Claypit Hill PTO Board Meeting

November 3, 2015

* PTO Board meeting was called to order by President Jean Prince at 7:05pm at Claypit Hill School.
* Members in attendance: Jean Prince- President, Holly Landsittel – Vice President, Elisa Scola- Secretary, Melissa Umina, Meredith Tobe, Maureen White, Dana Cooper, Barrett Brountas, Kathleen Newton, Lisa Goodman, Tricia Clifford, Nadine Hill, Michael and Bernedette Vanaria, Mary Farley and Cindy Reardon– Members. A quorum was reached.
* October 2015 meeting minutes were approved.

Principal’s Presentation

ALICE

Principal Harvey introduced ALICE, the new school safety drills being introduced in order to be prepared in the event of an intruder in the school. Principal Harvey explained that the new procedure is to instruct the teachers to help the children escape rather than lockdown in the classroom. Principal Harvey presented the information that will be shown to children prior to conducting any drills. There is a presentation for children in Kindergarten through third grade and a more detailed presentation that will be shown to children in the fourth and fifth grades. Principal Harvey explained that following the presentation, teachers will discuss the information with the children in open circle. Following Principal Harvey’s presentation there was discussion concerning the following:

* Parents were concerned about children having to make their own decisions if they are alone in the bathroom or elsewhere in the school.
* Parents expressed concern that the term ‘intruder’ is too strong a work for the younger children and that the definition of an intruder as a person with the intent to hurt is not as good as the definition used in the 4th and 5th grade presentation of a person who puts our safety at risk.
* Parents were assured that the school is working to improve the intercom system to ensure that the ALICE information can be heard in every classroom

President’s Report

Past Events

* Book Fair – The Book Fair went well and provided teacher with $1,300 to buy books. There was discussion about improving the quality of books provided by Scholastic Books
* Just Like Me – The fourth grade classes are in the middle of the intellectual limitations unit and completed the physical limitation unit. JLM is working on making videos of the training that can be watched at home.
* Principal’s Coffee – Aidan McCann led a great presentation on the Math Curriculum with a focus on what to do to foster a love of math in younger kids.

Upcoming Events

* Hearing and Vision- The Hearing and Vision tests will begin this week.
* Kindergarten Fall Playdate- The playdate had to be rescheduled due to weather.
* Joint Elementary Principal’s Coffee – There will be a presentation on internet safety and childcare and pizza will be provided for children.
* Cultural Enrichment- About 4 or 5 times per year all the elementary schools bring an event or author to the schools.
* Fifth Grade Activities – Letters about the activities went out to fifth grade families.
* Movie Night – There will be a ballot so that the children can choose the movie that will be shown for Movie Night.
* Talent Show – Previously, the talent show was run by the Student Counsel and will now be run by the PTO. There will be practices and rehearsals and a teacher to MC the event in order to make it go faster. Although the sound system is better, there will need to be a tech person there to help.
* Ball Locker – Currently, there is only one ball per grade at recess. Happy Hollow bought a wire cage in which to store balls for only $100. There was discussion about donating and purchasing balls.

PTO Board Reports

Gift Your Child – With a month still to go in fundraising, the school has raised $21,045 which is close to last year’s final total. The goal is $25,000.

Wish List Update The Wish List process was explained. Teachers are invited to submit a request with a description cost of the items or service desired. The requests are reviewed for funding.

Meeting adjourned by Jean Prince at 8:15pm.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Elisa Scola

PTO Secretary, Claypit Hill School