

# **Monroe Elementary PTO Parent Meeting**

Tuesday March 15th, 2022--- 7:00pm

## **I. Call to order**

- A. Introduction of board members
- B. Attendance: Jill Smith, Steph Gettys, Kristin Banks, Elizabeth Flickenger, Mary Hawkins, Karina (guest speaker-therapist)

## **II. Guest Speaker Karina from Valley Counseling Center**

- A. With Covid being so uncertain, being able to get help for situations for families is super helpful
- B. Worksheet given on Resources: “Biglifejournal.com, onoursleeves.org, calm.com app, headspace.com”
- C. Counseling for students is super helpful. Their goal is to decrease the stigma involved with counseling and mental health
- D. Questions
  - 1. What insurance do you guys take? -Most large network insurances.
  - 2. Is there a wait? -There isn't too much of a wait- 2 weeks
  - 3. Just added new positions to staff, including two art therapists
  - 4. Do you have licensed therapists, psychologists, etc? There are no prescribing doctors on site
- E. Dr Ward says that we work a lot with a social worker who could possibly help if your insurance doesn't cover it.
  - 1. If you know anyone who needs help, have them contact Megan
- F. Family and children sessions are available. At the age of 14, a child can choose to not have parents involved in their counseling. Most parents are involved in the sessions

## **III. Secretary's Report**

- A. Website is updated with information
- B. Will continue to add events to website and Facebook page

## **IV. Treasurers Report**

- A. Walk for Monroe Revenue- 26,731.00
- B. Budget vs. actual is listed on PTO webpage

## V. Principals Report

### A. Student updates

1. First PTO in person meeting we have had in a long time
2. Masks went optional and students were no longer 6 feet apart
3. Retraining the children because unexpected behaviors are on the rise
4. It's been 2 years since they have sat together with friends
5. We're also seeing a lot of students struggling to reel in their emotions
  - Increased anxiety, decrease in independence, struggling with aspects of play.
  - Kids are struggling to play just in general, whether together or alone.
  - Students went into survival mode during Covid.
6. Seeing many more "no's" to adults, but not in a defiant way
7. Staff is really trying to make strides with the students' mental health
  - a. Mrs. Biddle is part of a committee that is reading a book called "Lost At School"
  - b. book is about finding different ways to make strides to grasp a different approach to handle different situations.
8. Staff is focusing on zones of regulation-just like the movie "Inside Out"
9. Seeing some technology issues at home.
  - a. REMINDER: The students' tablets are not locked at home the way they are locked at school so be aware what they are looking at
10. The district is working on "Portrait of a graduate" with a committee.
  - a. The goal of this is to develop a plan to ensure that all students are ready to leave CV with the 3 E's- Enlist, Enroll, Employed

### B. Important dates

1. Friday is an in-service day for teachers
2. April 12<sup>th</sup> is the Senator's game
  - a. 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders will be singing the national anthem

3. April 13<sup>th</sup> is asynchronous school day
  4. PSSAs are happening
- C. Staff Updates
1. Miss Hedin-returned from maternity leave
  2. Mrs. Brooks-extending her maternity leave
  3. Becky Brandt is the building star-Staff got to choose

## **VI. Committee Reports**

- A. Two volunteers still needed for the audit
1. Volunteers will randomly choose receipts to compare to the paperwork to see if Treasurer's info is correct
- B. Volunteer to run the elections
2. Nominations need to be sent home by April 4<sup>th</sup>
- C. Volunteer to run the silent auction this year
1. We've already started by sending out solicitation letters to the businesses to get donations for the silent auction
  1. The biggest part we need done is the silent auction night itself.
  2. Volunteer will work with Missy Gates and learn what to do
  3. Need someone who is interested in learning it this year, and then taking over for Missy next year
- D. Art night is going to be virtual this year again.
1. Miss Jardine shows the students' artworks, etc. Hopefully we can go back to in person next year
- E. Bingo night is on Friday March 25<sup>th</sup> 630-8
1. It won't be quite like previous bingo years
  2. will only be winners who get prizes this year, not everyone
  3. Chris W. will need some help with handling money and tickets at the door
  4. Kids get a free bingo ticket if they turned in 20 fliers for walk for Monroe
- F. Directory-still waiting to hear back why we don't have it yet
- G. Family dance night- Will be held in Spring

H. Food truck Fridays- in the works and being planned for April on Fridays after school

I. Greenhouse is not happening this year, but hopefully will happen next year

J. Hershey Park tickets

1. Jill updated the form today with the correct information on the paper to go home to the parents.
2. Students can bring it back or it can also be dropped off to the office.
3. Jill will upload to Facebook if people want to print it off
4. Reminder that parking is not free
5. Tickets this year are 39.95
6. Hershey Park is going cash-less: They will have reloadable cards available

K. Kindergarten registration is online this year

L. April 21<sup>st</sup> is the Knowledge-a-thon dinner

1. In-person, in the cafeteria, from 5:30-6:45PM
2. Trying to get ahold of Mechanicsburg Chik Fil A to order

M. Movie night- may not happen this year

N. Screen free week

1. Discussed maybe doing that in April, the same week that we have the skating party
2. We have a budget for prizes- grand prize was usually Hershey Park tickets, then everyone else would get a small prize for completing screen free week

O. Skating party is happening sometime in April. We will give more info as we have it.

P. Volunteer meeting for the spring fair-

1. March 29<sup>th</sup> at 6PM in the Library at Monroe. This date will go out on the Facebook page.
2. Will need many volunteers
3. Spring Fair is May 13<sup>th</sup>, all day-There will be a time to sign up for everything

Q. Yearbook update- it is done pending some minor review

1. Sold 238 yearbooks-including 85 purchased for the 5<sup>th</sup> graders by PTO.
2. There will be extras as well if anyone needs them.
3. Also looking for someone to chair that event for next year

**Comments/Questions:** Amy will contact someone from the Attorney General's office to speak at a future meeting

**Next Parent Meeting:**

**Tuesday May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2022 at 7:00 PM**