PRS PTO Meeting Notes

Wednesday, February 9, 2022

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26 people present

1. Call to Order
2. Guest Speakers
   1. Dr. Suzanne Vinnes, Executive Director, Student Services at HPS

Dr. Vinnes shared general information around learning differences and how to reduce stigma that is sometimes associated with students who receive special services.

* 1. Anne Marie Schembri spoke about the newly-formed Hingham Arts Alliance. They are hoping to fund and promote arts-related initiatives in Hingham in a similar way that the Hingham Sports Partnership does for athletics. HAA is looking for a rep from each of the schools as well as parent volunteers to get involved. Ann Marie sent around a sign up sheet for parents to volunteer to help with HAA.

Holly Kelfer spoke about using panels PTO purchases to display more art at PRS/PTO events. She said there will be a town wide art show/display on April 28 with location TBD.

1. Principal’s Report
   1. Mr. Lamothe shared that All Schools Meetings will be returning to in person for the whole school tomorrow (Thurs 2/10). They are hopeful that if things continue to improve, parents will be invited in for ASMs in the next few weeks.
   2. He also shared that teachers have been told that they are allowed 2 parents volunteers in the classroom at a time.
   3. Lastly, he also spoke about the new testing system where families are given 2 antigen tests to test at home on Thursdays. They are no longer contact tracing and doing test and stay for students. Pool testing will continue.
2. Committee Reports
   1. Fifth Grade Activities: Amanda Waterbury and Halle Grace
      1. The fifth grade community service for March is lunch at Father Bills.
   2. Get Smart About Art: Holly Moriarty
      1. First and second graders will begin GSAA next month. First grade will have GSAA presentations and projects the first three Mondays in March. Second grade will have four presentations and projects on Thursdays in March.
      2. Holly asked about having 3 parent volunteers in the classroom to help with GSAA and Mr. Lamothe approved this.
      3. Holly also mentioned looking into a 5th grade display of GSAA for closing ceremonies.

* 1. Birthday Book Club: Alyssa Porter and Breann Garland
     1. Paper letters/forms went out this week to January and February birth months. March letters/forms will be distributed next Wednesday, February 9th. Breanne Garland said they will update birthday book club bulletin board in the library.
  2. Cultural Enrichment: Lauren Davalla and Katie Mulkerrin
     1. Read Across America Week - Kindergarten and first grade will have a Magic of Reading on February 28th. Jerry Palotta will visit grades three thru five on March 3rd. There will be a library display with donated books beginning February 15th. There will be gifts for all students consisting of books and swag.
     2. Spring 2022 - Avoiding MCAS, bubbles for kindergarten, Motoko for grade one (3/8-9), SSNSC for grade two, Tea Party Field Trip for grade three, looking for options for grades four and five.
     3. Looking Ahead - questionnaire for all teachers, planning for fall 2022
     4. All grades will have the Wampanoag tribe visit, African drummers and Armstrong Brothers Concert.
  3. Voyagers
     1. Planning underway for Spring session to start first week of April.

1. Presidents’ Report
   1. Hingham Unity Council donated $150 to fund book related to diversity and inclusion. Mrs. Dunphy will select the books. We will suggest books related to neurodiversity specifically.
   2. Teachers Scoop! (formerly Nona’s Night) will be held on Thursday, Feb 17 from 4-7pm. Teachers are excited and signup filled up very quickly! This is an ice cream to-go event as families will be asked to enjoy the ice cream outside
   3. Wahlburgers night will be Tuesday, March 8 - order out or dine in and up to 20% will be donated back to PRS PTO
   4. A Spring Book Fair Chair as well as BOKs chair are needed