

## Central PTSA Monthly Meeting

Minutes

1/10/17

In attendance: Becky Picone, Alissa Chilson, Heidi Kerwin, Cynthia Kerber Gowan, Christina Pearson, Stacia Rush, Natalie Pincus, Katherine Finn, Leslie Seltzer, Mark Kokanovich, Kevin McGowan, Jen Allen, Emily Brown, Katrina Robinson, Denise Kotalik, Emily Minerva, Deborah Pulley, Ilona Remenicky

Meeting started 9:17am

PTSA President, Deborah Pulley, started by welcoming everyone, and thanked the board for coming as it is important for them to know what is going on in each building. Reminder- we are an advocacy group, rather than a fundraising group. We are here to advocate for our students, parents, teachers, and schools. If anyone has a topic in mind that they would like to discuss, please contact Deborah so that it can be included in a future meeting. There are two meetings today, so it is an ambitious schedule, but tonight's meeting should be very good and informative. Please encourage parents to come, and share the meeting details on social media.

There is an upcoming NYS PTA Legislative Summit occurring in Albany. Our funds are approved to pay for people to attend so please let Deborah know if you are interested or would like more information.

Deborah will be out of town next week, but can be in contact/available by email.

### **Building Reports**

#### **CRPS**

- Awaiting response from school pictures company regarding class pictures for CRPS (other schools are already set).
- The art teacher, Lisa Jordan, is still in great need of help in her classroom; particularly on day 2s and 3s. Sonja George, the Art Room Coordinator sent out a Sign-Up Genius reminder to volunteers.
- Miranda Stefano, our Library Volunteer Coordinator, continues to work with library staff to try to set up a few volunteer opportunities after school for working parents.
- Community Service "Toy and Book Drive" is underway, with numerous donations already received; committee is planning collaboratively with Brighton Believes for district-wide community service day on March 7.

- CRPS PTSA “Winter Highlights” e-news was sent out and included in Tappon Times. Weekly “PTSA Corner” in the Tappon Times begins this week
- January 11th "Let’s Chat, Council Rock"/ Meeting with the Principal - topic is CRPS Extended Studies program. Ms. Wegman and Mrs. Yawman will speak regarding how the ES program includes and benefits all students at CRPS. Next month, Mrs. Cooper (PE) and a Brighton Police Department representative will highlight the biking and walking safety education.
- Kindergarten Information Night will take place on January 18 and will include a brief presentation by co-chairs.
- Building Co-Chairs will present briefly at January 22 faculty meeting and collect additional feedback from teachers regarding opportunities for collaboration; co-chairs will also attend New Family Reception that evening to help welcome CRPS families.
- SouperBowl Monday planning is underway for Feb 5 and Ice Cream Social Planning is underway for March events.

## **BHS**

- Drama Club recently had a performance
- class of 2017 had a reunion
- Poetry Out Loud was a success
- Galaxy & portfolio prep class held a fundraiser for Puerto Rico on 1/17
- Visual Art show k-12 on 1/11
- Crazy For You 2/8-10
- Meet w/ Principal at 12noon & 7pm on 1/17
- College & Career Night (for grades 10 & 11) 1/18
- Cocoa & Cram-1 / 127
- Accapalooza Friday@7 \$5 or \$4 w/ canned food item
- Snowball 1/27

## **TCMS**

Ski & Snowboard Club will begin 1/13 (1/6 was cancelled due to cold weather).

Activity Nights are scheduled for January and early February. The 8th grade activity night is 1/12 and will include Minute to Win It games and obstacle courses. 7th grade activity night is scheduled for 1/26 and 6th grade on 2/2.

8th grade parent orientation is scheduled for 1/24 at BHS

Two new clubs started at TCMS: the Mosaic Club is led by Katie Kantz and had their first meeting on 1/9. The Chinese Club has had two meetings and is planning for a Chinese New Year celebration (Year of the Dog).

TCMS Administrators and Counselors will be presenting Internet Safety and Cyber Ethics during PE classes on 1/18 and 1/19. Discussions will occur on how we make our schools a better place and how we present ourselves online.

Zero Waste has initiated during the TCMS lunch rooms. Stay tuned for a report on how much has been diverted from the landfill.

161 TCMS students are playing Winter Sports, 18 of those are playing on the High School level.

TCMS is hosting Learning Walks on 2/6 where representatives from different schools (HFL, Penfield, Fairport, Pittsford). The reps will see 12 different classrooms and the TCMStrong students will escort them from class to class.

