

**MES PTA Meeting Minutes**  
**Wednesday, March 11, 2020**  
**10:50-11:55 @ OHES**

**In attendance:** Jenna Huntley, Yuna Kim, Ms. Lacy, Mrs. Scottie, Mr. VanHise, Mrs. Coffey, Mrs. Evertsen, Mrs. Glover, Jaime Gostkowski, Jennifer Harris, Alex Clark, Donna Ligor, Rania Elghazaly, Unnati Patel, Chris Hoffman, Nicole Dowling, Kathryn Worland, Lara Katz, Jonathan Klabacha, Ellen Wagner, RoseAnn Sands, Jean Evertsen, Lana Sambol

**PTA Administrative Business**

- Meeting called to order -10:50
- Went around the room and made introductions

**Monthly Reports**

**President's Report – Jenna Huntley & Yuna Kim**

- Nothing special to report

**SEPTA Update – RoseAnn Sands**

- Thank you to the PTA for the continual inclusion, reminders and links
- 80's Dance in Feb was great – thank you for the help!
  - Made \$1800 in silent auction, \$200 in bake sale, plus ticket sales
- Next meeting has been cancelled
- April meeting date still to be confirmed
- Rolling teacher grants with SEPTA are currently being accepted
  - Please get the word out that it doesn't have to be specifically for a Special Education Classroom
    - Can be for a neurotypical class to promote kindness, inclusion, etc.
    - Please think outside the box
  - No grants have been awarded yet this year
- Mentoring program is up and running
  - For 3<sup>rd</sup> grade and up

**OHES Update – Mrs. Scotti & Mr. VanHise**

- 100<sup>th</sup> day and Valentine's parties went well
- Read Across America just finished – had lots of visitors come in and read
- Looking forward to 1<sup>st</sup> grade concerts, Kindergarten registration, Author visits and Parent Teacher Conferences

**VES Update – Ms. Lacy**

- Valentine's Day parties ran smoothly – thank you to the volunteers who helped at the door
- Had Kindness Week – spirit dress every day, recognized kids being kind on the news
- Had grade specific morning meetings that were mostly student run
- Band, chorus and orchestra concerts happened in school for the kids and at the high school for the parents

- Read Across America also went well – lots of visitors came to read including high schoolers
- Rosy Revere Assembly was well received – thank you for the grant
- Around the World in One Night, 1<sup>st</sup> time and was nice
- 4<sup>th</sup> graders going to see Cinderella at UMS on Friday
- Mar 16 is to be a ½ day – collaborating with coming up with virtual learning for the district and cleaning for the custodial staff
- Women's history month, St. Patrick's Day and author visits are coming up
- Book fair end of the month, parent's night same night as art show
- Arbor Day – looking for 3<sup>rd</sup> grad parent presenters
- Parent Teacher Conferences and Spring Break coming up
- After we get back there is Take your Child to Work Day on Apr 23, the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade field trip around Montgomery and the 4<sup>th</sup> grade field trip to the barracks in Trenton

#### **OHES Teacher Liaison – Mrs. Coffey**

- Will mention about the PTA and SEPTA grants
- Next year a video about NYATW may be nice for the teachers to show the kids to drum up excitement
  - Some supplies were used in one classroom – Alex will replace

#### **VES Teacher Liaison – Ms. Evertson**

- Welcome to the new liaison

#### **Treasurer's Report – Jaime Gostkowski**

- See attached report – highlighted is current activity
- Membership +80 new including 16 staff - \$5002.90
  - Paid State dues
- Around the World in One Night – budget for OHES & VES was combined – made \$5065.35
  - Great considering the current climate
- Parent Donation - \$122 Amazon Smile + \$125 community vendor + \$5 staff donation
- Spirit Wear - +\$313.98 sales from ATWION and online
- Expenses –
  - \$4500 VES field trips
    - Field trip budget can be divided differently if wanted
  - \$92 kickballs bought for OHES recess
  - Carryover from last year for Rosy Revere (approved last year, spent this year)
- \$3800 OHES and \$2600 VES grants left
  - \$100 year end Potluck – for paper products and desserts
  - \$300 Diatlo grant
  - Experiential theatre production – Apr 27 VES and Apr 28 OHES
- Jaime asked if anyone had any questions - none

