

PTA Meeting Minutes

Welcome

- Low attendance probably due to Holocaust Speaker

MME Update: Pete Dymit

- Importance of having a strong PTA at the middle school level. People hear a message that Middle School doesn't want you involved or it's too much work to be involved. This is NOT true - they WANT parent involvement.
- Huge advantage to get involved: you see what's reality and what's not in the lunch room and hallways. You network with other parents. You get information directly from the principal.
- If we can fill our board, and split up the work load it isn't a huge commitment.
- Middle school is funny, the kids are interesting, teachers are sensitive to this awkward time. If you can find the balance of high expectations but not getting bent out of shape, helps keep perspective
- Please spread the word that Middle School NEEDS and WANTS parent support. School involvement vs. learning involvement (don't email teachers, etc...) that's the students job.
- 6th graders transition very quickly, 3-4 days. It's the parents that struggle and take a lot longer.
- Instead of asking your child a direct question about themselves (they feel like you're prying) ask them about middle school/a situation in general (then they feel like they are being consulted)

Principal Update: Bryan McGinley

- Follow up from MME principal: working on giving kids independence/not hovering in 5th grade sets them up for success in middle school. Talk to your kids in the car. Talk to your kids now about sex, drugs, etc...before they are influenced by other people.
- With the end of the year coming, lots of wrapping things up.
- Last staff meeting teachers shared what's they've done on their committee's. Great to hear how everyone has been involved/what was accomplished.

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- Social Thinking Skills pilot k-5 this year will roll into next year and be more operational ("Let's talk about the size of the problem, group plan vs individual plan")
- Yearbooks will come out the last week of school
- Kindergarten prep has been a huge part of spring as well as RSK since we will have in at Deephaven next year.
- Testing is wrapping up. MCA scores out this summer.
- In school we "tighten things up" at the end of the year. This is purposeful...provides safety and security to kids in a time of excitement and anticipation of what's ahead.
- Gate on bike path must be closed due to district policy.

President Update: Tanya Streifel & Sarah Jewett

- Thinking about switching D4D and book fair next year but realizing May is so busy, too hard to do a Saturday morning activity in May.
- Room parent info regarding 4 parties/year. Focus on Halloween and end of year party. Teachers could still/should still do something for winter and valentines day but it wouldn't be PTA sponsored. We'd be requesting \$10/student vs \$20 in past years. This is not for sure, but just an idea.
- People not reading WINDS because they are waiting for room parent update. Need to think about how best to communicate school info vs. room parent info.
- Playworks has been brought up as a successful program at recess. We've decided we do not need this at our school. Kids need unstructured time and to learn about problem solving.
- NEED: parent party, president elect, volunteer coordinator (one more), district speaker

Teacher Grants: Kasie Plekkenpol

- See attached spreadsheet on requests and recommendations
- Voted and approved

Treasurer Update: Lisa Goodwin

- Paid the bill for 5th grade Science for IXL for three years
- Discussion about adding another cultural field trip for 1st grade. Every grade level gets ONE cultural field trip each year. Need to look into what is covered/included

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through the district. How does first grade compare to other grades in number of field trips each year.

- D4D: \$8,900
- Book Fair: Scholastic Dollars
- Pizza Dinner: \$1,800
- Square one Art: \$3,800
- Read a thon: \$21,600
- Parent Party:
- Gathering Parties spilling into this year: \$3,900
- Corp Sponsorship & Fund a need: \$20,300

Volunteer Recruitment: Bob Avery-Babel & Kelsey Lang

- Not much to report
- Bob is doing yearbook next year. Can help people transition to my school anywhere for volunteer recruitment

Upcoming Events

- 5/18: Deephaven Parent Party at Tutttles
- 5/24: Mom's Party for 1st & 2nd Grade
- 6/6: 5th Grade Graduation
- 6/7: Last Day!

Other

- 8:00pm Room Parent Meeting: Tanya Streifel & Renee Evenstand
- Next PTA Meeting: See you in the fall!!

Meeting adjourned at 8:25
