

Pines Lake Elementary School PTO Meeting  
January 3, 2022  
7:30 PM via Zoom

1. Call to Order:

- Meeting was called to order at 7:31 PM by President Julia Hilljie Dardia.

2. Reading of the Prior Meeting Minutes or Motion to Waive Reading:

- Motion to waive by Allison Tyler and Nanci Cohen.

3. Motion to Accept Prior Minutes:

- Motion accepted by Teresa Ziegler and Nanci.

4. Officer Reports:

- President- Katie Scheidt/Julia:
  - Katie said hello and Happy New Year.
  - Katie asked everyone to please remember to email any general questions or concerns to [pinelakepto@gmail.com](mailto:pinelakepto@gmail.com). This is the email address for the Pines Lake PTO. Presidents Julia and Katie check this email regularly. They consider it to be a “hub” and are hoping to use it to create some continuity from year to year. As new presidents take over, they’ll be able to see a history of emails and information.
  - Browse n Shop- Julia reported that this is a thrift store located in front of Schuyler Colfax Middle School. It is run by PTO Council volunteers. All proceeds benefit students in Wayne (Scholarship Fund). You can drop off any unwanted items there. They no longer have a website but you can find updates on Facebook. They were closed for winter break and will be reopening tomorrow. No appointments are needed but call ahead before dropping off a large donation. You don’t have to enter the store, you can just leave items in a bin outside.
  - Katie said that our next meeting will be February 7, 2022.
- Vice President – Maria Vlahos/Allison:
  - No Report
- Treasurer- Teresa/Laura Winters:
  - Teresa reported that the following deposits were received: snow tubing, photos, talent show dues, and holiday boutique.
  - Regarding expenses, Laura reported that we wrote checks for the following: Van Wingerden (plant sale), , Council fees, teacher supplemental (for Ms. Potter), school store supplies.
  - Julia explained Council fees to the group. From the \$7 that each family pays to join the PTO, \$2 is given to the Wayne Council of PTOs. This is why we have the

11/30 deadline. They use the money for insurance on the adults who volunteer for PTO events.

- Julia explained what Teacher Supplemental means. If a teacher becomes a member of the PTO, he or she is eligible for a \$50 classroom supply stipend. The teacher submits receipts for items purchased for the classroom and the PTO reimburses the teacher up to \$50.
- Secretary- Meredith Snider/Joanne Bakas:
  - No report

#### 5. Principal's Report:

- Mr. Celis said happy 2022 to all and it's good to be back.
- COVID:
  - The numbers are high. Mr. Celis will be providing as much information as possible to the community as he receives it from central office in terms of how we are managing this crisis and any changes that may need to happen. If anyone has questions about quarantining, positive tests results, or exposures please don't hesitate to reach out.
  - A substitute nurse is in the building right now as Ms. Bulna is out for the week.
  - As of now, quarantine is 10 days if your child is exposed to COVID and is unvaccinated. There is the option of coming back on day 7 with a test on day 5. This option would need to be done in conjunction with a nurse present to ensure that all dates and numbers are correct. To figure out when quarantine begins, the day of the test is Day Zero and the individual can come back on the 11<sup>th</sup> day. If a child is vaccinated and asymptomatic, they can come to school and do not need to quarantine if exposed.
  - After School Activities- A blast went out today. The director of elementary education reached out to all of the principals and it was decided to postpone any after school activities for a couple of weeks to try to manage the surge. Thankfully, we were able to reschedule the auditorium at Wayne Hills High School for the talent show. The musical was able to modify their plans and students participating in the musical can find details in the musical's Google Classroom.
  - Mr. Celis said thank you for your support in helping to manage this crisis.
  - Alexis K. asked what happens if a teacher tests positive. Mr. Celis said if anyone tests positive (teachers or students), he and the school nurse go into "contact tracing mode". They look to see where an individual is in all the different settings of the school (e.g., classroom, specials, cafeteria, related services, etc.) and try to determine if anyone was within 3 feet of the individual and if so, for how long. If someone is masked and within 3 feet of an individual who tests positive, they may be considered a close contact. Without a mask, if they are less than 6 feet from the individual they are considered a close contact and would have to quarantine. (This type of situation is found in the cafeteria).

