

Minutes

Bexley Middle School PTO

1/28/2021 1 pm
Zoom

Principal Update (Jason Caudill)

- 2021-2022 D.C. Trip: Jason is looking into trip vendors, pricing, etc. There is a lot of uncertainty, however, Jason would like to do the due diligence ahead of time in hopes that students could have this opportunity next spring.
- Scheduling students for the 2021-2022 academic year:
 - Rising 9th graders will be receiving information from the district regarding meeting with counselors and course registration.
 - Rising 7th-8th graders will be receiving an informal survey regarding interests in band, orchestra and choir as well as class where there are choices in allied arts.
 - Rising 6th graders will be receiving information regarding a virtual parent information session. This session will be recorded and available for viewing following the meeting.
 - Families will also be receiving a questionnaire regarding their plans for next year: in-person or on-line. A virtual option has not been determined at this point but the information allows the school to beginning planning for staffing and scheduling needs.
- New Hybrid Model:
 - According to a recent 6th-12th grade survey, the majority of students prefer more in-person school time and asynchronous work vs. zoom classes.
 - According to Jason, there has not been discussion about moving to a regular (all in) school model. The current mitigation strategies are working in the hybrid model. In addition, having all students in the building would not allow for the 6 feet of separation.

President Update (Jill Russ)

- PTO Teacher/Staff Appreciation:
 - Olga Shonia and Flora Cabanes are planning gifts/events during teacher appreciation week in May. Currently the plan is to give gift cards and engage students through a slideshow of selfies with words of thank you. In addition, they are thinking of having students create "thank you" posters/signs using recycled lawn signs which can be displayed in front of the middle school entrance. Other PTOs could join in on this activity.
 - The middle school PTO has been approached to get thoughts on a community wide teacher appreciation initiative this spring as well. Ideas include an email

appreciation campaign, encouraging businesses to engage by displaying thank you/appreciation signs in windows or offering gifts/incentives for teachers to visit businesses during an appreciation week. Discussion of these activities is still ongoing.

-It was brought to the PTOs attention that it would be much appreciated if the food services staff are recognized during teacher/staff appreciation week. They have gone above and beyond this year with food delivery to homes and classrooms. Some ideas discussed are providing/serving breakfast to staff, decorating ceiling tiles and inclusion in gift card collection. Jason and Jill will determine the number of staff to recognize to help define the best appreciation gift or activity.

Treasurer Update (Kristin Harpe and Liz Magee)

- Kristin and Liz continue to manage the current budget as there are no new expenses or large fundraisers. Money does continue to trickle in from Kroger awards and Call-a-Cub sales. Another check is expected from the holiday Spirit Wear sales. Jason indicated there is approximately \$65,000 in the D.C. scholarship fund which would cover up to three years of scholarship needs (if based on previous year's needs). If the D.C. trip runs next year, the PTO will look to run fundraisers to continue to build up this fund.

Chair Updates

- Scavenger Hunt Project: Jason recommended a scavenger hunt activity for middle schoolers to help with mental health and morale. Wendy Almasanu and Jackie Phillips have graciously volunteered to organize this activity. It will take place in February at Jeffery Mansion and has been called "Escape your Room." The goal is to get kids outdoors, be physically active, boost mental health and morale. There will be incentives to participate and prizes. The activity will be communicated to students via Canvas.

Upcoming Meetings: (always subject to change)

All Thursdays at 1 pm

2/25/2021

3/25/2021

4/29/2021

5/27/2021

The Mission of the Bexley Middle School PTO is to provide a forum for parents to communicate with the principal and each other, to support the needs of teachers and students, and to raise money for the student outdoor education and Washington, D.C. trips. All are welcome to attend these meetings.