

## Old Mill Road General Membership Meeting

### September 21, 2022

Meeting called to order at 7:11 pm.

- Pledge of Allegiance
- Welcome to first PTA meeting of 2022 - 2023 school year by PTA President – Natalie Ciccone
- Motion for June meeting; approved by Laura Squillace and second motion from Melissa Chambers

#### President's Report

- Welcome back to school without any covid restrictions.
- The PTA is excited to be planning and bringing back a lot of fun activities that took place pre-covid.

#### Principal's Report

- Welcome back from Principle DeLuca. The school year is off to an amazing start!
- Mrs. DeLuca commented on how nice it has been to see everyone sitting back in their normal seats in the lunchroom and enjoying the time together without covid restrictions; everyone is enjoying that the restrictions have been lifted.
- Meetings with PTA committees have already begun to bring back some fun events.
- Addressed that parents who had K-1 students during covid, missed out on a lot so there is talk about bringing back some special activities for that group. Some may be new and some may be what was done pre-covid.
- Evacuation drill - 10/4. If weather is nice, the students will walk to Brookside rather than take a bus. 10 minute early release that day.
- Reminders - school is closed on 9/26, 9/27 and 10/5.
- Parents asked if chromebooks can be left at school to lighten the backpack load. Chromebooks have to go home to be charged. Teachers are doing what they can to lighten the load and will continue to monitor.
- Mrs. DeLuca is looking forward to a great year and having fun!

#### BOE (Will Luciani)

- 1st day of school went well.
- Board discussed some financial moves to get us off the fiscally distressed list.
- Thank you Dr. Seniuk for your help making these moves.

#### BOE (Dr. Senuik)

- The opening of school went perfectly and the OMR picnic was great. It's a good feeling to be back!
- Next BOE meeting is 10/11 and District Council is @ 9am.
- Parent U - 10/25 @ 6 - 7:30p at HDF. The theme is monster mash.
- Trunk or Treat - 10/21 @ 4pm at HDF.
- The Meet & Greet the day before school seemed to lessen anxiety and alleviate some tears. Perhaps we will stick with that tradition.

- At the BOE meeting last Tuesday, the school emergency safety plan was approved. A big shout out to committees who worked hard to put those plans together.
- Introduction of Mrs. Guidice, the new Assistant to the Superintendent.
  - Mrs. Guidice visited the schools and distributed certificates to students who completed the summer reading program. She is looking forward to a great year and visiting classrooms more. News about her visits will be highlighted on instagram.
- Mrs. Talbot welcomed everyone back. Announced 1:1 chromebooks this year. Kindergarten gets them in October. There are two ITs to support chromebook issues.
- Requested submitting the laptop loan agreement asap.
- Parent square is being used for communications - it is a great tool - use QR code to get familiar. Any issues can be reported to the secretary.
- Interdisciplinary research projects are being introduced in library. The students are learning about different hispanic cultures in celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month.

#### Treasurer's Report

- Treasurer, Sandra Schwartz, was absent tonight so the budget will be reviewed and voted on at the next meeting.

#### Correspondence

- Introduction of Tara Congimi, Corresponding Secretary.
- Parent square is the new communication platform also for PTA and will keep information streamlined. Alerts and reminders can be set up on the app.
- Tara can make a connection to the right person if parents have questions about how to use some platforms.
- PTA still has facebook and instagram for OMR PTA.
- Flyers will still be sent home and then saved on OMR webpage in the virtual backpack section. Class captains can refer parents there if they are missing flyers.
- Old forms will be archived and start fresh with new files.

#### Teacher Reports

- K – learning routines and getting to know each other along with cutting, gluing, coloring. Focus is on creating a safe environment for students to excel in.
- 1<sup>st</sup> – establishing routines, completing name studies, and getting ready for the apple unit.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – learning new routines including daily morning meeting and closing circles. First field trip to Short Beach was a success. The students learned about marine life. Many thanks to the chaperones who helped gather marine life samples for the classroom tank.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> - no update.
- 4<sup>th</sup> – wrapping up place value unit, beginning scientific method unit and reading workshop.
- 5<sup>th</sup> – reviewing place value to the thousandths, writing personal narrative, reading realistic fiction, brushing up on geography and reviewing safety measures in science.
- 6<sup>th</sup> – steps of scientific method in science, comparative religion studies and learning about five largest religions in the world in social studies. Students are beginning their personal narratives. Word power class is teaching students how to recognize genres and literary

devices used by authors. Reviewing place value and operations with whole numbers and decimals in math.

