

East School PTO

09.19.17 Meeting Notes

Attendees

Heidi Collins, Katie Connelly, Kathie Cronin, Sarah D'Souza, Karen Deane, Jen Doan, Nancy Faris, Ashley Kalish, Yvette Kanter, Suzanne Kracunas, Kirsten Moore, Kate Newth, Chrissy Roberts, Julie Robertson

Back to school bash

- Need volunteers for the back to school bash.
- **Tony to send out request for volunteers e-blast. Heidi to draft email for Tony.**
- Need hall monitors. Can't open the school up unless we have hall monitors.
- Police detail: Call HPD at the beginning of the week; and they put it on a detail board.
- Back to school bash is on Yom Kipper. Activities will end before sundown, when the holiday starts.
- Everything else is good to go.

SEPAC – Jen Doan

- If people have any questions or comments regarding IEPs and Special Ed – or if they see anything on social media – please direct them to Jen Doan. She is the SEPAC liaison.
- SEPAC is holding a Rights & Responsibilities presentation on Wednesday, October 11 at the town hall.
- There will be monthly SEPAC business meetings on the 2nd wed of the month at the Hingham Public Library.
- The first Thursday of every month at 10:00am there will be a parent breakfast at Bruegger's Bagels.
- Meeting with all the Principals and VPs of all the Hingham schools to make sure that SEPAC is meeting the needs of the different schools.

School Council

- There is an E-blast going out from Tony looking for two volunteers for the School Council. If more than 2 people are interested, there will be a vote.
- Board members are not exempt.

Communications

- The website is looking good.
- We've started doing updates to our Facebook page.
- If you have access to the PTO Facebook page, feel free to do updates.
- All new board members need to provide bios and photos to Sarah D'Souza.
- The first Digest is focused on the Back to School Bash. Profiling Ms. Ross, the bus orientation and the first PTO meeting.
- Tony is going to send out the Digest until we have the contact info.
- The Digest gets sent out on the last Friday of the month.
- We have a volunteer to take over the newsletter from Lou Lou. Nancy Faris is doing the Directory. Kathie Cronin is on photos
- Email Sarah D'Souza with updates for the Newsletter
- Items for the newsletter: "News ELA" is a new online subscription that is being funded by a \$2000 grant from the PTO for the year.
- **Sarah D'Souza to send publication schedule for both the PTO Newsletter and the Digest.**

Treasurer

- Katie would like to add owners to budget line items – so that she can follow-up directly with individuals as needed.
- **Chairs to recommend budget owners.**
- Enrichment expenses are going up roughly \$2000 this year due to added programs and rising costs. Kirsten Moore to supply the final enrichment overages when all fees are in.
- Trying to get Math Olympics price down. Budget is spent on rewards for participation. Do the rewards need to be so extravagant? Look into doing a party for the M.O. award winners as a way of lowering cost.
- For the past 2 years, the Dean family has been paying out of pocket. Make a note in the file that Math Olympics is a gift from the Dean family. We will continue to budget for it.
- "Student programming" line item in the budget is a way to fund special programs i.e., the rowboat in the library. Gets voted on by the board.
- Chairs give recommendations for possible expenditures.
- **Need to schedule a meeting for October for the annual budget audit.**

Appeal

- Appeals are already coming in. Any feedback on the appeal, please send to Chrissy.

- There is a 1.7% fee on all online (PayPal) transactions. Possibly look into Venmo or Applepay or other to see if there is a better alternative to PayPal. Someone needs to champion this.
- Appeal Prizes: Contributors go into raffle; pick name per grade once a month; and PJ party for class with the highest contribution rate.
- Need to evaluate prizes: what should/could they be (police ride to school; principal for a day, gym teacher for the day), do we do a silent auction for bigger experiences? Do we need them at all? Are we going for a goal? We can't ask for money if there isn't an associated expenditure.

All school meeting – Get the dates from Becky. Suzanne, Chrissy and others will take turns being the PTO representative at the All School Meeting.

Volunteers/Staffing

- Library to handle own volunteers this year.
- Still looking for room parents for Lucas, Martin, Keith, Yodzio, OHara, and Jennings.
- No chairs for snowflake; no co-chair for Halloween.
- Kirsten recommends having room parent ask for the GSAA volunteers, instead of the GSAA Chair. Hope is that we will get better response if the request comes from the known room parent as opposed to the possibly unknown GSAA Chair.
- Consider having room parents do opt-in group texts.
- New chairs for sunshine, teacher appreciation, and community service. There are a bunch of new volunteers from the lower grades, which is great.

Votes

- Suzanne put forth a Motion to put Chair of GSAA on the board. Motion was seconded and vote went through.
- Need to vote on teacher grant for balls for 1st grade. Suzanne to scan it and send it around and vote.