

## Clarke PTO Meeting Minutes

October 8th, 2019

### Minutes done by Stacy Walsh, Secretary.

**Attendees:** Crystal Dolcimascolo, Stacy Walsh, Jen Roney, Deniz Razon, Trish Weisberg, Carrie Wu, Jennifer Caruso, Dane Despres, Wendy Rosenborough, Carol Colwell, Michelle Wu, Seri Latiff, Katherine Mahony, Cindy Arens.

- **Sept 6th, 2018 Meeting Minutes Approved**

### Principal's Report:

- 2 Back to School Nights last week, purely positive feedback other than parking and traffic.
- Think creatively - how can we make it better?
- Receiving a number of mini grants for this year. Review before next meeting and will report in November meeting.
- Ready to send out a flyer for Book Club. November 7th at 7 PM. Weekly email with info. Theme is looking at the 1st core value in superintendent's - inclusion.
  - "New Kid" - deals with identity. Student from Queens, attends a white private school. Interacts with a number of students, challenges of middle school.
  - How can we make Clarke more inclusive? Be more mindful of identities.
  - Looking for high school volunteers. (4-5 tops) Preference for Clarke students
- In the swing of things now.

### Treasurer's Report:

- A few expenses from the Picnic, not much going on other than membership dues.
- Donations are great.
- \$12,170 for membership dues.
- Dane got a request for financial assistance for the NYC Drama trip. Scholarship fund for \$150 that was used in the past for the Book Fair. Cost of trip is \$500. 30 kids go on trip. Dane found outside funding for that. Going to find ways to make this happen for students.
- \$60,000 in money market
- \$50,000 in cash account
- PPC question.

### Cookie Dough Fundraiser:

- Diamond did Cookie Dough, Liz the Vice Principal runs it, last year realized hard to sell without telling buyers - what it is for? Can we create a tradition? Can it benefit the kids directly?
- Selling chocolate now, 50/50 split. Kids have an item they can sell right there. Multiple flavors, getting ingredients. World's Finest Chocolates.
- 1 box - \$60, 30 bars.
- Allowed to sell through Thanksgiving.
- Parents have to buy box, promote - bring to work, holiday season. Create a form for parents to sign.
- Created a wheel that you get to spin if you have incentives. Prizes for grades.
- WIN Block - Nov. 7th & 8th they will promote it. Give suggestions for kids on how to sell.
- Not all tree nut/peanut free.
- Wants to find a sister school - take money from each grade to give to another school that needs it for equipment or something? Grow a relationship. Dane's looking into it.
- Do we want to do cookie dough at a different time of year? Online orders of cookie dough, just between parents, worth a shot. \$200 minimum order.

### **Membership/Directory Update:**

- Membership is up 425 families out of roughly 850 families total.
- Printed directory - 88 families ordered them.
- 200 families update info but didn't join.
- 100 families haven't updated their info.
- He will send the list to the printer this week.

### **Parent Forums Update:**

- First high school forum yesterday, Clarke's is coming up.
- October 21st at 7-8:30PM is the principal forum. Looking for someone to take notes.
- SEPAC event that night as well.
- October 22nd - Kristy Dema rev at 9 AM in Cary Hall. Substance use. Mock teen bedroom.
- December 2nd - Executive Functioning in Science Lecture Hall in High School.
- "I'm Not Racist, Am I?" Movie - date TBD. Show to faculty and parents.
- Healthy Relationships Forum - Elizabeth Englander, with Diamond and LHS, still waiting on funding. Will know more in a week.
- New - Going to LHS Forum - Q&A every February, Minuteman wants to do a similar thing.

### **Spirit-wear Update - Katherine - new to PTO**

- Going well, opened the first week of October.
- Going to hand out flyers at the end of each social, also put in teacher's staff room. Discount code.

### **Book Fair Update - Katherine:**

- Book Fair - December 6th-Friday, December 14th.
- Stephanie Latelle offered to be part of the community. She's doing marketing and communications.
- Volunteer Recruitment
- Raffle baskets
- Teacher Wish Lists
- Gift Cards
- Book list looks good.

### **PPC Update:**

- Not much for middle school level.
- New Head of Finance - creating policy for what PTO/PTAs can spend.
- Redistricting - Q&A from Dr. Hackett.

Thinking about getting a banner for the Clarke PTO.

### **PTO MEETINGS:**

- ❖ November 12 (8:30 am at Clarke's cafeteria) - Stacy Walsh not here. Crystal Dolcimascolo to take minutes.
- ❖ December 10 (Evening meeting-location tbd)
- ❖ January 14 (8:30 am at Clarke's cafeteria)
- ❖ February 11 (8:30 am, Clarke cafeteria)
- ❖ March 10 (8:30 am, Clarke cafeteria)

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

- ❖ October 18 – Apollo and Curiosity Team Sponsored Breakfast
- ❖ October 18 – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Social (6:30 – 8:00 pm)
- ❖ October 21 -- Q&A Forum with Mr. Despres (Clarke cafeteria)
- ❖ October 22 – Flatbread Night Fundraiser
- ❖ October 25 – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Social (3:00 – 4:30 pm)
- ❖ October 25 – 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Social (6:30 – 8:00 pm)
- ❖ October 25- November 8 – Cookie Dough Fundraiser