PTO meeting

4-7-21

Via Zoom

Called to order 7:05pm

In attendance: Principal Herlihy, Barbara Mauger, Lori Zinner, Sue Johnston, Liz Flaig, Sharon Morgenbesser, Anne Dixon, Kerry Prasad, Steven Telio, Nick Jathar, Jess Lourie, Xiaodan Xie, Julie Winsett, Carolyn Virgilio, Joris Gjata.

NPS Equity Committee - Kerry Prasad

NPS has equity committee, who reviews PTO spending, to achieve an equitable experience for all children in enrichment, thru PTO. Equity = PTO spending in this case. Spending on some items limited – CAS, library, class support. Updates: curricular related spending - $40 per pupil , but CAS is now excluded from this cap. It previously was $80 but this include CAS. For CAS, standard of 3 experiences per student (plus concert series) but no longer has dollar limit. This should help adjust for differences in school size and class size. Money not spent in 2020 will roll over.

School updates – Principal Herlihy

Going well. Nice to have kids together. Welcomed back 19 DLA students and one from another school.

Pooled testing going well.

Specialists have started. Library is still remote. Can use library as flex space, and covering librarian is teaching some DLA as well. PE in-person. Art and music – have cart, going to classrooms.

Range of emotions from kids, new schedule, but are settling in. Have additional spaces for snacks/eating when unmasked.

Question about quarantines – kids will be given work to do at home, independent work.

Tents – arriving mid-April, should stay up to mid-Nov

Proposal next year, elementary school will start earlier and end earlier. Announcement went out. This will facilitate later HS start time.

Pooled testing

284 in person, 154 kid – increase from last week

Reviewed how to increase enrollment in pooled testing. Continue to run in Update. Could send blast. Signup was challenging – also there were 2 testing pathways. Could send to room parents and ask them to send out class reminder. ELL helped with translations. Could appeal to not just individuals, but as it helps our community – that it makes CS better for all of us. Keeps our community safe – keep your child, other children, faculty/teachers safe. Currently just for in-person – may need to phrase this is for in-person community, not whole community (currently not testing DLA).

Mask sales – Lori Zinner

Masks ordered – ordered more than 250 required masks - ~300. Should arrive soon. Ordered 32 for teachers. Ordered some extras in case people want more, forgot to order etc.

Fun Run – Sue Johnston

Mr. Crow happy to organize run with inperson kids, during PE. DLA is in progress – trying to find best time/space. Maybe a virtual fun run – have them pick their own route, although want kids to run with their class if able. Kids will sign up with their classroom teacher, and have class goal. Classes will earn something fun, like pajama day. This way kids are working together towards same goal, no individual pressure to raise money, to keep it fun and gets kids involved with their class. Setting up websites now, people will have 6 weeks to raise money. Some DLA kids may be happy to run together at school – some may be comfortable outdoors masked, and some do outdoor activities together. Can also explore weekend option for DLA.

Food Truck – Sue Johnston

Scheduled tentatively for May 8. Planning on bbq and cookie truck. Between 430-730pm. People often grab and go. Will include messaging about distancing. Signup time slots to space out people. Could have truck in bus lane, so people can space out on sidewalk to line up.

Newton Serves – Sue Johnston

Planned for May 2. CS is registered. Won’t have food. Mulch ordered; ordered less woodchips (needs raking); 10 dozen leaf bags. Will have people sign up in advance on signup genius - many 9-10am slots. Signups include leaf pickup, debris, K classroom, general cleanup, then mulching. Signup genius will go out this week.

Trivia Night – Lori Zinner

Was a great success, people had a lot of fun. Was more of a community building event than fundraiser although did raise some money. Had good turnout. Will plan to do again. Some advantages to having on zoom, independent of the pandemic – easier for some families in terms of childcare etc.

Community Book Night – Principal Herlihy

Went well. Teachers were great and helped. Students participated too, recorded some videos. Involved a few families including a few new families.

Mini grants

Teachers submitted grants requests. All grants were approved. Many requests for classroom books, with increased diversity.

CS Garden – Julie Winsett and Joris Gjata

Green Team is planting seeds this weekend. Hope to have plants ready to harvest before end of year. Involving Mr. Repta with watering. Will repair beds and plant a few additional seedlings on Newton Serves. Additional suggestions of rosemary, parsley , tomatillos – will explore. Discussed problem of local wildlife eating – could sprinkle cayenne pepper.

Next meeting – Wed May 5

Adjourned 8:26pm