

Jefferson Middle School

PTA General Meeting

September 21, 2015

Call to order 1:04

Treasurer's Report – Rich Messimer

Rich distributed a copy of the 2015-2016 Final Proposed Budget. He highlighted that there is \$1000 in the principals' education fund and that PayPal is working well for the membership drive. There is a carryover in the amount of \$3,600. The PTA is looking for ideas on how to spend this overage. Colleen Frank then highlighted the key changes from last year. First, the funding for each grade level has been evened out to \$1,300 per grade level. The team leaders will determine how to spend this amount. Second, a Science Day has been added to the schedule through the Carnegie Science Center. This event is scheduled for late spring and will consist of exploratory stations set up in the gym as well as a 1 hour assembly for the entire student body. Third, A \$500 Building Wish List fund has been set up to meet the needs of various requests within JMS. The Emerald Team requested & received headphones which are already being put to good use. The principal must approval all reaquests. Any excess funding from other activities will also feed into this fund. The teachers have been asked for their input.

A request came in from the Staff Appreciation chair to increase the budget for the Staff Appreciation Luncheon from \$350 to \$400. Gifts cards are distributed to all of the teachers and the extra \$50 is necessary to purchase these. A vote was taken to approve this for this year and going forward. It was approved and a change was made to the "carryover" amount by a reduction of \$50 from \$2,000 to \$1,950.

Executive Board Reports

President – Colleen Frank

Colleen along with the MS & HS PTA presidents met with Dr. Davis to discuss the PSSA scores. The state issued a statement that comparing the scores from the last 2 years is like comparing apples to oranges because the test changed. They will refer to this year as the "baseline" year where the bar has been raised. They discussed how to get the students to the higher bar. They also discussed the 5 year strageic plan and how it aligns to the upcoming year and the curriculum. Mt. Lebanon is 1 of 2 school districts that have F1 Visas to international students.

Students pay \$17,000 per year in tuition to attend the Mt. Lebanon schools. There are currently 18 international students (capped at 20). This is financially lucrative for sponsors, the district and families. The district also received the Urban Architecture grant for \$20,000.

Colleen also attended the Council Meeting. They discussed the clearance issues required for parent volunteers. Jodi Kubit put a document together outlining how to get clearances with a link to the fingerprinting company. There is nowhere in the S. Hills to get fingerprinted. Health requirements were also reviewed at the Council Meeting. Food cannot be “ready to eat” 30 minutes before or after school due to the Wellness Policy put into place by the Healthy Kids Initiative (federal law.) There are acceptable options under this policy such as Philly pretzels and Kona Ice.

Lastly, Colleen mentioned that all chair positions are filled except the Reflections chair.

First Vice President – Jodi Kubit

As of 9/22/15 at 10am, there are 277 parent members, 61 staff members totaling 338 total members. \$4,660 has been committed in dues with \$555 outstanding; \$4,285 has been committed in donations with \$575 outstanding. There are 26 unpaid parents and 8 unpaid staff members. Eight (8) PayPal payments were short (parents paid the donation only but not the membership fee) for a total shortage of \$135. Jodi will follow up with an e-mail to these parents. The total outstanding is \$1,329. Lastly, 5 committee chairs still need to join the PTA (a requirement to be a chairperson). These chair members are: Weston, Riley, Chiappeta, Kennedy and Yaremcho.

Second Vice President – Laura Teufel

Laura did not have an update on the amount raised from the Betsy’s Ice Cream or Flight Trampoline fundraisers. Two additional fundraisers are the spirit wear drive and a Chipotle Night.

Third Vice President – Cliff Luke

Cliff stated that the online directory is complete.

Fourth Vice President – Kelly Szesterniak

Kelly sent an email outlining news and events at JMS. The students went to an assembly put on by a man born without limbs who has achieved his full potential despite his obstacles. He completed a triathlon and is an attorney. The students were in awe of his uplifting story. The prompt at the “Tuesday Talk” will be about reaching one’s full potential and being the best person you can be. Kelly also mentioned that the Cookie Dough Sales are due on Thursday.

Finally, she mentioned the issue with the “Go Zone” at Jefferson Elementary. The “no left turn” will be enforced by the Mt. Lebanon Police.

Corresponding Secretary – Sara Hendrick

Sara had no report but reminded everyone that the deadline for submission for the newsletter is on Friday. The newsletter is posted on the following Monday or Tuesday.

Recording Secretary – Leslie Long

No report

Historian – Julie Smith

No report

Discussion/New Business

Colleen wrapped up the meeting with a few additional items. First, there will not be a musical this year due to lack of funding for Mr. Lash’s position which averages between \$2000-\$3000. She explained that the PTA cannot “pay” staff. The PTA can only provide “support” with the purchasing of props etc. Second, the Emeralds Team requested 4-5 additional headphones under the Building Wish List. This request was approved by Kelly and ultimately approved by the PTA. Lastly, other funding requests were discussed. Ideas included new and improved video equipment for morning announcements, planners for the students which currently uses up a lot of the money in the principal budgets and a “sign in” podium to improve flow in the front office. There was much discussion regarding the planners. The school would like to “require” that each students have one so it must be provided by the school. A few ideas were brought up such as finding a sponsor to alleviate the cost to the PTA or school district and providing a option on PayPal during the membership drive to make a donation toward the planners.

Meeting Adjourned 1:40