PTO meeting

3-3-21

7:00pm

Via Zoom

Called to order 7:05pm

In attendance – Principal Herlihy, Barbara Mauger, Lori Zinner, Sue Johnston, Julie Winsett, Sharon Morgenbesser, Elizabeth Flaig, Taryn Norviel, Jennifer Behr, Keren Wolf, Gat Rauner, Anne Dixon, Steven Telio, Xiaodan Xie, Nick Jathar, Sangeeta Jathar, Jennifer Behr, Joris Gjata, Jessie Damroth, Carolyn Virgilio, Shion (Shy) Walsh

Updates – Principal Herlihy

Principal Herlihy updated on upcoming changes at CS. Plans are to return to in-person soon as per NPS; awaiting guidelines, hours, and further details from NPS. Working on where people eat snack and lunch, as this needs to be 6 feet. Trying to honor DLA requests, particularly 5th grade as priority. Will also need to see if any Hybrid kids change as this will impact space. Faculty are focusing on being sure to work with kids closely during the transition, and ensure they are answering their questions, and addressing all of the children’s concerns or questions about the changes. Also will be sure to address adult concerns, for parents and staff; there will be alot of changes for teachers. Working on room arrangements. Ventilation is all at goal.

Community book night.  
Community event planned for later this month, celebrating literacy and highlighting community book month. Using books from Black History month. Will be on Zoom; will begin in one room, then breakout rooms for each book, and end with Kahoot trivia night game. Hope to involve community; can invite family, even grandparents in other state. Will work with ELL on translating questions. May need volunteers for breakout rooms, will let us know if so. Scheduled for March 18 at 7-8pm.

MCAS testing. Details pending. Waiting to see how many kids will take, and space needed. DLA can opt-out.

CAS Update – Steven Telio

Shared updates from CAS team: This year has proved challenging for CAS, and very appreciative of the teachers’ enthusiasm, understanding, and flexibility working thru the novel year and process, as well as all of their work in bringing these great programs to our students. Grades K and 2 had a virtual visit with award-winning storyteller Kemp Harris last week. He will visit the first graders on April 14. He taught for years at NPS, and at CS; beloved with engaging, lively style, and a perennial favorite. Thank you to Karen Jacobson-Sive and Christine O'Donnell for organizing. Plan for storyteller Charlotte Blake Alston to virtually visit grades 3, 4 and 5 on 3/17: “Stories and Songs in the Oral Tradition” - new to CS but has received much praise at other NPS schools. Thanks to Sheila O’Neil who is organizing. CAS expressed thanks to the PTO and CS families for their financial contributions and support.

Community Puzzle update

Puzzles are hung. Laminated so doing well outside. Has been great community building project. DLA feels united as well. Nice CS community building project, and they look great.

Musical

Songs have been picked. Will be montage of different songs. Rehearsals starting soon. Email blast will go out soon. Rehearsals will be 130-3p on zoom on Wed afternoons.

Masks project

RafiNova masks community fundraising project. Blast went out. Fliers went out to cohort A, going to cohort B at end of week, and DLA in packets next week; fliers will be more tangible for the kids to see, and facilitate the kids becoming excited about masks. Will place as bulk order of 250 masks minimum. Taking orders from families first to see what sizes needed, to make sure we will have enough of the different sizes, and then place orders with Rafi Nova.

Trivia night

March 19 at 730pm. Will be on Zoom, run by Trivia Hub. This will be a nice parent community event, particularly as we aren’t able to have other parent events during COVID. No cost, but soliciting donations; those who contribute $40 will get bottle of wine. Liz Flaig will try to have wine donated, or arrange group discount, with a local liquor store, and we will advertise/include acknowledgement with wine. Will send registration links, and there are paper forms. Will put fliers in March 12 DLA pickup.

Communications

Discussed emails, PTO communications to families. Want to make sure all families are receiving updates. Membership toolkit is good – will consider best way to send updates next year, to make sure we have all families/emails. Want to make sure everyone is getting emails.

MCF – Taryn Norviel and Keren Wolf

Reviewed MCF ideas for the pandemic year. Considered cookbook although minimal interest. Considering outdoor event. Could send dance choreography to kids, and make into video with country dances. Explored whether could do outdoor event, but with unpredictable pandemic trajectory, can’t plan on this. Exploring dance and country options. Planning ahead, as our current organizers will graduate; have 3 volunteers for next year. Could invite last year’s grads, as they didn’t have MCF given pandemic last year, to see if they want to participate. “Dancing around the world” theme?

Fundraisers updates, community events

Working on RafiNova mask fundraiser. Trying to focus more on community building than fundraising. Exploring food trucks event. Other elementary PTOs have had great success with food trucks, with ~15% profit yield, although requires 50-75 tickets to be sold. Maybe in June when weather is warmer. Looking at Fun Run. Working with company where each kid gets a webpage, and can send to family to support their run. Need to look at when runs would happen. Originally were planning for May, by cohort. Looking at sites, like where BOKS runs – loop. Looking to make it a fun event, where kids feel involved. Have explored movie night, but need to find location where people can fit. Maybe by grade. JCC had movie night, could see how they organized.

Our expenses were ~33K. Less than typical year as we are spending less on CAS. However, annual fund was far less revenue than typical (18k, usually closer to 30k). Reviewed this year is different given COVID, and planning smaller events thru year. Need to be mindful of equity issues and being mindful of community building.

Blue Zone.

Discussed importance of compliance.

5th grade updates.

Working on yearbook. Just sent letter updating 5th grade families with overview of rest of year. A lot of blasts from the PTO, and will work together on staggering, particularly as 5th grade emails are time-sensitive. Looking at ideas for 5th graders. Brainstorming on safe ways to sign class t-shirts. Will also brainstorm about graduation. Will see if ELL translations needed. Will coordinate upcoming blasts to stagger.

Next meeting: Wed April 7 at 7pm via Zoom

Adjourned 8:52pm