

## **PTO Meeting November 14, 2023 6:30pm**

**Attendance:** Laurie Madsen, Kim Collen, Courtney Sroka, Tracy Kent, David Bernsley, Carrie Minkler, Matt Turetsky, Kara Wilson

Last Meeting f/u: sorry for the link error and that people were unable to get on. Hopefully it is fixed going forward. Link was created and the meeting host needs to be transferred in order to prevent this going forward.

### **Principals Report:**

Mrs. Kent- Approaching the end of the first trimester, ends 11/21. There are two opportunities for teacher conferences. Report cards will be given at the conference. Evening dates on 11/30 and afternoon on 12/01. Last week a parent engagement event was held for grades K/1/2. Invited parents in to learn about what their kids were learning. It was unfortunately not a big turn out, 11 parents attended the event. This same type of event will be later for grades 3-5. Week 2 of after school enrichment for grades k/1/2. Older grades will be in the spring. Transportation being available with after school buses has helped participation rate. Make -up picture day has been rescheduled for picture retakes and a few class pictures.

Mr. Bernsley- Spirit week is happening at the MS/HS hosted by the Student Council. The HS student council is now up and running. Students on the first quarter principal's list will be eligible to go bowling on the principal, a previous tradition. Continuing to promote a culture of being proud to be a mountaineer. Every Friday the staff wears green and gold. Students are voicing they do not want to wear every Friday as it feels more special when its a "special day" Trying to cut back on congregating in the bathrooms and hallways during the morning. Working on students being in the class for the first and last five minutes of each class. Students are to eat in the cafeteria and not in the hallways. There are still special rooms that will not be taken away. Winter athletics started Tuesday. Busy December with the music department. Students went to All County.

Breakfast for all TA and monitors on Friday morning during 1st period served/cooked by the principal. Thankful for all that they do to help keep the school running and supporting the students. Professional Development Committee/Shared decision making/shared leadership. Next Tuesday half day teachers will get together in the same subject area and work on vertical curriculum articulation.

### **Treasurer's Report:**

Carrie Minkler- Helping Hands \$864 reimbursement request. First payment on the yearbook at elementary was made. Ms. Rontey will be given a check for the Saratoga Museum. A grant will be used to reimburse for this trip. Book fair did really well. \$700 in scholastic dollars expires at the end of November. Offering it to teachers/library to see if it can be used. Around \$1200 profit this past book fair. Carrie will send a link to Mrs. Kent to look at scholastic bucks items.

**Current:**

Laurie met with Shannon DeCelle about possibly doing the MWFCFC again. We will need a lot more support in the form of volunteers if they want to do it again. It was a lot of work for a little bit of money. It was a great community event but it was a lot. Was a weekly commitment for about 10 weeks. Low volunteers turn out willing to help with food, running the event etc. was difficult to keep going. Reached out to honor society groups but they are committed to other groups/events. This was in March last year \$98 profit. In order to make it work, really need help from parents/volunteers etc. The event was well attended and the weather helped.

The District Wide PTO fundraiser is going well. Was off to a slow start but has reached a point in sales where the paper materials are now covered. 40% of the sales will go back to the PTO. Orders are due on the 18th. Laurie will go through these paper orders and submit everything.

**Upcoming:**

Holiday Shop BES

Building use form- Laurie will put in for.

Volunteers- sign up genius will be made and posted. Need 5 volunteers for each day and volunteers for set up.

Shopping- ordering was done including bags for items

Cost of items and shipping increased a lot this year. discussed increasing from 1\$ per item to around \$1 - \$2 per item to help cover additional costs. This event does not usually make money it covers the cost of the items. PTO dollars will still be available for those in need.

Holiday shop set-up will be December 12th after school. Shopping will be December 13th and 14th for BES. Courtney will send final invoices to Carrie.

PTO will coordinate how we will designate these volunteer interest spots/best way to create a volunteer contact list/email chain/communication.

- Ask if someone can volunteer to enter the names, emails and area of interest into a database and share with the PTO so all have access on google drive. Then we can use it for upcoming events and for the holiday shop. Email will be sent out to point people in the direction of stall using the sign up genius when available.

Discussed if the PTO would like to support the MSHS Music Department and rent a space/table for the PTO at their Holiday Fest. Table space is \$25.00 to rent and proceeds will benefit the European Trip 2026. Discussed possible table options of Hot Chocolate, PopCorn, Cotton Candy. Parents volunteered their machines if needed.

Walsworth yearbook contract for next year went up 150\$ This only increases the amount by 1\$ per book per kid. This company has worked well previously. PTO needs to agree to this. \$3,192 is the total amount needed. All agreed. Courtney and Carrie will sign and email back Mr. Turetsky.

Parent inquired to Mr Bernsely about the sports bus. The bus previously would stop at the following areas if it was passing by on their way back to school. Grafton school, Petersburg Church, Berlin Stewarts and a Stephentown stop. Since the sports program merged with Berlin this is no longer an option. This was very helpful for parents and saved up to 45-60 min of driving time as opposed to having to go to school and then back home. Mr Bernsely will inquire with the bus garage if this is a possibility of re-starting again.

PTO usually has tables set up at concerts at the MS/HS. These dates of the upcoming events will be checked and then we will ask for volunteers for baked items to sell at these events.

**Next Meeting:** December 12, 2023 at 6:30pm via virtual meeting link.