

Overlook PTO Meeting Minutes
February 20, 2018 @7pm

Welcome Sandy Jones, Co-President

Principal's Report Principal, Mr. Perlman

Mr. Perlman thanked everyone for coming and covered the following items:

- Let's Do Lunch was a big success. He plans to do similar things to that in the future.
- The flower show event at Kremp Florist organized by Mrs. Brown was a big success too. It was even featured on Action News.
- Mr. Carroll entered the national Make it Real contest sponsored by AutoDesk and he won honorable mention & 10 Chromebooks for the school. Mr. Perlman stated that the number of Chromebooks in the building keeps growing & that even the 1st grade is using them now.
- Chess Club is ongoing and has been doing very well. The club only had room for 30 students & 60 expressed interest so it was a big hit.
- Book Fair just finished up & was successful.
- Sweetheart Dance – Mr. Perlman thanked the organizers of this event. It was well attended and was a big success.
- After School Enrichment is ongoing. Mr. Perlman expressed a big thank you to the teachers who are teaching classes.
- Mr. Perlman announced the official PSSA dates for this year. An official letter will be going out but the dates are as follows: Grades 3-6: English – April 9, 10, 11; Math - April 16 & 17. Grade 4: Science – Tuesday 4/25 & 4/26.
- Mr. Perlman provided an update on the accelerated reader program. The school selected a new program that everyone was happy with but unfortunately, it was discontinued by the manufacturer. Mr. Perlman will be looking into other options.

Teacher Update Mr. Coates

On behalf of the teachers, Mr. Coates expressed a thank you to the parents who helped with book fair and to all the parents who sent in coins and donations of classroom books.

He also thanked parents for their help with the Valentine's Day parties.

Mr. Coates reminded parents that Parent/Teacher conferences are 3 weeks away. Scheduling slips should come home on 2/26.

Treasurer's Report Karin Quinn

6th grade: No changes since last meeting. The class still has some excess money. The 6th grade class is donating a water fountain/refilling station for the downstairs

hallway as their class gift. There has been a slight delay getting it installed but it will happen soon.

After School Enrichment: Not all expenses have been processed yet but the PTO has brought in \$5700 so far with this program this year. It was the highest enrollment ever for ASEP.

Enrichment Activities: The PTO paid for the Souper Bowl lunch with the AHS football players & cheerleaders.

Family Fun Day: The sweetheart dance made over \$500 this year.

Field Trips: The 1st grade field trip was paid for this month. Everyone has their trips planned but K.

Chipotle Fundraiser: This event made \$300+ this year which was a huge improvement from last year.

Recap of Events

Chess Club: This program was the brainchild of EJ Lee and is a perfect example of how parents can get involved in lots of ways that match their talents & availability. We are always open to parents reaching out to find a way to share their hidden talents.

After School Enrichment: There is one more week left for this.

Sweetheart Dance: A big thank you to the organizers, Melissa Flint and Jenny Applegate for organizing this year's dance. It was a well-attended and the PTO received lots of positive feedback on it.

Upcoming Events

Gertrude Hawk Sale: Orders have been very slow. Deadline for paper orders is this Friday. You can also order online. Orders placed online after Friday will be delivered to your home. We will notify parents when orders will be delivered to the school so plans can be made for large orders.

Talent Show: Talent show is Friday. The parent organizers have been working hard and it promises to be a great night.

Gold Card Night: Next gold card night will be held on February 28th and will feature the show Mad Science. This event is a school sponsored event but paid for by the PTO.

Read Across America & One School One Book: Kick-off will be Friday March 2nd, Dr. Seuss' birthday. Each family will get a copy of the same book and the whole event is meant to encourage reading at home with your student. Also, there are staff read alouds the students can listen to online. The kick-off will be attended by community leaders who will come in and read to the students. The PTO purchased the books for each family.

March Madness Hoagie Sale: This fundraiser will run from Thursday 3/15 – Monday 4/2 at Lee's Hoagies. Families should mention Overlook when ordering so we get credit for the order. We will not get credit for any online orders.

Blingo: Blingo is happening on Friday March 23. A flyer will go out next week. We will be selling silicone bands this year for entrance into the event. As always, we are

looking for donations to go into the baskets. Each grade will be putting together a basket as well & that effort will be led by the homeroom parents. All baskets need to be received by the day of the event but a head's up several days before would be nice so it can go in the program.

