Indian Ridge Middle School

PTO General Meeting Minutes

January 15, 2019

Meeting start at 6:18 p.m.

1. Welcome, Introductions, Midpoint
   1. Thank you Sharon Wishner for printing meeting documents as usual printer wouldn’t work.
   2. Welcome to new people in attendance!
   3. For next year, Sharon thinks Julie will co-chair dance committee along with Tracy George.
2. Thank you/Updates
   1. Dream Catchers.
      1. Stand up and take a bow Andrea! It’s all for the kids. A lot of families blessed: 12. Andrea delivers it all. Don’t want anyone to see who the families are. A lot of support from parents and staff. Workshop is busy. There’s usually 20, but the 12 got what they needed.
   2. Jag Jog
      1. Reiterate that Jog is 5 gigantic events. Applause for Holly. And it takes a village.
      2. Total was $43,443.91.
   3. Hispanic Fair
      1. Helen and Ms. Ortiz are not here for the update, but there were a lot of people. Helps when showcase students.
      2. Food trucks need a certain insurance. Kona Ice donated 20% of proceeds. Only 2 trucks.
      3. Date was 10/27. A Saturday in middle of Jog drive. Next year, relative to goal, Jog was not where it should be. Should schedule it differently. Taking parent ears away from Jog with Hispanic Fair hype.
   4. Book Fair
      1. Maria is not here for the update. Tell all 5th grade friends! So much easier than elementary school. Need chair, 2 co-chairs. Maria stepping down because prefers t-shirts.
      2. Bringing in grandparents really boosts sales.
   5. Grandparents’ Day
      1. Such a joy!
      2. Pictures went to all classes. Were there collections for photos? Yes, they need to submit receipt to us.
   6. Harvest Drive
      1. Will not talk about reward event right now. Teachers who were top drivers by grade level come to lunchroom early before lunches and talk about joy of giving. Up to faculty adviser for NJHS what award is, so won’t talk about it right now.
   7. Hospitality
      1. Barbie is not here for updates. She does an amazing job!
      2. Thanksgiving feast and a December event: Receipts not all submitted yet.
      3. Some of the things we call Hospitality is actually under Staff Appreciation. This year we added Teacher Appreciation amount line item, because want to do something extra in May. We’re good on that. Budget previously just focused on something in August and February, but we’ll be able to make a big deal in May with a luncheon and other little things throughout the week. Will choreograph with admin so there’s something each day.
   8. All Grades Dance
      1. Wow! We wowed admin who hadn’t seen 3 grades in a dance.
      2. Likely 90% of the kids were so polite as we handed out glow sticks. Same thing at cotton candy. Awesome!
   9. Outstanding Student/Straight-A Cabaret
      1. There’s AB honor roll in feeder schools, but we just honor straight A’s. Mr. Murray says that they did AB Honor Roll at previous school, but they broke it up by grades, because too big to do everyone. Did it 3 quarters. PTO there not as strong as this one. Usually did it 1st period. Assembly with water, soda, cookie, certificate. Would be nice on separate days to divide up work, but it’s difficult to get the volunteers. Our last one went well with serving them while that grade was winding down. Also released by grade. What if we do it in the morning, and the parents don’t take the kid with them? Kirsten felt like this last one had more people that were more appreciative. More people got their pizza. If we go to AB, have to cut the pizza and go to separate events. Maybe we need to investigate numbers before making commitment to change. Where would everyone park?
      2. Would like to get second Strive under our belt. 96 teachers x at least 2 kids per teacher: See what numbers overlap. Do rules need to be written out more strongly for teachers? Lots of overlap with outstanding students and Straight-A. Back-to-back days, so teachers misunderstood with the kids who got both. Had teachers pick a boy and a girl. Covered verbally at December luncheon with each teacher, think they got message. We’ll double check to make sure no overlaps.
   10. Team Building December Event
       1. Had a little gathering late in December. Should do that more often, to see each other out of school, and play a game or something.
       2. Next time, might do painting with Maria.
   11. P.E. Uniforms/Webstore/T-shirts
       1. Revenue somewhere around $400 or so. Think because webstore delivered quite a few. Mostly hoodies sold this week. Mostly 6th grade last week and this week. Really wasn’t much. Think many bought at Pow Wow and first open house. And they are not required to wear those specific clothes.
       2. Sales should really just be for 6th grade lunch and not 7th and 8th.
       3. After the holiday, we do have a lot of new students.
   12. Communications
       1. Can never say enough for the Facebook weigh-ins. Michelle Rubin is all over it. A parent told Mr. Murray that she was waiting for him to contact her. If there’s ever an issue, need to contact the school first. Putting on Facebook, just gets sympathy and not help. It’s a good resource for info on what is going on.
3. Upcoming Events
   1. Western High School
      1. They are coming here on January 23. They bring around 20 people, every department and lots of information. At the school visit later on, will see clubs, kids, facilities. Here they still come with a boatload of information.
      2. Really trying to build great relationship. Band is one of the pieces. They want it stronger, and that starts with us. Our band performed with them at a high school football game. Maybe bring their band here with cheerleaders to do a performance for 8th graders. They send coaches to our track meets and such to meet the kids.
   2. Magnet showcase tomorrow, January 16.
   3. Straight A Cabaret coming up on a Tuesday afternoon, February 5.
   4. Strive Awards
      1. Next one will be held on 2/6.
      2. Need volunteer help.
   5. Teacher Coffee
      1. Will probably do something on Valentine’s. In morning, Barbie and Sharon will volunteer. Are we making and bringing? They are very happy with food.
      2. That will be the 1-year anniversary of Stoneman Douglas. District will have things to do with our students that day. Try to do something during 1st period. Don’t know details yet.