- Library – library manners and differences between fiction and nonfiction. Dewey decimal system scavenger hunt.
- Art – reviewing elements of art, beginning line in landscapes. A couple of student teachers are assisting in class.
- PE – K-2 is doing movement exploration units, and 3-6 is throwing, catching, and route running in football.
- Music – name games, getting to know you activities using instruments and movement.

#### SEPTA (Laura Squillace)

- Introduction of Laura Squillace, SEPTA President.
- SEPTA promotes inclusivity and supports wings and special education programs for the entire district. All money raised goes directly to those programs.
- The first SEPTA event was a great success. It was a virtual read and eat and had a large OMR turnout.
- Follow SEPTA on instagram and facebook for info about upcoming events and pictures of past events.
- Join SEPTA via QR code or see Laura Squillace.
- Next SEPTA event is on 10/27 @ HDF. It will be a Halloween event.
- SEPTA is aiming to have more events at OMR.
- Members will get free or reduced prices for events.

#### Committees

- Introduction of Elizabeth Vitale-Gandolfo, VP Committees.
- Class captains have been selected and welcome back letters will go home soon.
- Committee chair sign ups have begun.
- The first Book Fair is on 10/14 with scholastic. We will be using e-wallet again which has been the easiest method of payment for the students so far. The PTA will share instructions about how to use it.
- Picture Day is on 10/3.
- Fall Festival is on 10/31. The committee chairs, PTA and Principal had a wonderful meeting about logistics. Many volunteers will be needed and must be PTA members.
- Standing Committees
  - Site base - these are clubs that can either be taught by an outside vendor or a teacher. The committee meets to collaborate on what clubs would work best for the school.
  - Arts and Education (Tina Silvers) - Harlem Wizards will be the first assembly on 9/29, in person. Other assemblies are being worked on.
  - Box Tops (Erin Teta) - \$50 balance so far. Erin is spreading the word via facebook and trying to brainstorm different ways to engage family participation.
  - Library Honors (Mrs. Marciana and Ms. Moser) - When a teacher undergoes a life changing event, a book is dedicated in their honor.
  - Reflections (Margherita Lombardi) - This year's theme is show your voice. Formats such as literature, dance, artwork, paintings, etc., can be entered.

Registration will be via a google form and we hope more students will get involved.

### MAMS

- MAMS liaison has not yet been established for this school year; a sixth grade parent is recommended.

### Fundraising

- Introduction of Kathleen Lawler, VP Fundraising.
- Welcome back picnic was a huge success and it was great to offer events again like we did pre-covid. Over 50 raffles were donated. Thank you to the OMR staff for donating the beautiful baking basket. Thank you to the board for helping collect raffles and contribute to raffles. The PTA made \$2500 from raffle tickets.
- Adventureland - coming up on 10/29. The three North Merrick PTA's have partnered to meet the 400 person minimum with Adventureland. We have already met that minimum to secure the event. All participants must pay.
- Mums sale ends Friday, 9/23. Pick up on 9/30 and parents will be emailed about pick up time.
- Pie fundraiser - with Grandma's Gourmet Country Pies. Begins 9/28 thru 10/14. Pick up will 11/22 from 4-6. Items not picked up will be donated to a local food pantry.
- Spirit wear - looking for new, fun, trendy vendors who offer online ordering to make it easier to place orders.
- Class t-shirts - looking into a new vendor who is an OMR family. An idea was brought up to hold a drawing contest for a new mascot.
- Paint night - either one in person or a take home from AR workshop.
- 6th Grade Fundraisers - these are different from PTA fundraisers. The 6th grade class pays for all of their own events, supplies, etc so they hold their own fundraisers. Money raised stays with 6th grade. PTA fundraising is separate and supports PTA events only.
- Amazon Smiles - a year round fundraiser with Amazon - Kathleen will post the link on Facebook.

### Membership

- Introduction of Lisa Savino, VP Membership.
- Membership numbers are amazing so far - 208 members compared to 303 at end of year last year.
- Thank you everyone for joining and signing up your families and kids. Anyone can be a PTA member.
- Back to school picnic was a success and a lot of membership came from this event.
- Reminder that class captains and volunteers for school events need to be PTA members.
- Please send pictures from events to Lisa so she can post them on the bulletin board outside the lunch room.
- QR code available to join the PTA.

### New Business

- none

Meeting adjourned at 8:15p

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Recording Secretary, Lisa Luchsinger

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President, Natalie Ciccone