**Avon Lake PTA Council – Zoom Meeting**

Thursday, February 18, 2021

President Jennifer Dalman called the meeting order at 9:07 am.

Opened with Q & A from parents: (Jack and Bob)

Older kids at the HS more cases of Covid after the Superbowl as they expected.

Q: Will you still offer the remote learning piece next year?
B: Possibly but planning on not--assuming pre-K-4 coming back, 5-8 and 9-12 could look different. Not planning on virtual music, choir, etc. No personnel for it. May offer virtual learning just for core classes.
Actually some things virtually at the HS that will be valuable for 21-century learning. Some aspects of things that have changed at the HS will be permanent to create opportunities for the kids. Working through the details then will communicate. Might offer cohorts of online schedules, hybrid scenarios possibly to meet coursework students would like to take instead of due to Covid. More blended learning could be possible.

Q: Will jumpstart programs be mandatory?
Looking at recommending to kids that would benefit the most(based on criteria) but any parent that wants to sign their child up would be able to.

Jen: Suggested maybe a social program/s or activities to help bridge back kids sponsored by the PTA.

Q: WIll Eastview be getting a new driveway to help with traffic?
B: Yes. Architects and engineers are making plans. Expand left and right turn pieces to help with the exit driveway. Possibly putting a driveway that goes all the way around
Q: Redwood driveway?
B: No space to intervene with driveway traffic. No room for queuing space.

Q: Eastview in the spelling bee this year?
J: Meeting about it next week. More details coming.

Q: How will Learwood be using Open Door for students next year?
J: Most likely not hopefully. Teachers are doing a fantastic job, so uplifting though. It’s great! Used Open Door for proximity and classroom space.

Q: Will the governor let us know about social distancing non-need in a timely manner?
B: Yes, close communication with Ohio State government and always in conversations.

**Superintendent’s Report:** Bob Scott and Jack Dibee (curriculum)

Grind in the district with Covid and athletics. Day to day doing very well overall though. Doing nicely
No school Feb. 26th teacher vaccination at Avon Middle School.
Spending a large amount of time planning for next August--coming back full-blown hopefully and waiting for mask and distancing details.
Working through details of increased opportunities for best practices for online learning to open up more opportunities for HS students. If a student did not do well virtually, they would most likely not be allowed to do virtual classes
K-8 August planning on an ELA jumpstart program and credit recovery for students.

Wanting to address the gaps that they are thinking may happen from Covid learning 2020-2021.
Not planning on making the kids go to school an extra week or starting early to help make up for any learning.

**President’s Report**:

Approved Jan. minutes pending change in spelling of Judy Kostelansky’s name.

Nancy picked up financial info from Erin? It is thought that she did.

Jen reviewed the financials in place of Nancy, not in attendance today.

All units need a financial review committee. Remind your organization.

Potts Awards info will be going out and

**Treasurer Report**: Nancy Klingshirn
Jen shared some financial information in Nancy’s absence and we will approve minutes Jan. and Feb. at the March meeting. Will share the full financial report at the March meeting.

**Committee Reports:**

**1st Vice President (Membership):** no new business

**2nd Vice President (Fundraising):** no new business

**Library:** Shea Alltmont: Library is still open
Book donation drive was last Sunday in January--200 cars came through to donate. New books added to all collections. Amazed at the new conditions of items. Items quarantined and boxed up. Successful!
Book sale going on now in the library currently.
Feb. 28th--another book donation drive day. Box or bag books and staff come out to take from your car.
May 22nd-23rd-- outdoor book sale, social distanced, probably masks required.
May 4th levy renewal--ask if any questions and the library is sending out a fact sheet. Contact if any questions.
Getting ready for summer programming--trying to guess what to do/offer in-person and virtual-decided against non-indoor programs (more outside, independently too, using park trails)
Summer theme: “Reading Colors: Your World”

Many take it, make it crafts/kits will still be available (200 craft kits given last week!) Scavenger hunts being done indoors and will be outdoors for all age levels and get a small prize when completed(located by the front friends' room). Reading logs will be available for the summer as well.
Planning for Fall also--Boo By the Woods and themes details TBD.

Seeing an increase in library visitors.
Maybe could work together with a library anniversary shirt sale with the library.
Friends board and volunteers are needed for next year if anyone is interested.

**ByLaws:** all updates are done. Still waiting on the last school to send a copy to Jen.

**Health and Safety:** Lisa Rish - ?- not present at meeting

**Legislation**: Christa –
Q: Do the PTA presidents receive updates on state legislation? Only receives from a national level and sometimes comes from the Ohio PTA. Consensus is that not much is received. Jen will check into this.