## **FRES**

We had our FRES Meeting with the Principal on Dec. 13. The Counseling department at FRES gave a wonderful presentation about how they work together to help the students at the school. They also spent time answering questions and had a good discussion with the parents in attendance.

We collected many items to donate to Ibero for Puerto Rico Evacuees.

The students had PJ day on the last day of school before winter break. Always a favorite!

Currently:

Book and toy drive.

Coming up:

Roller Skating starting this week, and continuing for the next 2 weeks.

Chamber Orchestra and Gr. 4 Chorus concert Wednesday Jan 17.

Gr. 4 Band concert Thursday Feb. 1.

Family Movie Night Feb. 6

Meeting with the Principal Feb. 12 9:30am Our next topic is Assessments. When they are given, and how they are used.

Gr. 4 Strings concert Feb 12

Helping with wellness day for the teachers Feb. 12 after school. Dr. Rioux is looking for more parent volunteers to help run workshops.

Jump Rope for Heart Feb. 13, 14, 15. This year the school made labels for the envelopes to simplify and speed up the process.

Looking ahead:

Gearing up for the Ice Cream Socials. We're reaching out to Read's for pricing.

LEGO club just received a grant from Harris Corp.

\*Jen Allen asked if we will be going through PTSA to purchase zero waste materials. Deborah replied that we should use up what we already have, and be mindful in the future when purchasing paper supplies for events. Alissa said that if you send a voucher for what you need, she can purchase the supplies through Amazon, rather than purchasing and asking for reimbursement. Kevin said that at this point they are not requiring the compostable materials, but they are looking to go that direction in the future. In the event that it becomes a requirement, they will give us enough notice to plan for that.

\*CRPS and FRES can work together to see what they will require for the ice cream socials so that they can order for both and possibly save money by buying in larger quantities.

## **SPED**

The meeting that was held on 12/13 for SPED ACT/SAT accommodations was well attended. This information session was successfully recorded.

The next SPED meeting is on 2/15 at 7pm in the Admin Bldg Board Room. The topic will be presented by Jennifer Cacioppo from Monroe BOCES 1 on Graduation Requirements.

## Community Service Update, by Emily Minerva

Emily shared a letter from Denise: Ibero action league is not taking any more donations, although still accepting winter coats at its main office. City School District's Families in Transition program and Brighton Your Wardrobe received several bags of our donations.

\*Deborah mentioned that there is still a program through Monroe High School collecting winter gear for students who don't have appropriate outer gear.

\*There is a possibility that the donations will start up again in the spring.

\*We will be sending an eNews and posting information about the success of the drive.

#### Treasurer Report, by Alissa Chilson

Alissa circulated a copy of the budget that Deborah also emailed to the PTSA board.

At the moment we have spent more money that we have brought in, although we are projected to bring in plenty of revenue to cover all expenses.

Becky Picone signed this month's budget report.

Alissa showed the cash box that she has recently purchased and that will be available for events.

Alissa circulated the new money handling forms that will also be posted to the website and emailed to all board members.

Reminder-any checks written need to be written out to the Brighton PTSA.

Any cash requests need a minimum of three days notice.

#### Secretary Report

Becky Picone submitted the December 2017 minutes for approval.

Heidi Kerwin moved to approve.

Leslie seconded.

All hands approved, so moved.

#### Nancy Beck Committee Report, by Emily Minerva

Meeting has been postponed until January 16<sup>th</sup> at 7pm.

Jen Allen can no longer attend, so Emily Brown will be taking her place on the committee.

### Nominating Committee

Deborah explained that we need to start putting together the nominating committee for nominating a new Secretary, and a new vice president. The committee will be lead by Heidi Kerwin, and we will need a returning a building chair from each building to participate.

BHS – Cyndi Kerber Gowan

TCMS – Christina Pearson

FRES – Katrina Robinson

CRPS – Katheryn Kubiak Rizzone

After names are submitted for consideration, contacting perspective candidates can commence.

### Superintendent Report/KEV Talk “Bullying, Discipline and Maintaining Civil Discourse , by Dr. McGowan

\*See website for Superintendent report\*

\*Keep in mind that although the school will do what it can for students and drug/mental health issues, it is important that the parents and community be involved as well. Parents need to be engaged and active. It is not effective for the school to take action unless they are working with parents.

