**Independence Middle School**

**PTO General Meeting Minutes**

**Thursday, May 19, 2016 – Independence Middle School**

The Independence Middle School General PTO Membership met on Thursday, May 19, 2016.  In attendance were Board members Bari Levitt, Lisa Fishman, Michelle Walgreen, Valerie Rozzo, Anne Rutter, Lisa Fishman, Mrs. Koerner and Regina McClimond.

**Call to Order -** Bari Levitt called the meeting to order at 9:40 a.m.

**Minutes** – Lisa Fishman made a motion to approve the minutes from Jan. 21, 2016. Michelle Walgreen seconded the motion.

Bari Levitt introduced the current PTO Board. She encouraged parents to come to the PTO meetings because they are a great source of information.

**Principal's Report -** Kathryn Koerner

* 8th Grade Dance is this Friday.
* Transition meetings for 8th graders are occurring now.
* Band and chorus concerts are finished and were wonderful.
* Copy Cats were recognized for the amazing job they do.
* Zero Tolerance policy was explained. Interventions and consequences were discussed.
* Mr. Dewey will be the 6th grade administrator.
* Spirit sticks were discussed. These go on the children’s lanyards.
* SOAR celebrations were explained.
* Parents were assured that 4 minutes is plenty of time to move between classes.
* Schedule Pick Up is a good time to walk your child through their schedule.
* Mrs. Koerner recommends students work with a combination lock this summer for incoming 6th graders.
* There is a skate park located behind us. This is not a supervised dismissal area. Please be aware of this. Lots of families pick up children there.
* We try to isolate the grade levels before school and during lunches, but there are always some classes that include mixed grade levels.
* Encourage kids to get involved in activities at school.
* Mrs. Koerner appreciates that PTO donates to teacher funding requests.
* Electives are not guaranteed. The computer schedules each student based on academic needs for core classes. The available electives are then chosen by what is available for the remaining periods.
* Band and Chorus were discussed as electives.
* Academies were discussed.
* Intensive reading was discussed.
* We are trying to get more of our 6th graders in a keyboarding class.
* Our new Bell Schedule is due to bus issues. We frequently have late busses due to the current scheduling problem. Next year, instruction will start at 9:30 and end at 4:05.
* Before Care and After Care were discussed. This service opens at 7:30 a.m. and closes at 5:30 p.m.
* ID’s are required and they are important for many reasons, including an unexpected medical event. If a student has on their ID, records can be accessed and parents called immediately. 2 temporary ID’s are available per 9 weeks without consequences.
* Cell phone use at school was discussed.
* Children’s hall behaviors were discussed.

**Financial Report –** Bari Levitt

* Fy16-17 proposed budget review.
* Our opening balance starts on July 1st.
* We lowered our t-shirt projections in case we don’t bring in as much money this year.
* Department Donations were discussed as well as paper for teachers. We have never denied a request from a teacher. SAC sometimes assists us with these purchases.
* We upgrade facilities with our Facilities Fund.
* PTO membership was discussed and encouraged.
* Operating budget for 2016/2017 was approved unanimously.

**President’s Report –** Bari Levitt

* WIMS announcements were discussed and how to access them through edline. If you listen to the announcements, you can find out what is really gone on at school. PTO may want to listen to this as a group and add information to the website.
* Please be patient while waiting for lanyards and IDs at Schedule Pick Up. Please bring $10.00 for Lanyard and Agenda. The first lanyard is required. $3.00 is the cost of a second lanyard, which is recommended but not required. Checks and cash only are accepted.
* Order shirts online by July 17th to have them ready at Schedule Pick Up. This will shorten your wait time at the event. T-shirts will be sold at the event if you prefer to wait.

**New Business -** Bari Levitt, President:

**PTO Board 2016 -2017 Slate**

President and Business Partner Coordinator: Bari Levitt

Co-Vice Presidents: Lisa Fishman and Michelle Walgreen

Treasurer: Jen Van Kirk

Co-Secretaries: Valerie Rozzo and Anne Rutter

Volunteer Coordinator: Karen Preisendorf

Members-at-Large: Angie Fischer, Jill Lebenson, Tracey Murry, Abir Abdelmoaty,

* This slate was approved to serve as the board for 2016/2017

**Volunteer Report -** Regina McClimond

* We still need parents to volunteer in middle school.
* Check the website, IMSPTO.com, for current volunteer opportunities or come to the PTO meetings to stay up to date.
* First Day Packet Assembly – August 8th 10:00-11:30 (tentative date). High School students can get volunteer hours.
* Schedule pick-up dates:
* Wed., August 10th: 9am-12pm; 7th grade, 1pm-4pm; 8th grade
* Thurs., August 11th: 9am-11am; 6th grade A-K, 1pm-3pm, 6th grade L-Z
* Regina is recognizing the following volunteers with gifts for their outstanding service this year: Abir Khalil, Bennett Barrios, Erica Levy, Heather Lazarus, Heather Love, Jan Hanberry, Kelly Wandoff, Kelly Williams, Lana Vespo, Monica Davis, Robin Meranda, Roni Bezpiaty, Shannon Gladden, Tracy Dyle, and Val Wirtz. Thank you to all our volunteers.
* Locker clean up will be Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday next week. Volunteers are needed. Please contact Regina McClimond.
* A gift was given from the Board to Regina McClimond. She has been an amazing volunteer coordinator.

**Important Dates**

May 20th- 8th Grade Dance 6:30-9:30pm at Abacoa Golf Club

May 24th – Academies 8th Grade Graduation Breakfast 7:30 @ Abacoa Golf Club

May 24th - Transition Day for incoming 6th grade students 8:30am-11:00am

May 25th – NJHS Induction, IMS Cafeteria 6:15pm

May 30th – No School, Memorial Day Holiday

June 2nd – 8th grade Awards Ceremony, IMS Cafeteria

June 2nd – Last day of school for students

**Topics from the floor**

* There was a question from the floor regarding what type of computer courses were offered at IMS. Mrs. Koerner addressed the concerns.

**Next PTO General Meeting:** September 2016, at 9:30 in the cafeteria.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m. Regina McClimond made the motion to adjourn, Heather Lazarus seconded.

Respectfully submitted,

 Val Rozzo, co-Secretary

                               Anne Rutter, co-Secretary