

# Overlook PTO Meeting Agenda

## February 25, 2019

### Welcome

Laura Ramsay and Meghan Biko - *Presidents*

### Superintendent Presentation/Q&A Dr. Fecher

- He started what he calls a listening tour. He is attending all of the PTO meetings, having community coffee and meeting with some of the students. Dr. Fecher gave us information on his career and background. He has been superintendent of Abington School District since Nov 10th.
- Dr. Fecher wanted to pose a few questions to everyone present at the meeting. He said that if we didn't feel comfortable bringing it up during the meeting, we can email or call him directly.
  1. What do you like about Abington School District that we should continue to put resources in? The parents in attendance said the following:
    - Partnership with local colleges
    - Social media updates help to spread the word and aids in good communication lines throughout the district. Dr. Fecher brought up all the great ways we have to communicate through the automated phone system, skyward, etc.
    - Elementary schools really prepare the students to move on. Dr. Fecher talked about incorporating transition activities to make the move to the junior high and senior high smooth. Mr. Perlman is heading up a committee with other principals to have more activities together with the other schools.
    - Standardized curriculum so there is consistency for all students. They all have the same opportunities no matter which elementary they come from.
  2. There is always room for improvement. What areas can we improve or grow in?
    - A question was also brought up about chromebooks and if the students take them home in his school district. Dr. Fecher said they did not and it worked like it does in our school district. He said there is an initiative in Abington to have a chromebook for each student in the high school, which is slated to be completed by 2022. He wants to have more chromebooks for the children because he believes they are a great resource.

3. Any advice for Dr. Fecher as a new superintendent
  - A parent brought up that we appreciate the early notification of late arrival, early dismissal or school closings and hope that continues. Dr. Fecher went into the process behind when and how the calls are made. He said the safety of students is always what they put first.

Dr. Fecher ended by saying that if we have a topic in the future that we want him to address, he will try to arrange to come to another meeting or event.

### **Principal's report**

#### **Mr. Perlman**

Thanked the PTO for all of the recent activities. ASEP has been a huge success and very well received. One school one book will start March 1st. March 8th is March Madness/ice cream social for 5th and 6th grades. March 15th is Let's do lunch.

### **Teacher/Staff Update**

#### **Ms. Early**

Ms. Early travels to different schools throughout the week so she gets to see the activities that are going on at each school. She always expresses her appreciation of the PTO at our school and how much is done for the kids. She talked about the upcoming/ongoing events of ASEP, One School One Book and March Madness and how wonderful all of those activities are. She encouraged parents to come in and volunteer if they are able.

### **Treasurer Report**

#### **Karin Quinn, Treasurer**

Detailed financials are attached. Meghan Biko presented the financials as Karin Quinn was not in attendance. Some items of note:

- ASEP has an income of \$7800. The expenses have not all been paid out yet, but it looks like we will end up with approximately \$2,000 more than last year.
- The Snowball Dance raised \$1,700.
- Chipotle spirit night raised almost \$400.
- There were teacher grants paid out of nearly \$2,900. 30% of the profit from Zoom for the Classroom was slated to be paid out in teacher grants. Every teacher who submitted a grant proposal was approved.
- Reminder to keep using Amazon Smile and Shoe Carnival as these are ongoing fundraisers throughout the year.

Meghan also announced that since the school's fundraising efforts have been going so well this year, mostly due to the success of Zoom for the Classroom, the board approved the purchase of a Chromebook cart for the school. The expense is about \$6,000 and still needs to be paid.

### **Discussion**

### ***Recap/Ongoing***

- Snowball Dance - Felicia Brice talked about what a success the dance was and what a great team she had. She thought that everything ran smoothly and the kids had a great time.
- Chess Club - It is run by EJ Lee. They are at the max of 30 kids. The high school chess team runs the class and it is going really well.
- After School Enrichment - There are 283 kids this year, up from 212 last year. This is the largest number we have had. The participation is in part due to the 16 parents/teachers who agreed to run a class so the kids had a lot of choices. There are two more weeks in the program since last week was a snow day.
- Talent Show - Thank you to all who ran the event. It was a big success and the students and parents enjoyed it.

### ***Upcoming***

- 3/1/2019 - One School One Book Kick off - Community leaders comes in to read the first chapter of the book to each class this Friday, which is the kick off. The book will go home with oldest child, which might not be until Monday. The book this year is Nim's Island.
- 3/14/2019 – Square 1 Art Kick off (tentative date)- Every student creates a picture and then you can order different catalog items. They have been working on their pictures during art class.
- 3/22/2019 - BLINGO @ 5:45-9:30 pm- Flyer went out today. It is a big fundraiser for the school. Everyone is encouraged to come out. Pam Paul talked about the grade wide baskets and feels that it helps that the kids feel connected to the event. Participation in the grade level baskets is not mandatory.
- 3/27/2019 - PTO Meeting (followed by 5th Grade Parent Meeting) @ 7:00-8:00 pm
- 4/13/2019 - 5K at Alverthorpe Park @ 9:45 am- This year is the First year at Alverthorpe. Last year we did a joint event with Copper Beech.

4/26/2019 - Overlook Night Out @ 6:30-8:30 pm -The night will include 2 hours of ice skating, skate rentals, pizza and a drink. There will also be a craft for those who want a break from skating.

### **Bylaws Update Discussion/Vote**

- Laura Ramsay went over the proposed changes. There were only a few small changes based on the board's review. The bylaws have to be reviewed every 3 years. Everyone received a ballot to vote. There was also an electronic

announcement that went out to the school on January 22nd with the bylaws revisions and which stated that there would be a vote at the February PTO meeting.

- The first change was that an officer running for a third year should be voted for in April, changed from May.
- The second change was to voting for the 6th grade rep. It said that the vote could only be made by 5th grade parents that were present at the meeting and if there was only one 5th grade parent, they would be the only one to vote. We are changing that to be a minimum of 3 5th grade parents or teachers present or all PTO members will vote.
- The third change refers to how many people are running for an office. It stated that if there is only one candidate for an office based on nominations, that person will be designated to that office. If there is more than one, a vote will be held at the May meeting. We are changing it to state that if there is only one candidate for treasurer or two candidates for all other positions, those people are appointed to that office. If more than that, then a vote will take place at May meeting.
- Last change refers to the term of each chairperson to be one year, but not to exceed two years unless a volunteer has not come forward by September. This sentence will be taken out as no term limits will be applied to chairpersons.

**All of the proposed changes were voted on and passed at the meeting.**

**Naming/Logo Contest for 5K & Field Day** - We are looking for a name for the 5k and logo for field day. Winner of the naming contest will get either entrance to the 5k or Overlook night out

### **Questions/ Concerns/Ideas**

- Jamie Scanlan talked about publishing center and the stories will start to be written on March 11th. She is looking for volunteers to interview the students, which will occur during their library times this year.
- Laura Schlaghauer talked about spirit wear and how it is available all year to order. There will also be an order for Field Day gear coming up. Field Day is May 17th.
- A question was brought up about what the Zoom grant money was used for. Michele Smeal went through the list of purchases based on the teacher's requests. All grants requested were given.

***Next Meeting: Wednesday, March 27<sup>th</sup> at 7:00PM in the Library***

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