

Hamilton Elementary PTA Meeting

Monday, March 22, 2021/ 7:00 PM / Zoom Virtual Meeting

Attendees

Principal D. Recker, Teacher Liaison C. Buxton, President A. Lentner, Vice President J. Gould, Co-Treasurer J. Dobronos, Secretary P. Joliat, C. Spangler, E. Hammond, K. Wuff, N., Superintendent Rich Machesky, Kris Griffor, Colleen Dimitrijevski, Megan Cyrulewski, Dayna Bennett, Angela Herbon, Reba McNally, Meena Trivedi, Rachel Weiner, Carol Dospil, Adrianna Zarewych, Nicole R. Nicole Deluca, Betsy Murphy, Jennifer Vandenburg,, Aimee Pollak, Tonia Romancheck, Jamie Mallin, Ethel Howell, Yoonha, Carol, JaNe, Jennifer Chambers, Jeena Patel, S Lee, Thivya

Call to order: 7:04 PM

Agenda

Welcome-Angie Lentner

District Update (R. Machesky)

1. **Challenges Faced** - A little over a year dealing with Covid, and return to learn plan has been a challenge. Transitioned and worked on a robust hybrid platform with a goal to put students fully in seat. Moving in that direction and getting closer thinking about next year. Appreciate the patience. Thank you for the hard work from principals and teachers. Enrollment was a challenge 300-400 students less, with a large number of Kindergarteners not enrolled and delaying a year. District is working diligently to bring those students back in order to keep district funding. District did bring back all of the staff, including support staff.
2. **Strategic plan**- We are proud of the fact learning is key at all levels for staff, and we've been able to leverage our university partnership with elementary and middle school with the Teacher's college. Continue to seek opportunities to leverage more in middle school. Deepening learning has been quite the challenge this year, but leveraging digital. 1:1 for K-12.
3. Schoology management system was utilized as a communication tool with families across the district. Virtual field trips and speakers. Most importantly, we are focusing on high end curriculum.
4. **Inclusion is a priority** What is important for students to know? Inclusion was set aside because of the pandemic. Fall and winter- inclusion was brought back to the forefront. Equity survey was sent out and greatly appreciate parent feedback.
5. **Attending to the well being of all students**-Attendance rates have been outstanding! Reinstating the numbers of counselors and social workers at the high school level.

6. Early Childhood goal for 2020 coming to Kindergarten with a preschool experience. 93% came with this experience in 2019. We have room for growth. As it grows, we hope the community takes advantage of the preschool program.
7. **What to expect next year-** Let us know if you want your child to return in seat. Deadline is 3-23-21 for after spring break. Looking at what our classrooms will look like for next year. Trying to get a general idea moving forward. Survey within the next week or so.
8. **What will virtual look like?** Next year we will have a separate virtual campus. Teachers will not be teaching from school and on virtual. Hybrid teaching will end. Roomies and zoomies will be separate next year and will have different teachers.
9. **Community input**-The district values the input families provide. We listen and make important decisions from what we hear from you. As we move forward in the strategic plan, your feedback will be important moving forward. Parents are asked to answer the questions:
 - What's going well?
 - What do we need to improve?
 - What other things do you want us to know?

PTA President Welcome

1. Reminder of school links and different ways to raise funds for the PTA: Mables Labels, Box Tops, Kroger Rewards, Amazon Smile, School Supply Boxes
2. School Supply Boxes- link to order supply boxes for the Fall went out in email. Deadline to order will probably be around the end of June.

Hamilton Meal Train

Second week underway. Things seem to be working out and teachers are happy. Thank you for making this work.

Open Board Positions

We've had a few parents express interest in available board positions. In the April meeting, we'll ask interested parents to introduce themselves and we'll vote in the May meeting. Board and Committee positions available. Please reach out if you're interested. Voting to be held in May.

Misc

Not sure what end of the year activities will look like this year. When we have info, we will communicate out.

Budget

This month's spending:

- \$500 for March is Reading Month
- Teacher grants
- Supplemental Books - 4th grade is the only grade level who have used their budget. We are reminding teachers to make requests for books.
- Still have some teacher grants left to spend as well.
- Will have some rollover into next year because we did not use it all this year due to Covid.

Principal Update (D. Recker)

- Working as a staff to build toward normal routines while still remaining safe with Covid 19.
- First school wide virtual assembly with Author
- Staff loved the Starbucks run from Staff Appreciation Committee
- Preview "Growing Up" materials coming up for fifth graders
- Thursday schoolwide Kahoot competition based off of virtual author visit
- Multiple visits with Teacher's college coming up
- Multiple drills being practiced in school to catch up (i.e. fire drill, tornado)
- Students will be taking the MSTEP. Will be widening the testing window. The dates of taking the test will be pushed back this year.
- Kindergarten Round Up coming up, Hamilton anticipates 3 classes next year.
- Boulan and Smith will be visiting fifth graders virtually.
- A lot of discussion among principals about the End of the Year celebrations. Trying to figure out a way to have some sort of normalcy while being responsible and meeting expectations.
- More students probably coming back in person after spring break. Around 80 coming back that we know of so far. Working on making it safe...furniture protocols, etc.
- Efforts under way to make Hamilton a School of Character-how to make it a systematic effort as a whole school? What traits would parents like reinforced? Would love parent input. Survey will be coming out soon in email.

Staff Update (C. Buxton)

- Starbucks run was greatly appreciated.
- Meal Train- lots of gratitude from teachers
- Kids seem happy at school. Teachers appreciate everything you have done as parents.
- Thank you for continued support!!!
- Reevaluate on a grade level basis- weekly magazine subscriptions

VP Shout Outs (J. Gould)

- Shout out to parents/staff for attending the PTA meeting. We love new faces!!
- Kristen Ansel-Took over Supply Box coordination-lots of detail getting that together
- Sam Zoll and Angie Lentner-Coordination of Meal Train with the staff
- Courtney Spangler-Starbucks delivery to teachers
- Dr. Recker, teachers, staff-continued amazing work and coordination of chaos :)

Ending Comments

- Betsy Murphy-Do we receive money from Target?

Answer- Four years ago it stopped. Now parents get points and go into their app and vote for charities. Charities are not based on choosing certain schools anymore.

Colleen-Communication from PTA is great!. Thanks for the “day of”reminder for the PTA meeting. That was helpful. Are there two different videos for the “Growing Up” program?

Dr. Recker Answers- Both girls and boys will watch a female and male video. He will talk about format, show both videos, and take questions with parents in an upcoming meeting.

Adjournment at 7:55 PM

Respectfully Submitted, J. Dobronos