PTO Meeting 12/3/20

Called to order 7:03pm

In attendance – Principal Herlihy, Lori Zinner, Sue Johnston, Barbara Mauger, Nik Jathar, Julie Winsett, Steven Telio, Sharon Morgenbesser, Joris Ghata, Gat Rauner, Dalia Linssen, Xiaodan Xie, Jess Lourie

**Principal’s Update – Principal Herlihy**

School committee – as of 1/4, K-2 will stay until 2pm. Allows teachers to have ½ hour lunch and then prep time at end of day. Ms. Powers is teacher representative for this planning. Sorting out logistics. Having staggered lunch schedule, K first. 1st and 2nd may have same lunch block, with recess included. Would then miss afternoon time with teacher on remote days; will supplement with specialists. Working with Glenn at CCC on logistics/space. 3 pickups. DLA equivalency – have some extra built-ins like mask breaks, longer teacher sessions, more flexibility, so it equals out – as always will make sure DLA and Hybrid are equitable/equivalent.

Family survey data pending.

DLA 4th and 5th graders are in mixed DLA class (don’t have CS teacher). Have CS teacher sponsor.

SW Rebecca Young mentioned kudos in district to CS PTO!

Welcomed 5 students from DLA to Hybrid. One went from Hybrid to DLA.

**Past events:**

**Food drive – Gat Rauner**

Food drive ~155 items – mostly what was requested, a few miscellaneous items. Gat delivered to Food Pantry. We can do multiple drives throughout year; sometimes have greater needs later in years. Maybe another drive in the spring.

**Community puzzle – Gat Rauner**

Pieces have been turned in, now need to assemble. Need to make sure people colored right side. If not, depending on material, could color scan and print to reverse. Could laminate. Could have printed at Newton North. If missing pieces, can have those who did not complete fill in.

**Directory Update – Julie Winsett**

Distributed week before TG to Cohort A & B, DLA in progress ?complete. Roughly 70 people requested.

**School pictures – Lori Zinner**

Were given to Cohort A & B. Working on DLA distribution. Retake day is April 12 for Cohort A, April 15 for Cohort B, rain date 13th & 16th. Will be near end of day, so photographer can stay, then DLA can sign up for after school. Will make class pictures after this.

**CAS update – Steven Telio**

Citywide survey – split between non-curriculum vs curriculum based programs, evenly split. Some schools would only participate if they got their first choice. Is up to PTO which programs will match culture of school. One program per grade level to make sure there is equity. Want to be inclusive with DLA. DLA teachers want to be involved as well, to make sure no conflicts with schedule and to have input. All programs will be on Wed between 9-12:30. Different Wednesdays per grade, between Jan-June. Chose Wed as everyone remote that day, and will be 1 hour per grade. Our PTO needs to decide on curriculum vs non-curriculum based; the non-curriculum based will probably be easier to coordinate. Will be virtual. Is ~$10 per child. Steven & Kerry can present options from teachers to choose from. For DLA, students will go with their home school; may try to coordinate with other school so at same time. One school has opted out. PTO has limited funds this year, but would like to prioritize this. Particularly as one program per student, should have options. Range of programs, ranging from ~$610 – 3050. Have budgeted around $2000. Budgeted ~18k goal for annual fund, and close to goal. Have some flexibility, if there is a strongly preferred program. Goal is to start programming in January.

**Annual Fund update – Joris Ghata**

Target is 18k. Need about ~$3000 to meet goal. May need to work on other fundraising now. Have some great ideas: Cookbook with recipes. People could share other ideas, like favorite movie/drink/game etc. Could have book fair with children’s bookstore or Scholastic, or have families donate books for used book sale. Green Team would be happy to co-sponsor if this event was chosen. Each family could make small gift, like notecards. For booksale, this could be nice, and also keep books outside of landfill. Could put sale online; virtual. Etsy CS site. For booksale etc, maybe do online, for COVID safety; could do something outside but need to make safe and also inclusive for DLA. Could have kids artwork sale. Could make family crosswords. CS tree – everyone sends in leaf-shaped envelope for tree. Could have game night in spring with fundraising feature. Maybe pick 1-2 events for spring?

**5th grade experience – Dalia Linssen**

A group of parents form committee, the 5th grade experience committee, that organizes a number of events from tshirt to yearbook to end of year festivities, to recognize their last year at CS. Usually includes a fundraiser. Currently working on “Essential needs drive” – partnering with Beverly Mobilia, who is helping 45 families in Newton with acute needs. Ms. Mobilia gave intro to students both hybrid & DLA. Getting responses already, with essential items donations; particular needs for diapers and giftcards. May have extension. Storing at school; students will help, will have cardmaking and sort baskets, stations. Students are involved – helping as above. No deadline yet.

**Inclusive Schools Week – Principal Herlihy**

1st week in Dec is inclusive schools week. CS has been doing this for years, with artistic component. Each student was given hand to decorate. In-school volunteers will put on bulletin board. Will then send video of the bulletin board out to the school. Ms. Stroessner made virtual bookshelf with books focused on inclusivity, which will be featured in Update.

**Misc items:**

Spirit-wear – Xiaodan Xie. Running in Update, with deadline in mid-December.

Water bottle – have to order at least 50, to get in bulk.

Could have tshirts as teacher gift option – could ask Jess to email room parents.

Adjourned – 831pm

Next meeting: Wed Jan 6 at 7:00pm, via Zoom