

PES PTA Meeting Minutes 9-13-2022

In attendance: Abby Harrington, Jillian Webster, Ella Martin, Audra Bucklin, Ray Ferri, Michelle Fellows, Miranda Berry, Ryan McMaster, Sarah McMaster, Melinda Russo, Nikki Turner

Meeting called to order at 6:03pm. With introductions. Nikki introduced herself and spoke about vision to build community through all events including fundraisers. Upcoming events include potluck for Youth Beatz event on 9/30. Question asked about requirement of this performance. It is not required for all families, but students will be featured in their work throughout the week of the 26th with this artist in residence. Anyone can come to the performance and bring a potluck item to share. Some kids have soccer that day, Audra mentioned that some practices may have been postponed on that date so kids can attend the Youth Beatz performance. Had not yet spoken to Dan Cantlin about the younger town teams.

Picture day is coming up on 10/6 and we will need volunteers for this. The best way to sign up for this and other volunteer opportunities is to fill out the involvement questionnaire online or send an email to plainfieldnh.pta@gmail.com. The next event will be the Fall Fest/Trunk or Treat which is tentatively scheduled for October 22. Miranda asked if the events needed to be on Saturdays since some parents work on Saturdays or weekends. If it is possible to have it on Sunday that may be preferred.

Winter Carnival is coming up in February, but we talked about a need to begin planning soon for the chili cook-off portion of the event. It was asked what a chili cook off looked like. Nikki explained from some limited research that the planning committee would reach out to local vendors to be event sponsors to pay for things like a tent, ingredients if possible, tasting cups, spoons, possibly t-shirts, prizes, etc. Then we would sell tickets to be a taster at the event (tasters could receive a t-shirt, spoon maybe, and samples of each of the chilis entered) and tasters would receive a voting card to select their favorite chili from the event. Between sponsorships and ticket sales, would be the PTA profit for the fundraiser. We would also have activities happening for families to participate at the winter carnival portion of the event. This event will need a planning committee to get it going.

We talked about other opportunities for fundraising, and Ray brought up the importance of this so we are able to accomplish our basic purpose which is to support the teachers in the school and provide funds for any “extras” they need to support learning goals. The group talked about alternative fundraising events to consider: Merch table (Blackhawks swag, baked goods, etc.) at events, Bake-off/cake decorating in addition to chili cook-off, PTA cookbook (included w/ chili cookoff?), holding a drive for classroom supplies/teacher wishlists. Another event was suggested: Trivia night.

We discussed the parent forum which will begin on Tuesday, October 11. Audra went through some of the past forum topics: an open forum, grading (which will be needed again this year), schedule, curriculum (middle school focused). It will be helpful to get suggestions for forum topics that parents are interested in from PTA meetings and the group as a whole. Nikki

suggested a forum to learn more about safety, physical safety as well as technology safety that the school is using as technology is used more and more in the classroom. A member of the group mentioned having the Police Chief attend a forum to speak more about safety in the community. We also talked about the possibility of bringing in speakers to speak with parents about hot topics such as mental health, bullying, safety, etc. Could this be something teachers give input on as to what may be needed by the school community?

A group member asked about officer elections. Nikki asked if anyone was interested in an officer position which had no response. Nikki mentioned being willing to keep the president position to keep the group moving forward, but needing help to do this. The past few years have been more difficult to gather in person, and as such membership has dropped off some. We would like to build this back up, and need buy in from the greater community. Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary positions are needed. Please reach out to the plainfieldnh.pta@gmail.com email address to express interest in one of the positions or if you know someone who would be great at it.

Meeting adjourned at 6:55pm