**Luncheon**: Jennifer -
Assuming not doing a luncheon- tabling discussion.

**Reflections:** Ashley Whitehead -
Still working on figuring out a way to display artwork for students. Audra usually does photos for the shows. Thinking a PowerPoint might be best to display. Bob can forward to secretaries to send out through parent email. Jen suggested sending through PTA council Weebly.

**Scholarships:** Kristen – all emails went out to all chairs in early Feb. Waiting now for pick up.

**AL School Foundation**: Kristen -
Approved 2 grants- one for special education.
Looking for board members: Try to fund grants that fall outside of the normal state/school budget, usually STEM-related. Once-a-month meetings (4th Wednesday of the month 7 pm). 45min-2hrs.No meetings in June, July, Nov, and Dec. Just had an in-person meeting. 18 members. Need to live or work in the city. New president and trying to modernize with technology and social getting away from paper/pencil workings. Teamwork is needed and helps with fundraising and scholarships. Middle man for Ford scholarships. Send resume and letter of intent and a zoom interview to talk about interest and board votes to approve/disapprove. Looking for young, active membership and have younger children, but not limited to this desire. It’s a mix currently of parents, a teacher, school employees.
Sale By the Lake --is on hold but hoping for something in the Fall.
Hoping to do a 5k Shoreman shuffle in the fall...waiting for restrictions to be lifted and schools to approve.

**Kristy- Erieview:** Whoot Whoot wagon? Meant to boost staff morale. (ex: hot choc, cookies)
Boone supply fundraiser? Company that supports goods, totes, etc.
Cannot keep a fundraiser ongoing--have to open and restart it.

**Curriculum:** Jennifer Tillery

Dr. D.--
Learwood MAPS for remote students- parents did not feel they were notified with enough time being the day before. Students were notified. Parents were very upset.

Many parents are upset about some schools having kids outside for outside time and those that don’t/aren’t getting as much.
Actually, a protocol in place--4 elementary schools check with each other to decide if outside recess will be happening. Try to make it equitable, but if one school has better playground conditions

Mock trial and academic challenges not happening this year.
Some parents are feeling it’s not equitable in the past about who is chosen.

Some confusion now about quarantining if receiving a Covid exposure letter identifying “Low Exposure” or “Close Contact” and what this means for quarantine need. Parents do not know what these terms mean for the actions that they need to take.

Jennifer has been the “safe” parent liaison this year for parent communication and administration and has gone WELL to address the “hot topics”. Should contact her if feeling any issues with schools and the distinct. She reports anonymously to have voices heard.

\*\*\*\*Cursive handwriting debate-- During the shutdown last spring/e-learning some parents expressed concern over the lack of consistency in teaching cursive to all students.
The district issued a formal statement.

Statement:
Cursive Writing:

As a district, our focus at the elementary level is on primarily teaching students those foundational skills that are of essential value (reading, writing, math, critical thinking, problem-solving, etc.). Cursive handwriting is not an essential skill. It is a useful skill, and is something we should certainly introduce, but should not be an area of focus. The use of cursive writing simply does not exist in society these days. Other than signing your name, I can’t think of any other time in life where cursive is required. (Quite honestly, you often can print your name or do a scribble on legal documents).

The Ohio Department of Education does not assess or have a required curriculum for handwriting. It only provides “Guidance and Supplemental Materials for Handwriting”<http://education.ohio.gov/getattachment/Topics/Learning-in-Ohio/English-Language-Art/Model-Curriculum-for-English-Language-Arts/ELAMC_AppendixA_HW.pdf.aspx?lang=en-US>.

Throughout the document, the guidance repeatedly does not specify a required curriculum or materials. It does have a suggested grade level sequence on page 7. What we currently do at each grade clearly meets and exceeds this requirement. I am not advocating for anyone to do any more than we currently do handwriting. Last year, not everyone was on the same page because COVID changed timelines and kids were remote before all classes could start cursive.

**Old Business:** Jennifer T. did receive info on when PTAs meet as Eastview was seeking some feedback to involve more working parents.

**New Business:** no

**Delegate Reports:** *Did not receive from all PTAs. Make sure that you submit for your organization.*

Next meeting: March 2021, at 9:00 am

Motion to adjourn by Jennifer at 10: 42 am

Respectfully submitted,

Meredith Prewitt
Council Secretary