The 2018/2019 calendar is in the works. The week following Easter is planned to be next year’s Spring Break, kids will have the Wed before Thanksgiving off, will start school the Wednesday after Labor Day, and the return to school date after Winter break will be the Wednesday after New Year’s Day.

\*A question was asked about the new state regulations that the school structure will be based on hours rather than days. Dr. McGowan replied that this will be helpful in the long run since the current regulations cause complications regarding half days and staff training days. However, we won’t know for a while how this will actually affect our schedule.

Budget season is here. We start with reports to the board .

Next year the goal is to have all flyers be electronic in an effort to save paper. There will be an effort to get paper flyers into the hands of families who may not have access to a computer at home. Additionally, all flyers will be circulated to all students regardless of gender (ie: Girl Scout and Boy Scout flyers).

\*See website for KEV Talk\*

\*There was a discussion about the banning of phones in class at TCMS, that this has been a good thing in the effort to help kids focus and not use their phones inappropriately in class. There was a suggestion that this be implemented at the High School as well. This would be difficult to enforce at the high school level, but it is worth a further discussion.

\*if there is an incident that occurs outside of school but is brought into school/impacts the school experience in some way, the school can become involved.

\*The School safety hotline is completely anonymous. This is primarily used to protect students and avoid tragedy or dangerous situations.

\* A suggestion was made that we be more mindful about encouraging kids to be more mindful about actively being kind and inclusive, rather than just focusing on not being unkind and excluding.

Square One Art, by Emily Brown

They'd like to have one representative to distribute forms and collect artwork.

All information will be shipped to Deborah's house. As soon as that's received, it will be distributed to schools.

March 1<sup>st</sup> all materials are sent back to Square One.

March 20<sup>th</sup> all art work will be sent back to schools/parents for considerations.

April 10<sup>th</sup> is deadline for orders.

Finished products will be distributed prior to Mother's Day.

There will be an effort to have an art day for families to come and create work for the project.

\*A request was made that there be a way to have two images on one product for people with multiple kids. Some suggestions were that art work be manipulated to fit two pieces on the one square. Also, that other companies be considered for the fundraiser if they can accommodate those types of requests. Cyndi Kerber Gowan researched Shutterfly and they do participate in fundraising projects, so this may be a possibility.

### New Family Event

152 new families have been invited to the new family social event. There have been no rsvp's as of yet, but we need to determine how many pizzas need to be ordered. At 32 pieces per sheet, it is likely we will need at least 10 pizzas, (a minimum of \$200). PTSA board members are encouraged to attend.

Deborah asked for a vote to approve \$200 for use of purchasing pizza for the event.

Cyndi Kerber Gowan moved to pass

Christina Pearson moved to second.

All hands passed, so approved.

### Spirit Wear Sale, by Cyndi Kerber Gowan

Currently working on a Spring sale with a school specific T-shirt. Designs for individual schools are still in process. The date of the sale will be a little earlier this year. Umbrellas will be offered again this year. Cyndi projected possibly designs for FRES and CRPS shirts and she will also email images of products being considered for the spring sale.

Additionally, the general design for the district will possibly go back to the traditional 'B' rather than the new design used in the Fall.

\*A question was asked about having shirts available at cost for new kindergarten families. Cyndi replied that not many young CRPS families tend to order items, so we need to be mindful of the work involved with providing this service. This has been discussed at passed meetings, so more discussion about it is needed.

There is now a Spirit Wear committee to work on the sales.

\*Deborah clarified that if a school specific design is approved by the school rep and the principal, that design should be the one used for the sale. Design images are shown to the PTSA board for feedback, and to keep everyone in the loop. A discussion followed about how to solicit and select designs for building specific designs. \*Deborah concluded by saying that going forward it is important to work as a committee as there are a lot of buildings and people involved who want to be involved in the process. The goal is to provide a service and make some money to be used to benefit the students.

\*Cyndi will be sending all the building chairs the designs planned for their building. The designs need to be shown to the principal for final approval. The High School is not interested in having a school specific design at this time.

\*A suggestion was made for the sale of chairs with the Brighton logo.

### Closing Thoughts

There is an evening PTSA meeting tonight at 7pm in the Admin Bldg "Keeping Brighton Kids Healthy".  
The district will be video recording the presentations.

Next Month's Meeting is February 14<sup>th</sup>.

February snack will be provided by BHS.

Meeting ended: 11:37am.