

McKenny PTO Meeting

Tuesday, January 12, 2021

Over Zoom

Attendance: Michael Havens, *Principal*; Nancy Hooper, *Librarian*; Cherie Andreassen, *President*; Mindy Swedberg, *Vice President*; Taylor Swedberg; Abby Terpening, *Treasurer*; Ingrid Aries, *Secretary*; Marny Howell, *Value Village Coordinator and Facebook Coordinator*; Carrie Andrew, *Parent-At-Large*; Chris Schof; Duong Lou; Amanda Villani; Chrissy Haun

Our meeting convened at 7:00 following a social time where 12 people attended.

McKenny Update (Michael Havens):

- Enjoying being back after break
- Excited to have assemblies every other week
 - Last assembly focused on courage
 - Opportunity to show courage in the Talent Show
- Thurston County will come out with a recommendation soon about returning to school
 - If infections stay at an acceptable rate, we will perhaps be returning to hybrid for kids whose families are interested in that
 - About 60% response rate to the previous surveys regarding attendance
 - Michael is contacting families who haven't responded yet, starting with the 1st and 2nd grade families
 - He has been able to answer some questions
 - Email from the district indicates a start date on February 1st
 - It takes a lot of planning so it is important to start planning to meet people's needs and support staff needs as well
 - Based on what people have selected as their preference and what the teacher's needs are, many students will need to switch teachers
 - Many people didn't realize that their child may need to do this
 - School day will be 9-2:30
 - With their classroom teacher and a small group of students
 - Movement will mostly be in and out of exterior doors
 - Lunch in the lunchroom
 - Recess will be in grade levels and assigned portions of the playground
 - Including a mask-free zone
 - Teachers will have the schedule for academics and social-emotional learning just as they normally do
 - There are a lot of questions for which he just doesn't have answers
 - Some things we won't know until we experience it
 - For distance learning, they may or may not remain with their teacher

- A/B will not be split by last name, but rather people can give a preference for which days work best for their families: Monday and Thursday, Tuesday and Friday, or whichever works best
- Not many of McKenny's teaching staff have asked for or been approved for an alternative work environment
- They will know more once they have surveyed families
- Will students in the district need to attend other schools?
 - There is a school, not ours, where every teacher has been approved to work from home
 - We won't really know what this will look like until we hear from families
- Michael will be dying his hair soon as part of the Read-A-Thon prizes
 - He will be calling students who are prize-winners to help pick his hair color
- **Budget Update:**
 - Not much has changed
 - Read-A-Thon brought in \$2409.74
 - Still waiting on check from 99Pledges
 - Only money out was for Target Gift Card Prizes
 - Box Tops check should be on it's way for \$148.70
- **Sunshine Fund:**
 - No Updates
- **Value Village:**
 - We made about \$150 from all of our donations
 - Less than last year which was about \$350
 - More restrictions this year
 - Made our time earlier and limited how much non-clothing items (no books or furniture)
 - Thank you to Cherie, Mindy, and Rachel Paris for caravanning
 - We have another set up for May
- **Read-A-Thon**
 - Raised \$2409.74
 - Read 41,126 minutes
 - 30 students participated this year (and turned in information)
 - 99Pledges easy to do and work with
 - Let Ingrid know if you want to recommend them to another PTO/PTA because we can get a free Kindle Fire if they raise over \$1,000
 - Don't input money into the Sunshine Fund until we need it (earmark it for that if needed)
 - We don't know what we'll need yet
 - Send \$1,000 to Library for new books
 - All money is earmarked for Library books and for the Sunshine Fund so they money needs to go there
 - ***Motion, seconded, approved to give \$1,000 from the Read-A-Thon for books for the library***

- Mrs. Hooper is so honored and grateful for the money
 - They really want to boost our library's selection of diversity and social-emotional books
 - We can get them through a small bookstore (Browser's) so we can give back to our community into this way too
 - Also helps with the surprise stacks that go home with kids
 - She already has a generated list of books she wants
- **Talent Show (Michael and Ingrid):**
 - Will be Tuesday, January 26th at 6:30 pm over zoom
 - Students, staff, and families may choose to pre-record up to one minute of themselves performing a talent or send in a picture of a visual arts talent
 - A nice community event
 - Something for everyone
 - Ingrid will create a flyer
 - Michael will share out the print it and share the information with families
- Michael has started pre-recording a daily announcement for teachers to play when everyone is gathered:
 - Pledge of Allegiance
 - Land Acknowledgement
 - Any announcements for students and/or staff
- **Equity:**
 - Stacy Brown (our music teacher) and PTA member at Pioneer Elementary has invited us to participate in Design Thinking Training
 - They wrote a grant for workshop that looks at perspectives and how you can work together
 - About 3 people
 - It is a diversity inclusion workshop
 - Cherie will email out to the PTO list to see what interest there is
 - Ingrid is interested
 - Training will be held on Thursday, February 11 and Tuesday, February 16 from 6-8pm over zoom
 - Participants need to attend both meetings
- **PTO Survey**
 - We didn't do one last year and haven't yet
 - Cherie will put out a survey
 - Too much communication?
 - Too little communication?
 - Wait until that after the workshop in case we get any feedback on better ways to do this

Meeting ended at 8:02

See you at our next meeting at 6:30 on February 9th!