**Independence Middle School**

**PTO General Meeting Minutes**

**Thursday, January 21, 2016 – Independence Middle School**

The Independence Middle School General PTO Membership met on Thursday, January 21, 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** –Bari Levitt made a motion to approve the minutes from Nov. 19, 2015. Michelle Walgreen seconded the motion.

**Principal's Report -** Katherine Koerner

* School update – Mrs. Koerner thanks the PTO. It is because of the volunteering that we do that our school earns the Golden School and 5- Star awards.
* Administration loves the IMS t-shirts.
* We will be an “A” school based on FSA cut scores – it will be official on Feb 9th. It was a lot of work to prepare for FSA so we are very proud of our efforts.
* Students are doing more text-based writing.
* Registration paperwork for next school year will go home right before Spring Break.
* 6th Grade orientation will be held in May.
* Our projection for next year is 1,376 students. We currently have 1,350 students. The new housing development on the south side of Donald Ross should be zoned for Duncan Middle. The last few years we have exceeded our projection. We have one floating teacher now due to space issues. We may have to make the new computer lab into a tech elective in order to keep it as a classroom next year.
* We just finished diagnostics. We test an entire grade level all in one morning. This year the other grades rotated schedules as usual. There was no Fall Diagnostic test this year so the Winter Diagnostic was given to help us target for the FSA. Teachers will go over diagnostics with students.
* 8th graders took the PSAT. This was district wide. They are hopeful that this will help high schools figure out where to place kids. They will take the PSAT-9 and they will take a PSAT-10 later. Khan academy will have a direct type tutorial. Results will take awhile as it was a paper and pencil test.

**President’s Report –** Bari Levitt

* We received a check for $50 to put towards the Honor Roll Breakfast.

**Financial Report** – Treasurer’s Report – Bari Levitt reported for Jen Van Kirk

* We are not expecting new Business Partners at this time.
* We are $4,500 below our budgeted amount for shirt sales, but we are confident that we will make that money at 6th grade orientation. We will also offer SciQuest and Pre-Teacher polos. We are hoping to do the Pre-law Academy but we will not be the sole provider and will offer the classic polo. We are also cheaper for parents than the local stores. Some clubs are letting us do their shirts. We have the fishing club, student council, and Race for the Cure shirts as a possibility. We gave up the auction and luncheon since the money coming in wasn’t great.
* Teacher Appreciation Week is coming.
* It will cost us $2,400 to supply every teacher with paper.
* Volunteer appreciation is coming.
* Department donations will continue as the requests come in. Mrs. Petrocia wants to add to the digital hub in the Media Center and we are waiting to see if we still have money left at the end of the year to help with this.

**Volunteer Report -** Regina McClimond

* Raptor Volunteer – The school district has discontinued the raptor system so we are back to using VIPS. Raptor will still do the initial background check.
* Bari reminds us to be aware of the Golden School Award. The volunteer hours have to be double the number of students enrolled. We are asking Copy Cats to please go in and log their hours. If you are volunteering from home, please log your hours.
* Important IMS Dates

NJHS Peer Tutoring – Every Wednesday Morning 8:15 am to 9:04 am room #2-209

Jan 25 – SAC Meeting – 6 pm, IMS Media Center

Jan 29 – Honor Roll Breakfast – 8 am, IMS Cafeteria

Feb 2 – Dwyer Curriculum Night 6-8 pm, Dwyer High’s Auditorium

Feb 4 – Early Release Day

Feb 8 – SAC Meeting 6 pm, IMS Media Center

Feb 8 & 9 Spring Pictures

Feb 15 – no school

Feb 23 – early release day

Feb 27 – Band Pancake Breakfast and Silent Auction, IMS Cafeteria

Mar 7, 8, 9, & 10 6th grade vision, hearing and scoliosis screenings

Mar 14 - SAC Meeting – 6 pm, IMS Media Center

March 17 - General PTO Meeting – 9:30 am, IMS Cafeteria

March 18 – No School

March 21, 22, 23, 24, & 25 Spring Break

* Regina needs volunteers at 7:30 Friday, January 29 for the Honor Roll Breakfast. Breakfast is from 8-8:30. Notices for Honor Roll should go out today or tomorrow.
* Please note that we have two early release days coming and President’s day.
* Straight A students can register with Dr. West to try to win free braces at the end of the year– You can get to the application through the PTO website, IMSPTO.com
* Regina McClimond won a $100 raffle through her drug prevention work and is donating this to Mrs. Brent for Red Ribbon pizza parties.

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

* The salt-water fish tank in the main office was donated by Riley’s Reef. Their business asked their patrons to donate some of the fish. The lighting alone was over $1,500. The tank was refurbished. They are also maintaining it for us. We need to get them Business Partner status and have them mentioned in the newsletter.
* The Choice Academy deadline is at the end of this month. SciQuest will only be in-house for one more year. You still need to apply even if it is in-house.
* McDonald’s is donating 750 certificates for Honor Roll Breakfast. Bari is really impressed with their response. We will do a Dine-for-Cash there.
* Chipotle does a Dine-for-Cash that gives back 50%. We do not do this for the PTO because we want our clubs to be able to take advantage of this.
* 5-Star paperwork needs to be finished before May.

**Topics from the floor**

Announcements need to include “buy two get one free” for the long sleeve drifit shirts. Also, we will only be ordering some special colors occasionally throughout the year and keeping some different colors in stock. We could possibly sell shirts at the Honor Roll Breakfast. Limited quantities are available.

**Next PTO General Meeting:** March 17th, 2016, at 9:30 in the cafeteria.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 10:20 a.m. Heather Lazarus made the motion to adjourn, Regina McClimond seconded.

Respectfully submitted,

Val Rozzo, co-Secretary

                               Anne Rutter, co-Secretary