General Meeting Agenda

Wednesday December 7th at 8:45 a.m.

1. Call to Order: Christine Lee
2. Teacher Feature:

 Nate Pietrini presented an update on CPS funding, a recap of last year and where we are now: Because the state is operating on stop-gap budgets instead of appropriate budgets, CPS continues to be underfunded. For this reason, they have to advocate for special deals to keep us whole. CPS has agreed to long-term pension reforms to get an infusion of cash. The final deal did not meet the expectations of the governor so was vetoed. This veto, over-rode in the senate, is now in the house. Ask your reps how they are voting. We believe this 250 million influx of cash is critical and could at worst be 300k less for our school if it fails. It is not likely that we would shoulder that whole burden as central office would make cuts, etc., but we don’t know CPS’s whole plan if the veto is not overridden. Budgets based on special deals are not sustainable in the long run and an email has been with links to more wholistic plans and ideas. Parents are encouraged to call their representatives.

Question:

How did you come across grants we have had success with in past?

A couple CPS offered, we applied and received. IT was TIFF funded for a fine arts initiative, enabling Hawthorne to pay for 50% of a teacher’s salary one year and 25% next year. Same thing for PE in smaller amt. We also got a transportation grant for changing our start time. These have offset our budget cuts. When other schools were having layoffs we laid off nobody. We have also shifted building dollars to staffing. CUBs have committed to us financially and we will do facility rental in summer to bring in more funds.

In closing, know that we are on top of it, that the bipartisan coalition is going well. We may have a new formula by Feb. that would mean more money for CPS.

The ED couple- Nate’s podcast- last episode explains disparity of funding between Chicago and rest of state. We are last in nation for state’s share of contribution of per child funding. The new formula will distribute money based on poverty (evidence based formula). We will discuss more at LSC mtgs in Jan and Feb.

1. Old Business
2. Walk-a-thon: raised close to 20K- big success, thank-you to Lourdes Lozano and Amy Gordon, finalizing numbers
3. India Hicks raised $125
4. Blaze Pizza raised $100
5. GLOW final numbers- not yet in

If anyone has any ideas and/or wants to spearhead a fundraising effort, reach out to Emily and Melanie.

1. New Business
2. Committee Business
3. President
4. Community:

Juliet Birnbaum spoke about a grass roots organization pilot for Amundsen and Lake View High Schools to take elementary success to the high school level. They are encouraging residents to display signs for high schools in yards in an effort to change perception that we should have good high schools. Community support in needed to increase success. Juliet is passing out signs now or email and she will get to you or drop off at your house.

Holiday Party: Dec. 15th, 5:30-8p:

Kindergarten is providing food as a fundraiser for the aides. Each grade will provide one basket to be auctioned. There will be grade face painting and a photo boot The chorus concert will be going on during. E-mails should have already gone out about contributions and the canned food drive. You can email Trista if you want to help. If you have a Christmas card, we will hang it during the party, drop off in office

Cookie boxes for teachers:

To distribute on Dec. 20, 2 dozen commitment. Online sign-up. Every person on staff in the building receives a nice wrapped box of cookies for an end of year thank-you. Email Christine Lee or Luz Hernandez if you can help distribute

Question: any restrictions? No.

Sock mitten drive-will benefit the Salvation Army and Irvingn Park food pantry, being done thru classrooms, hot chocolate party for class that collects this most-details in PTA blast

National Junior Society also collecting toiletries, maybe we should combine- Karen and Trista will discuss, is school wide

Book drive

Giving tree- flyer went out last week, link on website and in blast that is to support the essentials (classes without homeroom), tree will be set up in north basement with ornaments representing those who have contributed

Room parent emails will be going out with everything in one email

1. Fundraising

Praha Dec. 7-giving 15% of all sales today to Hawthorne

Kindergarten fundraiser Dec. 8 at Butcher’s Tap, will invite 1st and 2nd grade also-to raise money for aide

The Dailey method, Emily looking for cohost

Frankies’ on the park clothing store needs host with girls that shop there

Spring Auction: At Architectural artifacts March 24th, 7-11p

If interested in helping let Melanie and Emily know, a million different tasks available, goal is to make it the biggest and best ever- email us with any contact ideas- we need desserts to serve the night of (we have mini cupcakes), will take a couple dozen of anything but should be commercially prepared-also will need wine, which will be stored offsite. The goal is to have all food and drink donated. Games will be added throughout the night, encouraging parents to stay the whole evening.

Box Tops-turn into office anytime, just make sure not expired

Movie day for kindergarten aide: Kids stay after school and see a movie, get popcorn. We have 5k left of our goal to raise for the aides.

1. Treasurer
2. Education:

Roundtable went well for junior high, will do again in the Spring

1. Membership
2. Recording Secretary
3. Spirit Wear: Delivered, made roughly $1000 and will sell long sleeve t’s at the holiday party
4. Other Business
5. Adjourn