Pinehurst PTA Association Meeting

Tuesday, September 26, 2023

6-7pm

Meeting called to order, pledge of allegiance, hybrid meeting explained.

Only paid members can vote but anyone is welcome to attend meetings.

Intros – went around table, board members, PTA members and guests.

Principal Makowski:

-31 sections of students including UPK and 5 sections at every grade level through 5th grade

-New students meet and greet this week

-Renovations mostly completed in hallways except some tiling and detail work on punch list still being completed.

-Part of capital projects will be completed in 3 years (5th grade hall, Fairway Court and bus loop)

-NYS Assessment letters for math and ELA to be mailed home for 3rd and 4th grades, mailed home early next week.

-Other elementary schools in our district are eligible for free breakfast & lunch. Our school could be eligible we just don’t know. Go to the district website and fill out the application, this will increase the likelihood of us qualifying even if your family is over income. Question: Even if a family is well over the income guideline should they fill out the form or would that hurt our numbers? Response: No, still fill out application. It’s completely confidential, secured website. Increases our chances of becoming community eligible.

-Looking forward to a great year. Welcome back picnic this Friday, thanks to everyone who was here for parent info night and picture day. They were down a photographer.

-Question: Class sizes seem smaller this year and its wonderful. Why is that and can we expect this in the future. Mrs. Makowski said she just always asks to keep her current staff.

Mrs. Kolacki:

Thought picture day went great even though down 1 photographer.

She also received compliments on the Pinehurst PTA Facebook page. There are many teachers on the page as well. PTA is doing a great job.

PTA Updates (Shannon/ Liz):

Josten pictures are now up on their website. If you get retakes done the retake will be the photo that goes in the yearbook. School pictures photo packages are not the same people who do the yearbook and they don’t communicate. They are two separate entities operating under the same name. Subway in Walmart.

Question back to Mrs. Kolacki: How are the classrooms, do you have everything you need? Window sills still being completed, electricians still there. They are breathtakingingly beautiful. Ferguson works second and third shift. So early in the morning and late at night.

School of Excellence designation for 2022-2024. Recognizes schools that forms strong school family’s partnership. Opens up a lot of doors for us, apply for a lot of grants. Previous president Danielle spear headed it and we get to reap the benefits.

Membership (Nicole): We have 227 members, 30 teachers/staff. 280 is our goal. Reached September goal and will most likely also meet the October goal. November goal is to enroll 75% of teachers/staff.

Liz – signing up online last year doesn’t auto renew you for this year. So go back in to sign up, its only $6. Dues are paid annually. $4 goes back to the State PTA and $2 goes back to Pinehurst. Hasn’t been raised in many years but will be going up soon.

Spirit Wear sale ends tomorrow 30% off. Bellas & Canvas line sizes do run smaller. Recommend sizing up.

Events:

-Welcome Back Picnic – Volunteers (Honors society, parents and a couple middle schoolers for games, hair streaking, face painting and tattoos). Food trucks- House of Munch, Happy, Char’s Grill, Amsdell Ice Cream, Kona Ice. Scavenger Hunt and prize (flashlights) for kids. Fire trucks coming as well and photo booth. Weather looks great so expecting a great turn out.

-Color Run Oct 12th: Fundraiser for the year, here at the school. Mrs. Dryer and Mr. Lester will help coordinate. Rain date is 10/13. 5-7pm, 5-5:45 registration. Run itself is about 1 mile. $30 to participate. Each additional $30 you raise you can add an additional color club member. Each participant gets a shirt and color packet. Return color club paper with each additional participant’s info. Any paper money needs to be returned in envelope provided. Deadline is the 25th and can bring to WBP. 108 people registered as of today and people seem excited about it. Have data sheets explaining ingredients in the color packets. Bring a towel for car to prevent and color getting in car. Its washable powder. Will needs lots of volunteers for event. Lots of business sponsorships. Sponsorships for businesses are $250 (100% of sponsorships come back to school). Wherever we end up in the end we could get 50%/60%/70% or higher would-be money coming right back to the school. Clean up is a breeze. Spectators are welcome and encouraged! Young kids running (K or younger) are fine to run. Its coned or roped off most likely but it’s a big enough space that you’ll be able to see kids and volunteers will be along the route. Parents can run too if they’ve fundraised an additional $30. Balloon arch at start line, but it staggered start times. It’ll be great that other siblings will be running together. Great community event, healthy activity, gets kids involved in fundraising in a different way. Mrs. Kolacki will relay to teachers what to look for and to let them know the color club forms with participants and t-shirt size along with paper money. This is the first time doing a color run so there could be a hiccup. They do expect there could be some day off registrations. Business sponsorship does not go to the child’s account to get all the prizes. Its two separate pots. Business sponsorship goes just towards school and getting signage and exposure for the business.

-Trunk or Treat, October 27th 6-8pm. Firetrucks are coming. Allergy friendly. Teal allergy buckets provided to all cars with allergy friendly goodies. But cars provide all remaining candy.

-Book Fair November 8th is family night, everyone welcome, will be asking for volunteers to help cash out and students pick books. Laura’s last year to chair the book fair so looking for someone to take it over. Scholastic gives us a cut of all their sales, lots goes towards getting the school much needed items as well as every child gets a book during PARP week. Liz Hahn is interested in taking over the book fair next year.

-22/23 Budget Review – Jenn Prunoske did an outstanding job going through the budget with a fine-tooth comb. She went through and reallocated money to be spent wisely. She upped all the enrichment grants (except 5th grade). Went back 10 years to see what was spent so it’s the most accurate amount needed. PreK didn’t go up because they fall under a different funding, like their own floating dept. Same as AIS. A couple of the grades were falling short on what they wanted to do due to inflation, etc. If grades didn’t spend all of their money in years past then changes were made. 5th grade allocation went down because they hadn’t spent it all in years past. Now also all specials and services have their own amounts. Wanted to make sure everybody has what they need. Important for all grades and teachers to know they can start requesting their money now. But gratuity is not able to be covered by a grade grant as a 501(c)(3) there are some rules of what it can/can’t be used for. Once this budget is approved. Separate line item for Quiz Masters. Thanks again to Jenn for all her hard work. Put it to a vote, motion to vote. Mrs. Kolacki putting to motion, Tammy Prior second it. Everyone is in favor, no one opposes. Putting a letter together to teachers about the approved amounts. Decent amount of money from Box Tops. Tops Markets if you register your bonus card a percentage of their brand name items comes back to us. You don’t loose your gas points. Money was in the PTA account when they updated their contact info that they weren’t aware of. Go on the app and scan your receipts in there. Amazon has stopped doing Amazon smile, which was a similar program.

-Devin Kelly: Thanks for all the communication and all the dates for the year coming out so soon. It’s been concise information and she appreciates it so she can plan for it in her calendar.

-Liz thanked all the board members who all wear many hats but love how they all work together and do an amazing job and appreciate working with them. Also loves working with Mrs. Kolacki and Mrs. Makowski. Appreciate everyone who attending meeting and Lindsay attending virtually.

Next meeting November 9th at 6pm.

Put minutes out, planning to post them on our revamped website.

Meeting ended at 7:10pm

People in attendance:

Jessica Kowalczyk

Hilary Hacic

Devin Kelly

Linda Penepent

Jenn Prunoske

Laura Lewis

Nikera Kolacki

Jennifer Makowski

Liz Hahn

Nicole Bonczar

Laura Collins

Liz Russin

Shannon Winters

Tammy Prior

Online- Lindsay Jerge