PTA meeting 12/7/2018 9-10:30am

Attendees

Jocelyn Apicello

Krystal Ford

Sayaka Larsen

Principle Alex Levine

Superintendent Laura Mitchell

Nurse Melissa

Kristin McPherson

Karen Nelson

Elisabeth Neuberg

Courtney Schacht

Lisa Rasic

Agenda

* Treasurer’s report
* Past events: School photos (was not mentioned)
* PTA Resolution to eliminate plastic and reduce waste
* Upcoming events and potential events

Science Fair -March

Potential workshop for parents of elementary¬-aged children, Sex Ed, The Talk 2.0 TBD

Youth Climate Summit -May 17

Bond Vote-Capital Improvement project May

Open business/comments

**Treasury Report**

Recent money spent

* Directory + DEAR week
* Veterans spent
* Office supplies
* International night

Profit

* Book fair
* Pending school photographer

Other suggestions: If we decide to purchase compostable products, buy through wholesaler and use our non-profit status

**Hot Lunch Status/Ideas**

Oct with net profit: 130 meals bought

Nov with net negative: 141 meals bought

Sue and Laura went to Lakeland District to learn or if it is possible to go under their meal program: They do not want to add us into their program as it is not beneficial financially for them. Their advice is for us to run our own small program. Most of Garrison students do not qualify for free or reduced lunch/title 1 program, where some of the Lakeland students qualify and the school received funding

Future ideas:

* Add a meal program at our school but we would need to hire 1-2 personnel for the meal program. Also, there is a liability to consider (i.e. serving food, PTA have our own insurance)
* Catering: Still requires point of contact, order, serve. Also, may not be financially beneficial since we are small scale, only serving 130 kids or so
* Take another survey with parents to see if there is an interest for 1-5 days a week of meal. Nell Timmer did a survey a couple of years ago where parents did not want to spend more money and most parents preferred not to volunteer

**PTA Resolution to Eliminate Plastic and Reduce Waste**

Krystal read out from the PTA resolution

* Can we make this a school wide initiative? The board has already approved climate resolution and this resolution is a subset of the approval
* Create a school policy: Work with 8th grade, Cathy Clark and different volunteers in terms of eliminating all plastic straws and plastic utensil in the cafeteria
* Incentives: provide reduce the hot lunch cost if kids bring their own water bottles, etc.

Encourage the use of reusable water bottle

* PTA will be selling Garrison Logo water bottle for $10 or $10-20 donation. Karen Nelson has volunteered to sell reusable water bottles during hot lunch but PTA will send reminder that checks much be made separate from the hot lunch money!

Reduce plastic use during hot lunch and other events

* Use sustainable materials, encourage compost, encourage reusable water bottle
* Install dishwater to encourage reusable plates rather than paper or plastic plates. School needs to figure out if the infrastructure ready for dishwasher installation, such as piping.

Mr. Keegan and schoolwide composting initiative

* Wrote a grant to GCEF but requires more concrete ideas
* Purchase a compost drum- partner with BOCES

**Upcoming Events and Potential Events**

Potential: Sex ed talk for the community and middle school parents

* Flyer from another school’s sex education event flyer passed around during meeting
* Cost to bring a speaker is $500 with possible $5 donation
* Get a feedback/ interest by the Garrison parents/community
* Can we partner with Haldane PTA? Kristin will ask Haldane PTA member about their interest in joint education meeting or through parent university

Tentative date: February with a back-up snow date if there is enough interest

Science Fair in March

Is there an interest to being Mad Science as part of Science week (i.e. parents to come to classrooms)? If so, Courtney will help coordinate the event

Youth Climate Summit in May

* Goal is to try to focus on the solution
* Krystal is working on speakers: fungi specialist booked
* Potential summit date will take place on Friday and may require a switch with 8th grade pizza Friday, need to work out the details with 8th grade fundraising committee
* Food is the main cost-Can we get donation from Garrison Pizza? If we are able to switch and do hot lunch on Friday, can reach out to various supermarkets for donations? (Foodtown, BJ, Nature’s Market, Whole foods, etc). Also ask for parent volunteer for one day event

Logistics

* Approximately 60 Garrison middle schoolers and invite approximately 90 middle schoolers from other schools
* How to figure out which students gets invited? Principle Alex pointed out that there are 18 schools in the local district. Can we invite 6 students from each of schools

Planning meeting will occur next week and send out a save the date if possible

**Open business**

Vending machine

Vending machines were installed due to interest shown during board meetings

School receives 10% of the profit

Some kids are spending money on the vending machine when that money for their hot lunch

Nurse Melissa has cautioned kids about healthier option but cannot stop them from buying

Suggestions:

* PTA can send e-mail out stating “Please be mindful that your child may be spending their money on the vending machine” If they would like their children to spend that money on hot lunch, one option would be to send checks instead.
* Ask for parents’ feedback on what to be sold inside the vending machine. But the products cannot contain any nuts.
* Ask vendor to use boxed water rather than using plastic water/soda bottles
* Laura can work with the vendor but snacks inside the vending machine complies with the national smart snack compliance
* Vendors can give us analysis on when/times when kids are purchasing and what is the most popular snack/drink. There is a way to turn on/shut off the vending machine but at this time we are doing the least restrictive and change as needed.

**Bond Vote-Capital Improvement project May**

Capital project include water fountain with better filter system

Potential voting in May for $7-8 million

* Parents will receive information on the ballot but the wording may be confusing. This is being worked on by the counsel.

The last time the school asked for money was 20 years ago for the middle school wing