

MINUTES

HSA PTA Meeting

October 6, 2021, 8:45 am | Meeting called to order by PTA President Emily Casey

CALL TO ORDER AND GENERAL UPDATES

- I. President's welcome
- II. **Membership Reminders:** Emily sent email to members thanking them for joining and with a reminder to check email blasts and website for updates. PTA also has Facebook page.
- III. **PTA Wish List:** SignupGenius link now available for those who want to get involved but don't know how. Includes items needed and is a way for parents to tell us what they specialize in/how they can contribute. Example: We do a video every year for the auction and have a videographer but getting photo/video footage throughout the year can be tricky. So getting more folks involved early is great. FYI this does not take the place of event-specific signups.
- IV. **Room Parents:** All rooms finalizing over the next final days. How are room parents selected? Varies; in K the responsibility is bigger because they're asked to raise money so teachers try to select families with older HAS lids/more familiar so they can more easily navigate. As grades get older it's nice to have a mix of old and new and sometimes teachers ask or parents volunteer. Not necessarily PTA but we manage communications loosely and will do a "room parent 101" session soon. Too many room parents can be an issue so we try to streamline list. That list will be out shortly.
 - a. Room parent class funds: In the past we asked parents to contribute \$25 to a class fund for party supplies throughout the year. We are going to encourage room parents to either ask for class fund money or consider a sign up genius if they know something specific to ask for.
- V. **Halloween Parties:** back this year and will be grade or class specific. Usually teacher led so as room parents don't typically need to come up with the plan but best for room parents to sync up with teachers. Teachers will also let room parents know how many attendees they feel comfortable. Younger grades have more parent involvement. Note that if you plan on coming to help you need to be level 2 volunteer. Kids are allowed to dress up used to be only k-2 but now older kids can participate. Still planning a parade for younger kids through the school and around the turf if weather permits. Details will come from teachers and room parents.

OLD BUSINESS

- I. **Movie Night Recap:** First movie night was great. Veronica as point person and it was a fun night for relaxing with perfect weather. Will do it again in the spring. Might incorporate some loose sale opportunities. We had to buy DVD for current vendor. If they have a bigger screen option might want to explore.
- II. **Fun Fest Recap:** Huge success! Most funds raised at Funfest overall and also for K table. Overall 7K total and 3500 for K. Sold out of many activities and food; hot dogs were a hit.
- III. **PTA Membership:** hit 100 this year. Will continue to take membership as we need to stay compliant and helps with monetary needs. Right now if you're loaded in you get event reminders. Abbey will talk to rep to see if she can remove rsvp option from reminders.

NEW BUSINESS

- I. **Annual Sponsorships:** Form is on PTA website. Highlights different levels businesses can donate at on a yearly basis – eg, walkathon sponsor, gala sponsor, option to logo on different places. Need to market/distribute.

- II. **Walkathon:** 2 weeks away; it's an awesome event if you're new or old kids love it and pep rally is fun. A little over 8K and 14% participation. What we'd really like to see is more participation at any level. A lot of folks end up doing family sponsorship where you can write something on the shirt, which every child gets regardless of contribution or not. Also new this year is a student giveaway of Altitude Trampoline passes. How it works: next week if a donation has been made in name of student the child's name will go into lottery then winner gets 2 passes to take friend or sibling. Teachers are working on mascots; room parents will be sending out communication. Room parents will often assist in getting teachers minimal supplies. Note that costumes are not meant to be something parents spend lots of money – mostly driven by teachers and kids and has to be something that kids can run in. It's fun and creative and low maintenance. A signup genius is coming out, and yes you can you bring younger siblings to volunteer! Mostly outside activities so not an issue.
- III. **Shop for Schools:** 10/6 and 10/7. We sign up HSA at this Roscoe Village event and 20% of retailer purchases go back to school. Lots of different retailers. To build community offering some meetups; HSA parent and store owner Trudy of a Pied is offering cocktails and snacks. Usually raise a couple of hundred dollars Trudy hopes we can get top prizes we can win up to 3K but even 250 would be great. Support and shop local.
- IV. **Kindergarten Aide Fundraising Update:** Families are traditionally tasked with fundraising goal of \$25K for aide. On hold last year but happening again. That's why they're doing food booth, holiday fair, likely some kind of afterschool event/movie, coffee orders, raffle for lunch with the teacher. Already over \$12K raised.
- V. **Family Outing at Chicago Fire:** Chicago Fire has been great partner; came to fun fest, they're willing to do some coaching. Last home game so there will be hats and fireworks - great event for kids. It's a night game Saturday 10/23 at 7 pm. When you buy tickets you get an actual seat; you can't pick seats they'll assign. If you have group of 10 and you call each kids gets a soccer ball and there are no service fees. People outside of Hawthorne can come too!

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday November 10 at 8:45 am.

Meeting adjourned.