

Minutes

Bexley Middle School PTO

1/27/2022 1 pm

Zoom

Principal Update (Jason)

- Rising 5th grade parent meeting will be held February 22 via Webinar. A 30 minute session will be held prior to the general session for those students utilizing special education services and 504 accommodations.
- Experiential “Field Trip” Learning Opportunities:
 - 7th and 8th graders have completed interest surveys and staff are looking through data.
 - The goal is for a 7th grade experiential day trip within central Ohio and 8th graders may have the opportunity to venture outside of the central Ohio area.
 - The hope is for an end of the year 8th grade celebration excursion to potentially Kings Island.
 - 6th graders will have the opportunity for an outdoor day experience at Camp Mary Orton in the early spring. The camp can accommodate 40 students/day so students will participate in sessions throughout a week’s time.
 - The goal, this year, is to utilize funds from the D.C. trip school account to off-set the trip expenses.
- Jason, staff and teachers have a continued focus on student well-being, mental health, and student and behavioral skills.
- Birdie Light Presentation - On February 23, Beth Weinstock, parent of a former Bexley student who passed away from a fentanyl overdose, will speak to MS/HS parents about the opioid epidemic and fentanyl awareness.

President Update (Jill)

- Cookies for Dr. Fine’s Visit: Dr. Fine spent a day in the middle school office to be available to middle school staff and teachers to answer questions, hear concerns and to learn what is going well. The PTO provided cookies for Dr. Fine to share with staff and teachers.
- PTO Board positions: The PTO is in need of a VP for the remainder of this year, a president and VP for next year, as well as many chair positions filled. If interested, please contact President Jill Russ.

- Steve Shapiro's work: Steve Shapiro is planning a community conversation about college rankings and college pressure. Please be on the lookout for information in Jason's weekly newsletter for information on how to sign up.
- MS anxiety/depression program or presentation: Jill will reach out to Steve Shapiro to see if he would be interested in a program focusing on mental health in grades 6-8.
- Moms Demand Action: A parent group focused on gun safety reached out to Dr. Fine and the Board of Education expressing interest in programming for parents on how to keep weapons out of children's hands. Jill reached out for more information and will report back during the next PTO meeting.

Treasurer Update (Liz)

- The current balance is \$18,548. Since October there were minimal expenses needed for Spirit Wear and teacher conferences. There was also significant revenue from the fall fundraiser of \$6,000 as well as Call-A-Cub ad sales, Spirit Wear and Kroger points.

Chair Updates

- Caller (Eve)
 - Callers are expected out within the upcoming weeks.
 - Caller ad sales raised \$4,965.
- Fall fundraiser (Jenny and Rachel)
 - Thank you to Jenny Grishken, Rachel Laing and Wendy Almasanu on their hard work. The fundraiser brought in \$6,000 to the PTO.
- Spirit Wear (Rachel)
 - There have been two Spirit Wear sales this year. The goal per year is to raise \$1,500. The winter flash sale that was just completed raised \$592. Rachel is looking into a Bexley car magnet for future sales.
- Teacher Appreciation Week (Olga and Fionna)
 - May 2-6
 - Co-Chairs are hoping to resume food for staff and teachers throughout the week. In addition, they will be seeking gift card donations in hopes of distributing one gift card/teacher or staff as well as for raffle prizes.

Upcoming Meetings (1 pm on Zoom):

February 24

March 31

April 28

May 26

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.