

## Overlook PTO Meeting Minutes November 30, 2017

**Welcome** Sandy Jones and Laura Ramsay, Co-Presidents

**Principal's Report** Principal, Mr. Perlman

Mr. Perlman expressed his gratitude to the PTO for the recent events they coordinated and for their continued support to Overlook. Events recognized were:

- Book Fair—Mr. Perlman acknowledged the hard work put forth with coordinating and executing the book fair, including the volunteers on staff to assist.
- Boys Night Out—this event was a seeming success despite the cold weather.
- American Education Week—Parents/Caregivers were able to observe the school setting and learning environment.
- 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Play and dinner—Well organized. People reached out to Mr. Perlman to comment on how well behaved the students were and this was really nice feedback to hear.
- Holiday Hollow—Seemed to be a great turnout.

Mr. Perlman spoke of upcoming events happening:

- 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Movie Night on 12/1/17 @ Abington Junior High School.
- Early Dismissals Tuesday-Thursday, 12/5/17-12/7/17.
- Cogat Testing for Kindergarten and 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade the week of 12/12/17.
- Winter Celebrations take place on 12/22/17. Students may be signed out directly from their classroom with teacher and leave the building from the classroom via various exits. Staff members will be at exit points, but only to ensure there are no entrances at those locations. Students will not need to be signed out from the main office.

Mr. Perlman reviewed the **School Performance Profile**. Results are available on the Abington School District website (Abington.k12.pa.us > Board of Directors > Meeting information > Meeting Agenda and Documents > November 14, 2017). The School Performance Profile represented overall academic growth as 2017 is the third year that the PSSA is fully aligned to the PA Core Standards. The SPP provides detailed information on students' performances on the PSSAs and the growth of performance on the PSSAs.

1. To review overall information regarding the School Performance Profile regarding schools throughout Pennsylvania, visit:  
[www.paschoolperformance.org](http://www.paschoolperformance.org)

2. This website provides performance information, as is presented in the Board Documents, categorized into demographics.
3. The scores for Overlook are great; all elementary schools within the district exceeded the PA standard for academic growth measure in all subject areas.
4. Please visit the Abington School District website for more detailed information regarding our performance.

Mr. Perlman was asked about the Accelerated Reading Program. He reported that this program is no longer available. It was a licensed program that was downloaded to computers in the library. Overlook no longer has access this, however, and it would cost in the thousands to purchase more of these program licenses. Currently, Mr. Perlman along with teaching staff is researching comparable options to web-based programs that are more affordable or free.

#### **Teacher Update**

Mr. Staszkiw

- Mr. Staszkiw was happy to thank the PTO and parent/caregiver participation with the recent book fair. He also noted that books donated to the class are always appreciated. These donations allow the upper grades (4-6) to have books donated towards Reading Olympics as well.
- American Education Week—Mr. Staszkiw reported that it was very nice to see and meet parents.
- Mr. Coates echoed the thanks stated for the organization and participation in the book fair.
- Both Mr. Staszkiw and Mr. Coates reported their gratitude regarding flexibility of the students visiting Holiday Hollow.
- Teachers look forward to upcoming conferences.
- Parent present at the PTO meeting thanks teachers for all the flexibility they provided concerning all the varying scheduling factors that arose.
- After School Enrichment Program (ASEP)—it was presented to teacher representatives if they could assist with recruiting fellow teacher volunteers to run a class at ASEP.

**Treasurer's Report** Karin Quinn presented an overview of the financials for the PTO at this point. Full report is attached. Below are some highlights:

- Treats for Troops earned \$303 for candy donations made
- Holiday Hollow is still finalizing profits, but over \$2,000/day was brought in.
- PTO funds are in the negative at -\$4,978 following ACORN and Reading Night.

- Yankee Candle fundraiser is running about 1 week behind on estimated delivery date. About \$1,800 was made from this fundraiser, which is less than last year.

#### 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Financials—

- The 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Play and lunch are paid off.
- Still to pay for—yearbook, funplex, and transportation to funplex.
- Movie Night—60 students registered to date; walk-ins will be admitted. Parents must sign students in upon arrival and sign out upon exiting.

#### Recap of Events

- Yankee Candle—didn't raise as many funds as last year; may want to consider taking a break from this and introducing a different catalogue fundraiser next year.
- Book Fair & Reading Night—Both successful events
- Boys Night Out—Despite the frigid temperatures, the boys and their special person had a nice time out. Briar Bush did an excellent job of leading the evening.
- Holiday Hollow—Finished today. Seemingly successful event.

#### Upcoming Events

- 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Movie Night, 12/1/17 @ AJHS
- After School Enrichment Program (ASEP). Dates confirmed for 1/30, 2/6, 2/13, 2/20, 2/27. There is a snow date scheduled. PTO is looking for any available/interested teachers and parents to assist with this event. Assistance is much appreciated. Meghan Biko is the PTO Rep for this event and Jessica Carswell is the parent volunteer to run the program.
  1. There has been a survey created to gain ideas about classes of interest. This survey can be accessed at:  
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/M6SV7VD>
- Parent Council Meeting. Overlook is hosting this meeting on 2/7/18 @ 7:30pm. The topic is Suicide Prevention and Mental Health. Babysitting may be available; more details as event nears regarding this, as Mr. Perlman will look into this. A parent suggestion was that it could serve to provide service hours to older students.
  - Parent Council presents on timely topics relevant to our students and are available to all parents.

Abington Police Department will present on 12/13 as part of the Parent Council Series. Topic is Internet Safety. This meeting is hosted at Highland Elementary @ 7:30pm.

- 6<sup>th</sup> Graders will receive a presentation at AJHS from 9:15-11:00am on 12/14/17. The topic is Cyber Bullying.
- Chipotle Night is January 31, 2018. More information to come.
- Girls Night Out—Scheduled for Friday, 2/9/18 at Overlook. Jenny Applegate and Melissa Flint are parent coordinators for this event. Kathy Hiller is PTO rep for this event.
- Talent Show—Scheduled for 2/23/18. Some members present tonight reported that it was a nice event to attend last year. We are looking forward to this year!
- BLINGO—We are hoping for a successful turnout. More information to come regarding this event as time draws closer.

Other areas addressed:

- Spirit Wear—Sandy presented a flyer to all who attended the meeting and asked for preferences and feedback regarding shirt style/design.
  - Sandy will be working with Ms. Early to determine the field day colors for which students so that people will have adequate knowledge prior to the event.
  - Items available for purchase will be: dry fit shirt, cotton tee shirt, and mesh shorts.
  - Spirit Wear is only ordered 1x. We do not keep an inventory or stock of merchandise.
  - Things to consider for Spirit Day in 2019: would we benefit from creating a 2<sup>nd</sup> day of Overlook Gear for sale? Decision to try spirit wear again for '17-'18 SY was decided and will reconsider when looking at sales/profits from this year.
- Other Suggestions for Fundraisers:
  - Mod Pizza—Travel is a concern, as people may prefer something more local.
  - Gertrude Hawk is scheduled for the spring.
  - Last year's PTO Board considered a catalogue fundraiser that contained an eclectic variety of items for sale. Seemed to be the 'best of the best sellers'. We may want to consider incorporating this as a Spring Fundraiser.
- The question regarding how to proceed with obtaining service hours was asked. There seemed to be no outlined criteria for events; the volunteer seeking service hours does need to obtain a form and needs a sponsor to sign the form.

**\*\*\*Next meeting: Thursday, January 11th at 7PM in Library\*\*\***

More details can be found at [www.overlookproud.com](http://www.overlookproud.com)