Overlook Day with Union Soccer: Overlook will be having a fundraising event at the Philadelphia Union game on Saturday 4/28. A flyer will be coming home for this on Tuesday but there are 2 different ticket pricing options & there are prizes associated with selling different quantities of tickets. There are also alternative dates of 4/7 and 5/19. The 28th is an afternoon match and the alternate dates are both evenings.

Field Day Wear: We will be selling spirit wear for Field Day as we did last year. Students will be divided up into teams early so you can order spirit wear for the big day in your child's team color. It will be a new design from last year. Field day is 5/10.

One parent suggested the possibility of offering a higher quality athletic shirt which is reversible, so parents don't have to buy a new shirt each year. This isn't something that can happen for this year's event but we will look into it for next year.

Pam Paul, chair of the Blingo night this year, suggested that maybe a swap table for spirit wear at Blingo might be a good idea. Items would be donated and new items could be purchased for a few dollars.

Other

PTO is you: A flyer will be coming home soon detailing all the things that the PTO is responsible for funding. We hope this will highlight the need for parent involvement in the fundraisers that pay for all these funding needs and encourage everyone to participate.

Box Tops: Box tops are due this Friday. We will be offering some silent prizes (gift cards) that students will only be eligible for if they send in Box Tops. The tops can simply be put into a Ziploc bag with your child's name & teacher on it and send to school with them.

Picture of Nocturnal Animals: The school is asking for help with a project run by Mr. Carroll. If you have access to a camera that can capture nocturnal animals, please send the footage to Mr. Carroll. He would also like any pictures of animal tracks that you find from nocturnal animals.

Open Discussion

- A parent shared an idea for a fundraiser - kits to sell candy bars. If it's a new fundraiser, Mr. Perlman will need to get approval. The PTO board will discuss if this is something we want to pursue.
- A parent inquired about the status of the 5K race. This event is still pending approval of the permit. The tentative date is Friday 5/11 for the run and the May fair on 5/12. Families will be notified once a date is approved.
- The group had a fairly lengthy discussion about classroom parties. In general, homeroom parents are feeling the burden is too great for them and some are seeking ways to make the parties more of a shared event rather than having 1 or 2 parents do all the work & the other adults socialize during the party. Some feedback shared:

- One parent expressed that older grade parents tend to respond to requests for help better when it comes from teachers instead of other parents.
- Another parent said it worked well when the teacher sent out a list of assignments for each party. Mr. Coates chimed in that this really varies from year to year and that it's necessary/helpful some years and not others.
- Some thought that maybe if we had 4 parents for each classroom, you'd have more parents who would volunteer to help. Some parents are intimidated by the amount of effort that might be involved and don't volunteer to be homeroom parents. It was also suggested that HR parent responsibilities be briefly discussed at K orientation.
- There was a suggestion to just ask for monetary donations at the beginning of the year to minimize the burden on the HR parent when they have to buy multiple items for each party. Mr. Perlman said he was not comfortable asking people for money as this might be a hardship to some.
- A parent suggested that the Halloween parade be moved to the morning but Mr. Perlman said this was something he wouldn't support because it makes for a very long day of festivities for the kids. All Halloween festivities will remain in the afternoon.

Mr. Perlman clarified that parents/visitors who are coming in to attend a 1-time event such as a parade or party do not need an ID badge. Anyone that falls under the definition of a volunteer will need one.

The group generally agreed that 2 parties per year (plus the end of year picnic) is more than sufficient, rather than 3. It was decided that the Winter Party would no longer take place. Mr. Perlman will also discuss with his teaching staff about making the Valentine party more of an in-class event rather than something lots of parents come to. Mr. Perlman said he would continue to look at other events to bring parents into the school like Let's Do Lunch.

- Sweetheart dance discussion – the floor was opened to anyone who wanted to express thoughts and concerns about what happened with the sweetheart dance this year. Some feedback:
 - In years past, the PTO sponsored a co-ed dance and it was so poorly attended by the boys that they changed it.
 - The general feeling in the room was that they should leave the sweetheart dance as is and have a co-ed dance in the fall. However, next year, the district is moving to all inclusive events. This is in line with district policy decided by the school board.
 - Mr. Perlman felt that this year's event was still called girls' night out and that it was largely unchanged from year's past. Attendance & feedback received about the event was all good.

*****Next meeting Tuesday March 20th @ 7PM in Library, immediately followed by a 5th grade parents meeting*****