MS PTSO Meeting 11-15-23

Hybrid: In person + Google Meet

In attendance:

1. Lauren Emmert
2. Karina Kattan
3. Angela Finamore
4. Toni Curran
5. Reena Camus
6. Diana Hedayati
7. Lisa Colacioppo
8. Lisa Scarola
9. Barbara Stanco
10. Erin Lementowski
11. Anna Tirino
12. Danielle Feldman
13. Ramona Leonard
14. Maya Tagaris
15. Natasha Gordon

+ 8 online attendees

Update from Dr. O’Hara

-Parent meetings for 7th & 8th grade trips being held this evening. Slides will be emailed to all parents tomorrow for those who can’t attend. First payment for 7th grade trip to Philadelphia due Monday 11/20.

-Question raised by parents about public recognition of honor roll students. Dr. O’Hara and staff are in discussion about ways to do this and will provide an update at next PTSO meeting.

Presentation from Animal Rights Club Students

-Students discussed how in-school therapy dog programs have been shown to be beneficial for students: emotional well-being, lowered stress, increased literacy rates, helpful for neurodivergent and anxious students. In the pilot program, one dog would visit the school once a week. Teachers would take turns signing up for time slots to take a classroom of students to the therapy dog room for a class period. All students would have an opportunity to participate and can also opt out if they prefer. This program is being used in Smithtown and Hewlett districts currently with good results. Club asked for $1200 of additional support from the PTSO. PTSO voted to approve funding.

-Parents Night Out: Scheduled for 2/15/24 at Sea Cliff Yacht Club. Live band, passed hors d’oeuvres - will be a fundraiser.

-SEPTA: Meeting tonight featuring an educational advocate about special education laws and rights. Meeting will be virtual at 7:30.

-School store: Flash sale of socks and T-shirt bundle for $25 (normally $30)

-Board of Ed update from Lisa Colacioppo: Reminder to fill out the brief BOE survey about how the Board can improve communications. Last day to submit is today. Next BOE meeting is 11/30 at 7:45.

-Parent question about safety of trips to major cities due to protests about wars and incidents of violent crimes. Dr. O’Hara discussed itineraries and safety protocols. It is not possible to change trip locations at this point in the year due to non-refundable deposits that have been made.

\*Dates for Future Meetings

1/17 @7pm Zoom

3/6 @ 10am NSMS Commons

5/1 @ 10am NSMS Commons

6/5 @ 7pm NSMS Library

\*Please pay your Dues $25 a family