

**Summit Middle School PTO Meeting**  
**November 13, 2017, 6:30 p.m.**

Meeting called to order 6:30 p.m.

Present: Carrie Parrish, Erin Heck, Amy Peckinpaugh, Lara Schreck, Renae Kollen, Marcie McClain, Lori Schaefer, Jennifer Shaw, Julia Miller, Josh St. John, Phil Downs

1. Superintendent Update (Dr. Phil Downs)

a. Graduation Pathways Panel

- Indiana State Board of Education has established a panel to make recommendations for stricter requirements for a high school diploma due to new federal accountability laws.
- There is very little (if any) public school representation on the panel and the end result will make it very difficult for some of our students to receive a diploma. The recommendations would affect about 8% of the students at Homestead.
- Dr. Downs wants there to be a pathway to graduation for students that are still working hard but aren't able to pass the minimum requirements such as Algebra II.
- There is a meeting this Friday with 130 educators from around the state and then the State Board will vote on December 6<sup>th</sup>.
- Dr. Downs says there is room for districts to control their own graduation pathways, but this provision has to be approved by the panel. He is trying to rally people to email the panel, state board, legislators, and governor with their concerns.

b. Lafayette Meadows Elementary Building Project

- District has secured an architect and \$8-10 million will be taken out of the budget for this project. The project will not result in a tax increase.
- 12 rooms will be added to existing building with two stories for 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grades, expanded cafetorium, and a new gym.
- Plan is to open in 2019-2020.
- Redistricting will be needed which will also bring additional students to Summit Middle School. Long-term plan may be to use pool area for new classrooms at Summit if a new pool is built elsewhere.

c. Homestead High School Building Project

- Found a way to access \$130 million for this project without raising taxes or having a referendum.
- Project will begin in the 2019-2020 school year.
- Front art/science portion of building will remain but everything else will be rebuilt gradually over the course of three years.

2. Teacher Presentation: Julia Miller (Counseling)

This is Ms. Miller's 4<sup>th</sup> year as one of the Summit counselors (other counselor is Jeff Faber). They want students to always do their best and know that failing is the first step toward learning. They have advisory 4 days a week for 20 minutes. The Advisory Team is made up of one representative from each grade-level team and they meet quarterly. They teach life skills, relationship building between advisor and student, and there is a new school-wide theme every month (e.g. Indiana Career Explorer, Motivation, Kindness). There is also a school-wide activity every quarter.

The Student Assistance Program (SAP) is a student support group for students dealing with concerns such as the loss of a loved one, divorce, alcohol/drug abuse in the family, anger management, etc. Students can choose to participate on their own or be referred by a coach, teacher, parent or friend. They meet from late October to mid-December on Mondays during the day.

The Natural Helpers Program is a peer-helping program for students (nominated by their peers) to help other students with their problems. The Natural Helpers receive training at an annual retreat and are available to offer advice, assistance or just a sympathetic ear when needed.

3. Secretary Report: Lara Schreck

- Minutes from last meeting were emailed and approved. *Lara has asked Janel to post to the website.*
- **Kroger Rewards Update:** \$987.59 in Rewards last quarter, representing 120 households.

4. Financial Report: Amy Peckinpaugh

- a. 2016-2017 Fiscal Year: The only grant outstanding is a USA Today subscription for \$120. Mr. Jones requested this grant but no receipts have been submitted. A total of \$1905.14 in grant money has already been disbursed.
- b. 2017-2018 Fiscal Year:
  - i. Income: Received \$125 from Pizza Hut fundraiser, \$160 from Spirit Wear, \$987 from Kroger Rewards, and \$3.51 from Credit Union dividends.
  - ii. Expenses: Paid \$22.50 for Spirit Wear, \$96.16 for Teacher Hospitality, and \$180 for PBIS Staff Incentives. There was also a \$10 credit for a November donation to the October TA lunch.
  - iii. Current Credit Union Balance: \$12,334.12.
- c. Information Needed: *Invoice for football pads approved in August (\$550).*

5. Principal's Report: Josh St. John

- Summit Cookie Dough fundraiser was a success with \$15,000 in total profit. Approximately \$14,000 was from product sales and \$1000 from straight donations.
- Flex Day on November 15<sup>th</sup>: Students will have an e-learning day and teachers will have professional development.

## 6. Committee Reports

- a. Teacher Appreciation (Marcie McClain and Renae Kollen)
  - Planning to have treats for the teachers/staff this month.
  - There will not be a sign-up genius emailed out this time.
- b. PBIS Store (Marcie McClain)
  - Students have been enjoying the items at the store.
  - All slots for volunteers have been filled for the entire school year.
- c. Restaurant Fundraising Nights
  - Honey-Baked Ham in December
  - Chick-Fil-A in January
  - Casa Ristoranti at a later date (Monday/Tuesday from 5-10pm and PTO members and/or Summit staff must be present).
- d. 8<sup>th</sup> Grade End of Year Party
  - Date set for May 18, 2018
  - Jennifer Shaw has volunteered to be chairperson. She needs the binder with all the information from last year.

## 7. New Business

- e. Additional Grant Requests
  - i. Books for Media Center
    - Requested \$733 to purchase books for students at lower reading levels to keep in the Media Center.
    - *Dr. St. John will check on school funding availability and ask about book fair funds.*
  - ii. Ice Machine
    - Existing ice machine became inoperable 1-1/2 years ago and multiple groups have expressed interest in having ice available again (Science Lab, school nurse, PTO Teacher Appreciation, athletic teams, SWAC).
    - The groups will be splitting the cost and the PTO share is \$200.
    - *The Board approved \$200 to help pay for the ice machine.*
- f. Superintendent's Artwork Project
  - PTO needs to purchase the frames for the pieces of student artwork that are chosen (two for Summit). The artwork also needs to be labeled with the student's name, grade and building. Deadline for delivery of artwork is April 23, 2018.
  - Check with art teacher around February 1<sup>st</sup> to coordinate frame purchase and assist as necessary.

## 8. PCC Meeting Report

- g. 2019-2020 Calendar was approved.
  - First Day: Tuesday, August 13<sup>th</sup>
  - Last Day: Thursday, May 28<sup>th</sup>
  - Winter Break: December 23-January 6
  - Spring Break: March 27-April 3
- h. Bus Transportation (Steve Lake):
  - Trying to move toward having only one pick-up and one drop-off location for each child to minimize confusion in the Transportation Center. Lately, there have been many transportation changes by parents at the end of the school day.
  - Primary goal is safety.

## 9. Future Meeting Dates

January 22  
March 5  
April 30

All meetings will be held on Mondays at 6:30 p.m. in the Summit Conference Room.  
No meeting is currently scheduled for May due to conflicts on Mondays in May. The PTO may meet on a different day that month at a date/time to be determined.

Meeting adjourned 8:20 p.m.

Next meeting: Monday, January 22nd at 6:30 p.m. in the Summit Conference Room.