#### **K-4 Math & Science Supervisor - Ms. Glover**

- Grants will be coming
  - Bring back courtyard in center of VES
    - Reached out to Hopewell to find out costs of their revamp - \$60000!!!
    - Reached out to Nektar since has experience with schools and grants
      - Has \$1500 design fee

- Will look into if can put fee towards purchase of plants
- If have a design is a lot easier to ask for donations from companies (J&J, Jansen, etc)
- Have reached out to local nurseries but not great feedback
- How will this be used in the curriculum?
  - Native plants so will learn about the ecosystems, plants, animals and dynamics (3<sup>rd</sup> grade)
  - Structure and function 4<sup>th</sup> grade
  - Place for mindfulness center and social-emotional learning
  - Outdoor classroom from Eagle Scout needs to be 2ft longer
- Highschool had grant last year for a nice garden
- Girl Scout troop did plant a garden and are in touch
- Water filling stations – already approved so don't need grant!
  - 2 per school
- Family Math Night – usually +300 people attend but need to cancel the night event
  - Will make it an online event with kids making videos to show what to do at home
    - Allows the kids who have worked hard towards this to still have a moment to shine
  - Will add a blurb in the PTA newsletter and email will go out to the volunteers
    - Volunteers are 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> graders selected to play math games at lunch and then will help with the games during the night

#### **Mom's Night Out – Yuna Kim**

- Last year did wood painting
- This year not planning a large group even due to the current uncertainty
- Will re-evaluate next year

#### **Around the World in One Night – Alex Clark**

- Thank you for all of the support
- Everything went well despite the anxiety
- Attendance was down by half
- Combined the two events by having the country posters from VES
  - Need to re-evaluate to increase VES participation
- 13 country rooms – thank you!
- Custodian feedback was positive
- Teacher feedback – 1 teacher's supplies were used – Alex will take care of
- Uneaten food was redistributed to the custodians, high school helpers and police station
  - Nothing was wasted
  - Cookies went to staff
- Meghna and Alex will not be running it again next year – need chairs
- Should ask parents for any photos/videos they took to make a short promotional video that teachers can show to the classes
- Next year schedule ahead!
- Thank you to the admin for being there
  - Is there a way to entice more teacher attendance?
- VES to hype on morning news – promotional video could work there too

## **Upcoming Events/Fundraisers**

### **Author Visits – Jaime Gostkowski**

- 3/18 (4<sup>th</sup>), 3/24 (K), 3/25 (3<sup>rd</sup>), 3/27 (2<sup>nd</sup>), 3/30 (1<sup>st</sup>)
- Reviewed contracts
  - Is there a contingency plan? Are we held liable if school cancels?
  - Only 1/3 contracts specifically says will reschedule
    - Have reached out to the others
  - Signing books to be determined

### **VES Book Fair- Unnati Patel**

- 3/27-4/3 – Family Night 4/2 (same as 4<sup>th</sup> grade art show)
- Reached out for contingency plan and waiting to hear back
- Volunteer list to go out next week

### **Yearbook – Yuna Kim**

- All online – start Mar 15 and price goes up May 15
- Going to ask teachers to advertise
  - Mr. Dolan can put on VES news

## **New Business/Announcements/Questions**

### **Areas of Need**

- Co-treasurer – 2 year term (Jaime to stay on for 1 more year to teach)

### **Teacher Appreciation**

- RoseAnn Sands got some feedback from teachers as was looking for what teachers actually want/need
- RoseAnn to talk with Maria

**Meeting closed 11:55**

**Next meeting Apr 22 @ 7:00pm OHES Cafeteria**