

Manoa PTO Meeting Agenda

Wednesday, November 13th 7PM

Meeting called to order 7:03PM

Larry Feinberg has been Haverford School Board President for the last 20 years and was just reelected.

- The boards number 1 priority for the past year had been a new contract for the super intendant and they just finished a 5-year contract.
- The Brookline School was sold to the township for \$1 and is no longer school district property.
- Lynnewood project has started and moving along
- Last year 3 new board members were elected.
- The School board hires and fires super intendants, sets budgets,
- 6600 School wide enrollment
- Teachers contracts are up this year
- Goals – diversity in hiring and green initiative and energy saving measures

Dr. Reusche

1. Class sizes – Due to the increasing student population, how is the district going to maintain class sizes to provide an optimal learning environment to ensure every child's needs are being met.

- Principals are asked to find a space to create it, they have been monitoring the growth of the community and Chestnutwald will be growing in the next 3-4 years. Lynnewood will have capacity of 700 – some specialized programs will be moved there.

2. Is the district considering more options for parents for after / before care? This still a concern for many parents.

- They are at Max capacity on site. The district has worked with the YMCA and child steps. They try to find out how many they have enrolled; the district provides transportation to these locations.

3. Communication – Although changes are in progress district wide, what is the district's plan to effectively disseminate communication? Is the district planning on assisting the PTO's with their communications or is the PTO considered an outside agent? If so, PTO's will need to re-evaluation our standing with the district. i.e.: If unable to be present at Back to School night, how are we able to effectively reach our community regarding membership which drive the PTO.

- Looking at how to have the PTO presence at BTSN. They want a list of events that PTO wants to be at. Heather brought up how important BTSN is for collecting money for dues and getting parent involvement

4. Parents are interested in having a foreign language beginning in elementary school. i.e.: Spanish Is this something the district is looking at?

- It is not being looked at right now, it could come up in the future. Right now, the main focus is Science, we realized we need to focus more time there.

5. Is the district closer to a decision about the change of school start time, with the expectation that Lower Merion will be adopting this change come fall?

- No, there are state level committees looking into the districts who have moved to this. They will be looking into it for 2-3 years and see how the changes affect elementary middle and high school. We will then look at their reports and see what effect it has.
- We will look into this but there are many pieces and it won't begin until the summer.

QUESTIONS

- Michelle Scullin asked if the district will ever get a pool – No the board has not discussed a pool
- Full Day Kindergarten – we have looked at this twice and it comes down to how many more classrooms and teachers we will need. Not out of the question.
- There is a cap the bard is allowed to increase the budget but 70% of budget is salaries and benefits.
- What is cap per class K-2 (26) 3-5 (29)
- Why do more students seem to be struggling with reading then in years past – Mrs. Donovan said she thinks the Benchmark is on point and up to snuff. She sees the kids thriving with the new reading program but the goals are harder. She feels we are where we need to be. Other parents also said they see kids stressed over this new program. Standardized testing has become an obsession and there is a bill up for review that will focus more on teacher observation not student testing.

Welcome & Introductions

Approval of October Minutes

Motion to approve 1st Nicole Baumbaugh 2nd Helene Smith

Dr. Ramoundos-

- Please dress the students warm we are going outside now
- Thank you for volunteering for the Halloween parties the parade was a success, the rain held out!
- PTO, thank you for the book fair the kids are very excited.
- Mrs. Miller said thank you we raised over \$1200 for UNICEF
- Congratulations to our field hockey team!
- Student Council elections are next week
- Character counts is 11-22
- Parent Visitation Day is 11-21 please RSVP so labels can be printed
- Conference sign-ups are out don't forget to sign up for a slot

Faculty Report – Ellen Donovan, 3rd Grade Teacher

- Mrs. Miller said thank you for talking about the UNICEF collection, it was the most successful yet!
- The teachers are so thankful for the candy drive for the troops, the kids were so generous and they took 4 SUVs full of candy.
- Mr. Davidson asked if we could get track tanks like all the other schools, if not he needs 15-20 more shirts ordered. Renee asked for him to find ones he likes and send to us.

