Pinehurst PTA Association Meeting

Thursday, November 9, 2023

6-7pm

Meeting called to order, pledge of allegiance

Intro of those present

Minutes from past meeting approved.

Principal Makowski Update:

-Free breakfast and lunch now. Approved by district. Snack/ice cream are not free. Over the past week no one has been charged but it hasn’t been officially announced yet so they could be prepared.

- Capital update: dimmers installed in hallways. They are also painting the hallways to update other hallways that haven’t been touched. Some murals were painted but high def pics taken if they want to be put on canvas (double entrance & cafeteria murals won’t be touched). Also hallways above tile line will be painted. Enhancements to the front at Fairway Ct. and the hallway outside library will be done in 3 years.

-Monday is half day, parent pickup to begin at 10:50 and buses leave at 11:15. Not between 11-11:15, she will hold them to leave until 11:15 so parents know a time.

Mrs. Kolacki

-Membership staff: met goal 60 teachers and staff.

-Marla wanted to remind teachers to share pics to pinehurstyearbook@gmail.com as well as parents.

PTA Updates:

Membership: met all goals. Splash Lagoon & Great Wolf Lodge discounts

Council Delegate: Council meeting was brief. Capital improvements update. Security measures that the district will be utilizing. School lunches, they ask that people still fill out paperwork because they can potentially qualify for other potential fees waived.

Events:

Color Run10/12: Went really well, were able to accommodate some late registrations, lots of positive feedback, teachers helping at water tables, Mrs Lester and Mr Dryer helping with route, Mrs Quinn, Mrs Maher, etc. Great community event. As a PTA we need at least $8k to function as is. Teacher grants, events. We have upped teacher grants this year. We hit slightly over $13k with Color Run. Parents and teachers stepped up and helped with last minute things. The big color blast at the end of the race was spectacular. Hillary Hacic asked for next year if spectators could see the whole route instead of going all the way around the school.

Trunk or Treat: Great turn out, weather was great and people appreciated additional activities (games, pumpkins, creepy feely table and food trucks). Might put trunks that have games at a different location so they don’t hold up the line next year, but fun was had by all.

Fall Book Fair: Family night happened last night, Classes coming through until the 15th. Link of facebook page and falcon update to sign up and help. Liz Hahn is shadowing Laura C this year to take over next year. Spring book fair is buy one get one free. Free book for every student at PARP week & K screening. Steps on how to do e-wallet on facebook page.

WinterFest: Friday 12/1 (half day) 5:30-7:15 pm Santa will make an appearance. Kids come with money and they can shop for parents $1-$5 gifts, volunteers will help kids shop. Amsdell Ice Cream will be there. Taking all wrapping paper, gift wrap, tissue, gift tags and tape donations for wrapping area. Ornament decorating station for kids, more info to come. Talent Show is the night before (Wed Nov 29th & Thurs Nov 30th).

PARP Week: Week of Feb 5-9 giving books to all students. PARP Night is Friday the 9th, bingo for books. More info to come.

Box Tops/Tops Bonus Card/Give Backs: app on phone, scan receipts and money goes to school. $73current balance. Tops Bonus card, go online, Tops in education, any of their Top Care items. Give Backs: another free money app, similar to Rakuten, alerts pop up saying you’re giving 2% back to Pinehurst, click to accept. Local dining options as well. Link to credit card. Anyone who is a member should have access to this, email blast to come.

Asking people to email or message questions for PTA meetings ahead of time, helps for board to prep any answers that may need a little research to answer. First question was about half day bussing. The policy changed recently and now kids that are able to be left if they’re as young as 6. It didn’t used to be that young of an age. Principal Makowski and many others were not informed of this change and it was brought up at administrative team meeting with Superintendent Swiatek. If you’re 1st grade and up you can be dropped off within a tenth of a mile of your house (barring some exceptions). Devin Kelly’s concern was also that they won’t go down her cul de sac. Some drivers don’t feel comfortable when they don’t see parents and will actually bring kids back to school. Some drivers will also loop around if they don’t see parents and then go back with the kids and drop when parents are there. Bus app works good but on half days it does not. Second question was 5th grade indoor graduation possibility. What if there was some sort of emergency, shelter in place or lockdown and how to keep everyone safe. Mrs Makowski pointed out that we had maybe 1000 people at trunk or treat. There were several negative points about the auditorium being too hot, several years there were so many kids they couldn’t all fit on stage. And the bucket drums being played outside are a hit. When 200 parents come in and the other non 5th grade teachers have trouble bringing their classes to special, lunch and make sure their students are safe. There was a year or two when it was held at the middle school but the bells rang during the ceremony and it was a distraction. Another point was parents having to potentially have to take 2 days off in case of a rain date. Mrs Makowski will talk to 5th grade teachers and have an ongoing conversation about it. Comments online that they like the outside graduation.

Next meeting in 2/28/24

Meeting adjourned 7:02pm

In attendance:

Shannon Winters

Liz Russin

Nicole Bonczar

Marla Wright

Linda Penepent

Gabrielle Anese

Stephanie Schmidle

Tammy Prior

Davin Kelly

Laura Lewis

Jennifer Makowski

Nikera Kolacki

Online – Hilary Hacic, Jenn Prunoske, Liz Lybolt