Minutes

Bexley Middle School PTO

2/24/2022 1 pm

Zoom

Principal Update (Jason and Racquel)

* Masks are now optional during after school activities, starting 3:45pm or later.
* On 3/1 and 3/9 the Board of Edu will meet to discuss future masking.
* Schools will attempt to get students outside for lunch as much as possible, weather permitting.
* On 2/23, Beth Weinstock/Birdielight presented to parents/caregivers to provide education about the dangers of fentanyl and tools to protect young people. When discussing with students in the future, the information will be tweaked to what is developmentally appropriate for middle school students.
* Within the middle school there has been an increase in challenging behavior issues. Students were addressed during a special assembly. Only 1% of the students causing issues, but administration felt it was important to address all.
* Upcoming class experience trips:

-6th grade: On March 3, students will see Doktor Kaoom and the Wheel of Science at the Lincoln Theater ($5/student). On March 28, 29, 31, April 1,5, students will also participate in a day adventure and team building activities at Camp Mary Orton. Students will be assigned to one of the dates as the site only accommodates 40 students at a time (cost supported by the PTO).

-7th & 8th grade: Still looking into experiential trips inside Ohio. Transportation for trips outside of central Ohio have proven to be a challenge as charter buses would need to be used.

-8th grade: On May 13 an end of year celebration trip is scheduled to Kings Island, 8:30am-6:30pm. The cost will be $65 per student which includes all meals and tickets. Administration is still working on securing transportation.

* The 5th grade to 6th grade transition parent meeting was held 2/22 by Zoom. The hope is to hold this meeting in person in the future.
* Jason Reynolds author visit yesterday. Kudos to Rachel Reigler for organizing and rescheduling.
* There is currently $64,000 in the DC trip account held by the district. Some of the funds are expected to be used to support experiential trips this year.

President Update (Jill)

* VP for the remainder of this year - Welcome Lindsey Kauffman! Lindsey has a current 6th grader and was previously active on the Maryland PTO.
* Future Program ideas: Jill and Liz met with Steve Shapiro to discuss programming around mental health (specifically anxiety and depression) in middle schoolers. The hope is to move forward with programming/education for parents at the beginning of the 2022-23 school year. If interested in helping to organize this event, please contact a PTO board member or Jason.

Treasurer Update (Liz)

* The current balance is $18,548. There are no new deposits or expenses this month. The next anticipated expenses are for teacher appreciation week and experiential field trips.

Chair Updates

* Caller (Eve)

-There continues to be a delay with the Call-A-Cub. Thank you to Larry DeAtley Ellyson for volunteering to put the information in a pdf format to electronically distribute to families. The PTO deeply apologizes for the delay.

* Spirit Wear (Rachel)

-Rachel is working with the vendor to secure a general Bexley car magnet which will be on sale for $5. The next sale begins after spring break and a rising 6th grade sale will take place toward the end of the school year. If there are merchandise ideas, please contact Rachel Laing.

Upcoming Meetings (1 pm on Zoom):

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.