
    - 1 hour – 1 hour 15 minutes of performances in the cafeteria
- QuickClicks Fundraiser – Maureen Stone
    - Kat Rotika from Farmhouse Photography will be at South Row on April 2nd from 3-6pm
    - $25 sitting fee this goes to the South Row PTO
    - All digital images and prints are additional cost and go to Farmhouse Photography
- 4th Grade Activities – Johanna Shaw
    - Shirts have been ordered
        - Johanna will be personalizing shirts with names for those who requested them done
- Motion to adjourn at 8:14pm - Kate Fredette
    - All in favor