

Wellesley Middle School PTO

Executive Board Meeting

12/8/2020

Attendees:

Jenn Fallon, Dr. Mark Ito, Elizabeth Kaplan, Melissa Mack, Moira McDade, Joelle Reidy

PTO

Teacher Appreciation

Central Council asked all PTO's to do something for Teacher Appreciation the week of 12/14.

WMS will be doing two things: High Five wall & goody bags.

- High Five Wall

The request for families to decorate a hand with notes of thanks went out in newsletter & envelope at viral testing table to drop off.

When can they be attached to the walls? Friday after 2:30pm - 4:15pm will be good per Dr Ito

PTO should spread the word to try to get as many high fives as possible from families to make a big colorful wall.

There will be a small poster in the middle of the high fives to explain the concept with placement near main office stairs.

- Gift Bag

The PTO will be putting together a gift bag for each staff member with gc to Wellesley Books, hot chocolate & candy cane.

There will also be a thank you note included in the cellophane bag with ribbon.

PTO was hoping to do \$20 but we haven't collected that much money this year so will be \$10 gc per staff member.

Dr. Ito will be doing a individually wrapped cookie from a local bakery along with a clementine as a staff thank you.

Dr Ito feels that it makes sense to do PTO thank you with his cookies for ease of distribution. Joelle didn't want WMS teachers

to feel left out if they don't get anything week of 12/14 - Dr Ito thinks they will be ok waiting until 12/21.

Dr Ito still has money in his discretionary account and it was agreed during the meeting to use money from that for the cookies.

Dr Ito will distribute 12/22 and PTO will get him our bags by 12/18.

WHS/WMS Joint PTO Meeting

Usually WMS PTO co-hosts. They still need to nail down a date.

Financials

Current donations are \$7,500 from 87 families.

\$5000 of that was donated via PayPal (we pay fees for PayPal, ongoing Central Council discussion on how to reduce fees).

There were also \$1,000 in spirit wear sales.

PTO is adjusting our budget based upon current donations - usually yearly operating budget is \$100,000, this year its \$36,000.

Maira suggested that we could ask for more money in spring (which we don't usually do) if money is needed.

It was also suggested to do another ask in the email before the end of the year - we should mention how money is being used,

year end tax benefits as well as matching from employer. Donations vary from recommended \$30 on up.

8th Grade Committee

Needs another chair as Joelle shouldn't head up as president. Also need guidance as last year was not a normal year.

Community service day is in a good place thanks to Patty. This year need to adjust so not too many students at a volunteer site.

The 8th grade will have a T Shirt and banner. Pictures are needed for the yearbook.

The yearbook cover will be just 8th grade artwork.

Can 8th graders write about what this pandemic has meant to them? Yearbook editors want positive messages.

Can there be a completion ceremony? Being outside is hard due to the numbers of students, staff & families.

Maybe just students & staff?

Dr Ito is currently planning for a virtual ceremony.

Dr Ito

RLS vs Hybrid

RLS to hybrid going before school committee tonight.

12/23 parents need to submit intent to either RLS or hybrid and this will need to be a commitment

Keeping an eye on 5th & 8th graders as those are transition years & they might want to come back if there are year end events.

The school would want to accommodate as many people as possible but are just not sure of how the numbers will play out.

Students would come back into school on 2/1/21.

Attendance

Attendance is being looked at want kids in school when they should be in school as working hard to keep schools open.

A student is absent (albeit an approved absence) if remote on a day when student was supposed to be in the building.

In a normal year 7 days per semester is acceptable number of absences.

Now 1 or 2 is ok, but after that school will start to follow up.

Zoom Camera Being On

Camera on is important to teachers so they don't see all black screens.

It can't be mandated to have your screen on, but the school is keeping an eye on this issue.

Case by case its ok if for reasons of equity or nerves, but district doesn't want it to be the norm to have them off for no reason.

Budget

Busy with budget season - trying to understand enrollment as that is such a key budget driver.