

East Lyme Middle School PTA Meeting Agenda - Meeting Notes

November 15th, 2022

- Welcome & Introductions (Kate Caristo-Scalora) - Kate was not in attendance so Danielle Deeble began the meeting at 5:03PM; In attendance - Lily Aundre, Charity Kennedy, Marjorie Vargas, Hillary Sirois, Tina Conlin, Danielle Deeble, Rita Quiles-Glover, Claudine Kelly
- Principal's Report (Jason Bitgood) - Mr.Bitgood was not in attendance so Claudine Kelly, Assistant Principal shared the following highlights:
 - Cross Country had a great year and participation in the championship; Mr.Allen new coach was very appreciative of all the supports and the students were wonderful
 - Teachers and students are prepping for student led conferences (reminder ½ day on Monday, 21st and Full day March 22nd - no school for students); Teachers are working with students on their goals and facilitating their own conference with their parent; Concern was expressed that last year some kivas had teachers that did not greet parents nor speak with them when they came with their child and this felt unwelcoming; Administration spoke with team leaders and asked that all teachers greet the families visiting and ask if there any questions
 - Mental Health Awareness - a big thank you to PTA for sponsoring an assembly with John Halligen who spoke at the high school last month on mental health awareness. Dagle Foundation also donated \$1,000 to help sponsor this assembly. Assembly will be on December 15th for all students.
 - Veterans Day - first assembly in over 3 years. 70 Veterans attended including World War II and several politicians including Senator Formica, Holly Cheesman, and Kevin Seery. Students facilitated readings and questions, veterans were provided a lunch, and student band members played music. Feedback was given that having students ask the questions to the Veterans rather than a teacher was more engaging and powerful for the guest visitors.
 - Martin Luther King Scholarship Dinner - October 20 - 2 students were recognized and over 80 attended across the shoreline. There is an application, interview and panel to be considered for this scholarship that awards over \$20,000 in scholarships.
 - Student devices have been all returned to students.
 - Mr.Cruz facilitates the service club which sponsored a 3x3 basketball game (donations to St.Judes), collection of pop tops, and now a paper good drive for Care and Share

- 5 days left in the Semester (teachers are reminding students to submit any missing work).
- Family University sponsored by the district - Restorative Practices informational night (Nov.15 at 6:00) that fosters class expectations/students helping to created their classroom environment - link will be on the website if you'd like to view it
- Boys/girls basketball tryouts are happening
- Treasurer's report (Danielle Deeble) - Highlights:
 - \$558 collected for spiritwear
 - \$2115 for Pie fundraiser
 - \$2,506 for Mums fundraiser
 - Total balance - \$13,260
- Review of Bylaws - The executive board component is not needed so will be removed and shared to families again for final approval.
- Proposals
 - Spirit Days - Discussion was around having the first spirit day in January and having one a month. A flyer will be created to promote this day and there was discussion involving the service club team for promotion (but this club ends in December). A google survey will be shared to students (with Mr.Bitgood's approval) to see what students would be interested in for a Spirit week in February (around Valentines day/prior to break). Also, the PTA would like to give the kiva with the most spirit in each grade an incentive such as a special snack or activity. A snack would have to be pre-packaged due to allergies.
 - Gaga Pit Construction - We are waiting to hear from Mr.Bitgood on the thoughts from the PE department. In addition to the possibility of having facilities construct it and/or insurance liability. Parents shared what Lillie B Haynes had done including making it handicap accessible. Gagapit.com was the resource for the structure to purchase. Once we hear back from Mr.Bitgood we will determine if a committee needs to be created to help gather possible volunteers. If you are interested in supporting the project in building it, please reach out to a PTA member!
- Review of Recent Events/ Fundraisers
 - Lyman Pie Sale - great success! All pies were picked up! A parent asked how many pies were donated to Care and Share. This will be shared at the next meeting.
 - Spirit Wear - 186 products were purchased! Items are anticipated to arrive the first week of December so the date for pickup details is forthcoming once the items arrive!
- Upcoming Events/ Fundraisers

- Little Caesars Fundraiser - we cancelled this fundraiser to try a new fundraiser selling candy apples. A parent will be looking into this further and we will be looking at having items arrive for Valentines.
- Book Fair - Spring time (more information to come)
- Registry for Classroom Supplies - more information to come
- Community comment
 - Discussion of a school dance sponsored by the PTA was brought up by parents to build on school community - this will be shared with Mr.Bitgood and a committee may be created to discuss this further; if you are interested please reach out to the PTA
 - A flyer requesting a donation rather than participating in fundraising was created and will be reviewed with Mr.Bitgood and then shared to families who may be interested in a donation rather than participating in fundraisers.

Meeting Ended at 6:10PM

Next meeting: December 20th at 5:00PM in the lobby