#### 6. Teacher Report:

- Mrs. Olaya said that the staff asked parents to please remember that it is getting cold. We are going to be outside and the windows will be open in the classrooms. Some of the younger students can keep coats in the classroom cubbies. Students can keep extra sweatshirts in their backpack to put on if it gets cold in the classroom. Please have your children bundle up for the activities that will be outside (recess, mask breaks, etc.)
- Mrs. Olaya asked everyone to please remember that she is a resource. We are all handling a lot of things right now. (emotional stress, health-related issues, etc. ) She said to please reach out if anyone needs help. Also, NJ Hope and Healing (which is the Mental Health Association of NJ) puts out a monthly calendar listing zoom support groups (mindfulness, healthy habits, caring for someone with COVID). Mrs. Olaya would like to know if the PTO could help facilitate in getting this information out to the community. It was suggested that she forward the information to the PTO secretaries. (Joanne can put information in the PTO newsletter and Meredith can put it up on the PTO website)
- Mrs. Olaya was asked by Julia to talk about SSCT (School Safety and Climate Team). This team came to be in 2011 when the anti-bullying laws came out. The team is comprised of the school counselor, staff members, and parent representatives (at Pines Lake School PTO presidents typically fill this role). The group meets 3-4 times a year and examines trends of HIB (harassment, intimidation, and bullying) without sharing any confidential information. They look at numbers to date, populations, and trends. They are looking to see if there are any areas where more education might be needed. A grade is given to reflect how the school is doing in supporting the anti-bullying initiatives. The team goes beyond anti-bullying and also addresses the general climate of the school and what is needed to make sure everyone is supported in all areas.

#### 7. Committee Reports:

- Fifth Grade- Allison reported that there are no events coming up within the next month. The (rescheduled) Halloween party was successful.
- Yearbook- Per Allison, yearbook committee members have been putting together pictures and collecting memories. Katie reported that we got a file from Bolton Photography. Katie asked Katherine D'Arienzo to proof everything to make sure all information was correct. As soon as that is done it can go to the yearbook committee. Katie uploaded the roster of all 5<sup>th</sup> grade students so that parents could create TreeRing accounts (this is an account with the yearbook company for 5<sup>th</sup> grade families).
- School Photos- Maria noted that they raised a total of \$1,741.
- Holiday Boutique- Julia got a check for the virtual sale for \$10. Allison said they are still waiting on final numbers for the Holiday Boutique and expects to have them by the next meeting.
- Snow Tubing- Nanci reported on this event for Diana Fornino. She is reaching out to the contact at Campgaw to determine the cancellation policy if needed as well as refund information. Katie and Nanci will draft an email to send out to confirm participation from all who signed up. Per Julia, the PTO is trying to make the best decision possible regarding this event given the spiking COVID numbers. She said that it is an outdoor

event, however we are cognizant of the fact that all after school activities were recently postponed.

- Restaurant- Nanci said that they are waiting to hear back from a few places (such as Panera and Nothing Bundt Cake) and are working finding some other places.
- Raffle- Katie reported that our 50/50 was drawn on 12/15/21. We sold 431 tickets at \$10 each. The prize money was \$2,155. We had one prize winner. Fees and expenses (i.e., our printed raffle tickets and the fees to NJ and Wayne Township) were \$419. The profit for the PTO was \$1,736. The raffle was witnessed by Wayne Council of PTO's treasurer and president. Julia pulled the ticket and there is a video of this event taking place. The winner was called immediately.
- Opt-Out- Katie reported that some more opt-outs were received. Thank you for those donations. Teresa added that the opt-out total is now \$1,002.
- Membership:
  - Directory- Katie reported that a directory went out via email to all who opted in (i.e., those who wished to be published in the directory). A PDF was sent from [pineslakepto@gmail.com](mailto:pineslakepto@gmail.com).
  - Any new families who have moved to Pines Lake School after the deadline of 11/30 are still eligible to join the PTO.
- School Store- Julia said that Karen Pollak reached out to say that she would like to do a Valentine Gram. She is looking at a "poppit" bracelet for \$2. Julia said that the store hasn't been open as frequently due to December quarantines. School store is being held inside now. Karen runs it for K/1 on Mondays, Julia does grades 4/5 on Tuesdays, Heather Bandola runs grades 2/3 on Wednesdays.
- Library- Lisa Mull was not present at the meeting so Julia reported that Lisa and Lori Forbes are working in the library this year. We are allowed a very minimal number of people in the school. They have been helping check in books when students are not there. The books need to sit on a cart for a week before they can be re-shelved.

#### 8. Old Business:

- None

#### 9. New Business:

- Wayne SEPAG (Special Education Parent Advisory Group) / WSPA (Wayne Special Parents Association) meeting date has changed. It is now 1/25/22 at 7:30 pm. This information was given to Joanne to put in the newsletter. Child care will be provided at the event so parents can bring their children to the meeting. This meeting will feature a presentation by the Student Services Department called "The ABC's of IEPs. Parents are encouraged to bring their child's IEP (Individualized Education Program) for a section by section tutorial.
- Alexis Kamphausen asked about donating books to the school. Julia suggested that she contact Ms. D'Acunto directly to see if she could use them. Other suggestions: contact your child's teacher to see if he or she could use certain books, try the Friends of Wayne Public Library, Facebook groups (i.e., Wayne Moms), or donate them to Browse n Shop.

10. Adjournment :

- Meeting was adjourned 8:12 PM.
- Motion to adjourn by Katie.
- Motion accepted by Maria and Allison.

Minutes recorded by Meredith Snider