

Pinehurst PTA Association Meeting

Wednesday, February 28, 2024

6-7pm

Meeting called to order, pledge of allegiance

Intro of those present

Update with Superintendent Chris Swiatek:

*Capital project is 60% done. Middle school has remaining work to be done. Pool had structural issues that put them \$700,000 in the hole and 3 months behind. But it is slated to be complete by summer. Pinehurst had two wing renovations and then some extra painting. \$22 million of work was done here. MCA (maximum cost allowance) was met and 5 years can be reset. Middle School (front entryway) and HS (state of the art student union, turf field, etc) getting lots of improvements. 3.75%-4.5% tax rate estimate because of the capital project spike year, only a 1 year spike. Getting 118 more smart boards. Frontier either #1 or #2 in the amount of college courses offered in HS. Collegiate Pathways program is only \$98 per credit hour, some students graduating with 30+ credits, a whole year of undergrad! Industrial trades increase. Newest school, Big Picture, is adding another grade, capped out with student limit.

*Hamburg Community Center is coming back into Frontier's possession next year. Big Picture, HS food service and buildings and grounds employees to move in there.

*Security Upgrades: We have 6 layers between the front door and the children. One of the 6 layers is Zero Eyes, a weapon detection program as people approach the building. An overlay on the camera system, it gives a 12 second alert to SROs and Hamburg PD as well as administrators. Re- Encrypting all fob systems so they cannot be copied.

*Question: Community Ed went away during the pandemic, will it come back? It is a financial loser for Frontier. Most of the revenue from Community Ed came from aquatics, but our Middle School is under renovation and the HS pool is only ok. Once the pools are back and running they could bring it back. Also, lack of space, but with the Community Center and the new student union could be great options down the road. Another question: fees for using Pinehurst for Girl Scouts goes to a general fund for Frontier as general upkeep fees.

Minutes from past meeting approved.

Update from Principal Makowski:

NYS Assessments grades 3,4,5 math & ELA computer based testing. Not timed, gives parents and teachers good information to see what standards are being met and which aren't. Guides instruction for teachers. 5th graders will take science assessment, called investigations.

Next Friday is a half day (records day). Mail report cards home as well as portal access. Spring recess 3/29-4/8. Eclipse day is 4/8 and all students will get glasses.

Assessments – those who opt out is fine and the parents choice but when it comes to HS there is not opt out option, it is mandatory. It's a data point, a moment of time, where do we fall with other schools in our district. Can help tailor to student's needs and doesn't count against teachers.

5th grade moving up ceremony – outside Thursday, June 13th and if its raining move it inside. Mrs. Makowski will circle back with 5th grade teachers as its hard for parents to take off 2 days for a rain date. K graduation is scheduled 21st. Potential scheduling conflict with 8th grade moving up. Maybe a raindate would be the 20th. Also hoping for a reception afterwards, PTA would fund it. Talent show, is there a way to celebrate all of the 5th grade without having to be in chorus? Or if children are wanting to participate just as lighting crew or backstage (not performing). Mrs Makowski will talk again with him. Another question was bringing back the musical and the reason it went to a talent show was because so many children could only be like in the background like a tree and its hard to manage.

Mrs Kolacki:

3rd grade put in grant for Science Museum, PTA approved. 5th grade service learning project at Teacher's desk, split into two trips, one in April and one in May. Separate from their grade grant.

Marla: please remind teachers to submit candid and group photos for the yearbook. We are low on photos and want to make the yearbook. pinehurstyearbook@gmail.com, parents can share them too and also Kelly can go in to classrooms.

Grade grants: we've approved, UPK, 3rd, 4th and art. Specials also get a grant which is new this year. 2nd grade and K are in progress with theirs. Increased grants to most grades from \$600 to \$800 and extra areas who weren't getting grant money previously.

Planetarium, bringing it back from years ago, we have the money for it. Its from the Museum of Science. If we can't fit in in their year then we can do next year instead.

Winterfest update: under budget, would request more registers next year. Made \$675. Positive feedback, the company sent more stuff than last year which was helpful. Can the cash registers ring up higher than \$99.99, ask for next year.

PARP: everything went smoothly, liked bingo boards, got reluctant readers excited to read. PARP family night was at the end of PARP week, not a huge turnout but it was fun. Got donations of gently used books so everyone got to go home with a book. Mrs Bergerson was great at calling bingo numbers. Hopefully expand more books to give out next year.

Sons, Snakes & Sidekicks: Formerly me and my gal, wildlife animal presentation and Master Chong's presentation. Can be mom, grandma, aunt, special lady in the boy's life. If there is no mom or special lady in the boy's life it can be a dad if need be. Wanted to make this event more inclusive for all boys and moms or special lady as compared to the father/daughter dance. Upgrade from the movie from the last several years. Same budget for both girl and boy event.

Me and my guy is May 3rd. DJ is booked.

1:34