New Business

Budget – Helene Conroy-Smith

- Only 7 parents submitted reimbursement for Halloween parties, they are being mailed. Don't forget to fill out the form and turn this in.
- Filed taxes

Young Writers Day / Young Writers Day Luncheon – Friday Dec. 5th – Vaishali Vora / /Jenni Dziejwit / Renee Lawler and Michelle Scullin

- Sign up will be coming out soon

Disney on Ice – Helene Conroy-Smith

- December 31 at 11 am has 38 tickets sold section 108 and 109 \$35 each
- If enough interest in December 29 at 11 am in 100 section she can get those \$40 each

Learning Express – Fundraiser 11/18 – 11/22

- Need the form to get the discount, 10% off and 10% to Manoa PTO

IDC – Janice Convery, Stephanie Smith

- Support of the PTO and principals was discussed
- Also, to get everyone on the same page as far as PTO and to find out who is doing what

Year Books – Melissa Carroll

- On Sale, they need Halloween party pictures sent in
- Will be taking orders for them at the family night at book sale

Holiday Fair – Sat. December 14 th – Megan Garrett/Heather Chickery

- Looking for more Vendors
- Signups will be going out soon

HR Parties – Holiday Party -Friday, Dec 20 – Jane Boyle / Ally Rosseel

- All were successful, please send in pictures from the party.
- Holiday party sign-ups will be coming out soon and will be the same as Halloween. Need to be sent 2 weeks prior and the extra parent volunteering needs clearances.

Publishing –

- Nothing to discuss at the moment

Review

Directory - Kiley Capello, Shana Robarge

- Looked great, everyone loved them
- Next year at BTSN printed out forms would help with the process
- ALSO, Shana sold all kids' stuff books

Garden Day – November 10 – Virginia Jennings, Wendy Black-Dorn

- Went great and garden looks wonderful

Fall Fest 2019 – Amy Giacomucci/Renee Lawler

- HUGE success, all the squares sold!
- Raised \$11,782 which is the largest amount raised in years!!

Dining with a Cause – Jane Boyle / Kate Stickel - Toni Roni's & McSorley's 11/16

- Tony Ronis brought in \$125
- McSorleys is coming up 11-16
- Freddys all day long 1-20
- Looking to add Moes, Rita's and Town Tap

Book Fair – Tobie Stallings, Alexis Pasternak,

- Teachers please get wish lists in and send recommendations for students
- Still in need of some more volunteers, if coming during the day need clearances
- Pushing cash, credit and e wallet for students not checks, can be made out for wrong amount and not include tax
- Kids can come if they miss class time, reach out to teacher

- Coin Challenge, the grade that raises the most wins popsicles at lunch this end 11-15 money goes towards All 4 Books.

Preview

Jan -Assembly – Betsy Pandian

- Spring looking at Kids interactive theatre
- January looking at Phenomenal Physics

Jan 17 th – Friday – Skatium get Together – Kate Stickel

- Information coming out

Jan 20 th – Monday – MLK Day of Service @ Manoa – Megan Garrett / Lisa Jesse/Melissa Carroll

- Will be the weekend before at kids against hunger in Broomall
- Sign up will go out

Announcements:

PTO Meeting – January 22nd 7PM – Library

Meeting Adjourned 8:15 pm

Meeting sign in sheet 11-13

1. Michelle Sculin
2. Nicole Stahl
3. Betsy Pandian
4. Wendy Ionodi
5. Chelle Prunkel
6. Sarah Harvey
7. Melissa Klodarska
8. Janice Convery
9. Sandhya Sankaranarayanan
10. Michelle Baldino
11. Lisa Jesse
12. Nancy Fritch
13. Sanantha Crosk
14. Erin McCloskey
15. Tobie Stallings
16. Courtney Keily
17. Stephanie Murray
18. Leah Hoffman
19. Jennifer Leisner
20. Shana Robarge
21. Nicole Bumbough
22. Renee Lawler

23. Heather Chickery
24. Megan Garrett
25. Helene Conroy Smith