

# Hamilton PTSA meeting notes    April 7, 2021    at 5:30 PM    Via Zoom

**Present:** Alia Gonzales (VP), Anna Kluver-Fensler (Treas), Robyn DiFalco (Sec), Kirsten Kennedy, Monica Snyder, Tiffany Berry, Darcey Vanwagner, Nancy Nyhus, Harmony Hey-Koski, Vincent Crespin, Amber Shearer (Vice Principal)

**Absent:** Nilka Kentish (President), Kristy Sawyer (let us know she had a work conflict tonight),

## Agenda:

- Welcome and Introductions (2 minutes); Timekeeper (Anna)
- Virtual STEM funds request presentation and vote if needed(10 minutes)
- Principal's report (10 Minutes)
- Election of PTSA Officers for next year (15 minutes)
- Treasurer Report (2 minutes)
- Walk a Thon Committee formed and start planning for fall 2021 (10-20 minutes)
- Hamilton Dines Out update for Panera and upcoming Noodles and Panda Express (5 minutes)
- Staff Appreciation Planning for Appreciation week May 3 - 7th (10 minutes)

## Virtual STEM Event Funds Request - presentation & vote

- Kirsten Kennedy, STEM teacher presented. Date: Thursday, May 6 from 6:30 - 8:00 (which is also Super Citizen date) Recapped discussion from last month's meeting; we took your input and incorporated it.
- Will be a hands-on event online doing science projects with household items that most people probably have at home; will have an engineer lead a "day in the life of an engineer" workshop, talking to someone at Lockheed Martin.
- Also offering a raffle for prizes, for all who complete the "passport" of all activities. This time we'll just make note of who participated and they will be entered to win.
- STEM "fair" so we can showcase student projects, in a virtual science fair style, students will have an avatar with a video explanation of their project. Trying to recreate in a virtual setting.
- We have some raffle prizes already and medals for prizes, the funds requested is for gift cards for the top winners. Asking for \$200, which is \$50 per grade level and in case someone is a partner/team, we can split the prize money.
- Promoting this through Announcements in morning meeting, posters around school, SchoolDeets
- Vote: all in favor!

## Election of PTSA Officers for 2021-2022

- Brief description of process, as stated in Bylaws
- Brief presentation of candidate bios, brief time for each candidate to speak, introduce themselves, asked if anyone had questions.
- The candidates are:
  - President:     Alia Gonzales
  - Vice President:     Anna Kluver-Fensler
  - Secretary:     Kristy Sawyer
  - Treasurer:     Harmony Hey-Koski
- Called the question: Move to Elect all 4 candidates as presented
- All in favor! (none opposed)

### **Principal's Report** (*postpone until later in meeting*)

- Christian's on leave until later this month; we don't have a Vice Principal on the call so Nancy will text them to see if they want to join later. [VP Amber Shearer joined later in the meeting.]
- Side discussion off agenda about CMAS testing...

### **Treasurer's Report**

- We earned \$266.97 from Merch Sales of Husky shirts, etc.
- Current bank balance is \$7,091.83.
- Only recent expense was the flowers we purchased for Dr Sawyer \$60.

### **Walk-a-Thon Committee for fall 2021**

- Tiffany Berry says she can help and is involved in her school's PTA (Lincoln Elem). Interested in being Chair of committee.
- Robyn says she can help.
- Alia is more available in Summer/Fall so may be able to help.
- In person walk, plus a virtual option.
- We can send out a SignUp form
- Student Council? We don't have one now but probably next year or other student groups would be good to do concessions, some way they can make a buck.
- T-shirts? Can be a good way to get a sponsor on the shirt,
- Idea of an "identity walk" where kids dress up in their favorite sports teams, pride or ethnic identity, or mix of all your favorite things that make you "you". (Find a way for kids to get excited about participating!)
- Prizes are a must!!!
- Robyn will create a Google sign up form, Anna will get an announcement out in School Deets

### **Hamilton Dines Out**

- March: Panera \$194 at the Dines Out night in March.
- April: Noodles & Co on April 22, from 4-8pm
- May: Panda Express on May 20, all day 11am - 9pm
- We've been focusing on corporate chains even though we'd like to do more independents, simply because the independent restaurants are struggling right now and not in a position to help.
- We'd also like to do something where we can partner to get a bunch of food for Staff appreciation.

### **Staff Appreciation**

- We had a meeting of the Staff Appreciation Committee recently. Several ideas.
- We'd like to do some chalk art outside the building in May; Staff actually go in all entrances
- Chalk art on Sunday, May 2 for staff to see Monday, May 3; bring the kids if they're interested.
- Treats for the Staff on Wednesday -- Tiffany is going to do some clever tag lines "Thanks for making us such smart cookies" attached to cookies. "You're all that and a bag of Chips!" Doing this on Wednesday. Need help putting this all together? Alia can help on Fridays.
- For virtual staff, some gift cards.

- Also remind folks to send emails, cards, etc.
- Survey at beginning of the year, next year.
- Harmony emailed a bunch of parents and some actually responded!
- Flower gram idea, (suggestion in CheddarUp). Parents could contribute \$3 and it would do a little bouquet for a specific teacher. But how would we do that for virtual? Not sure but this makes it easy for people to contribute.
- Asked how many faculty/staff are currently remote. Amber says about 16-20 are currently remote. And are all in-person staff able to go to the teacher lounge to pick up a grab & go breakfast? Yes.
- Tracy Smith texted to say that Tanya from Dairy Queen can do gift cards for teacher appreciation.

### **Principal Report, *with VP Amber Shearer***

- CMAS is the big push right now. Amber has been working with Madeline to make sure communication is going out to families. Last day to Opt Out? Can opt out up to the last day. Students and the School will not be penalized for low participation rate this year. We're anticipating about 50% don't participate.
- Next we're working on master schedule for next year, doing elective choices
- Dr Sawyer back soon, healing well.
- TJ Math Placement Test in May
- Exciting that on the math interim, our 7th graders had a really high success rate. About 80% got "meets" or "exceeds" and 20% got "exceeds" and we didn't see any performance gap with our students of color
- Looking for feedback from parents about what we did well this year that we want to keep. We know we have gaps everywhere that need to be closed next year. We really want to bring back a sense of community next year and address the catch-up needs.
- What percent of students are 100% virtual now? We were around 50% and now we're closer to 45% virtual and 55% in-person. More and more students are wanting to come in person. Question about next year having a virtual asynchronous day again? Currently not in our plans. There's a big push to get everybody back to 5 days/wk, even this year. Nancy suggested it could be a day for students to check in and get the help they need in certain classes, which is something TJ does. So again, we can do a half-day either Wednesdays or Friday where we have things like clubs during school hours, which is something we had explored pre-pandemic.

Announcement: School Play "Virtually Ever After"

**Next meeting: Wednesday, May 5** (*Last meeting of the year!*)