      3. We’ll keep teacher coffee that day. Still Valentine’s Day, a day of love. Still doing grams. A tragedy happened, but we can’t let it take away from celebrating love. Something before school starts may be best option. They report 8 – 8:30. If able to start at 8, finish by 9:25. Give some sweet treats.
   6. Put-In-Cups
      1. There’s a part of fence on other side from Jag head where we don’t put stuff. Good spot with these. Have a club, Student Council, that wants to do it. Student was calling and texting Kirsten. Want to say “Jaguar Spirit” with paws. $270 quote. Way within budget. Sharon makes motion. Andrea second. We’ll keep updated on when it’s happening.
   7. Chair Person
      1. From each chair person, need bullet list of what you do to pass on to next parents.
      2. Web store definitely needs instructions to pass along.
4. Principal’s Update
   1. Fountain replacement filters – Plumber has to come out and do it. Should be done on any day. Will follow up tomorrow to make sure that it’s top priority. Think the filters have been here since April. Way too long!
   2. Science curriculum received – Ms. Enders asked about this. Augment hard copy curriculum. Workbooks are disposable. 7th and 8th missing different things. We voted last meeting. It went through Heather. Don’t know if it was received yet. Had to order $8000 – 9000 of texts, including social studies.
   3. Pack a sack – Voted to allocate budget for students by grade level to receive weekend meals. This is every week, take home a sack of meals. Need to identify the students to receive. In the meantime, the fund was allocated to Miramar Elementary because we didn’t identify our own kids. We can still identify kids and get another shot at this. The kids don’t want anyone to know, so we have to be very protective. They could just go to Ms. Rosado. It’s a Publix bag knotted up. Should fit in backpack. What if we donate IRMS drawstring?
   4. Mr. Murray says what we do is amazing. He’s never had this amount of people doing things and putting in the time. He’s learning and always trying to do better. Want to hit the goals, like Jag Jog. Reach out. Looking forward to rest of school year. We can’t do this in isolation. Would rather have parents calling and telling him things. He says it’s his job to hear things. He doesn’t know everything or see everything and makes plenty of mistakes. Hope to not make same mistake twice.
5. Treasurer’s Report
   1. Online sales have 2 different systems, and neither are Quickbooks. She has to work with 3 systems plus the bank. Not easy! For Jog alone, over 700 transactions.
   2. Put some things in different categories. Hospitality, teacher appreciation and staff appreciation budgets. Now more aligned with what budget is, because put in correct spots from before.
   3. Owe Andrea an extra $100, because budget is actually $600 for Dream Catchers.
   4. Last year, we invented cash box to alleviate some of the in and out. Can we absorb the fees instead of having it under places like Jog? Admin line with admin expense and take income straight out of each area in budget? If fees handled same way as cash box, would alleviate problems. Will discuss further later.
   5. Nothing specific to really talk about. Various little things we need to catch up on. Yan and Kirsten can talk about it later.
6. New Business
   1. Awesome new band – Mr. Williams came to Mr. Murray before break about sound system. Equipment he wants to order is portable. Can use it here or out in town. Can play CD or music files. Will be for any performance, not just band. Band director gave price of $6,000. Would be part of school inventory. Auditorium speakers are more for a P.A. system. Can we get someone out to take a look at our current equipment and teach us how to use it? Will get Mr. Williams to tell us more.
   2. Any day now, they are supposed to come set up equipment for TV production. Ms. Didier will take over. Hoping to do a broadcast before end of school year. Will house in distance learning room off Media Center. Will be able to slide it over and slide it back. For Open House, can send parents straight to classrooms instead of auditorium first.
   3. Food Rescue Program
      1. Sharon sees food waste when volunteering here. Beachside Montessori (Elaine Fiore) working with Food Rescue Program, which is being rolled out to BCPS. School board knows. Some cafeteria managers know about this. Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Act: We can donate food. Would like to take this on as a community project. Get it started with Fox Trail, Silver Ridge, etc. Not only can donate food but also a science thing because uneaten food creating terrible methane gas in landfills. Feeding hungry and helping environment. Mr. Murray says will have to be in collaboration with cafeteria manager. Sharon already has 4 essential components. Basically we need a refrigerator case and a few other things. Sharon already did the research. List of local pantries. One will pick up. Have since donated to them. Leftovers from teacher luncheons twice already. They can come as much as daily. It’s going to be closed food or untouched fruit. Food share would be put out for kids who need extra. Bananas and oranges can be shared. Apples and pears cannot be shared but will be donated. Milk, cheese, yogurt refrigerated. Crackers, cookies, etc. okay. Have Mr. Murray’s blessing. Need a club or teacher to facilitate. Should be students that do it. What about CHOC? Ms. Weintraub may love to do it. Get 8th graders to do it then train upcoming 7th graders. Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Act protects us. Need to give Ms. Weintraub a heads-up, and then can move forward. Rosie form the café is already on board. Need a presentation with the kids so they know how it works. Soon enough it will be routine. 1 billion food items are thrown away from schools alone.
   4. Scorekeepers’ Table
      1. This is a quote from athletic department. 8-ft. fancy laminate table. Many attempts to get our school gym up a notch with school spirit. This is a step. $3,400 quote. It has the team logo on the front. Designed for keeping clock. Most high schools have them. It’s big, not really something we can lug around. The logos usually plug in and light up. College basketball games have them.
      2. Our liaison wondering how gym floor is going. Haven’t had friction test. For DAC, floors looked at, but Mr. Murray hasn’t talked to him. He does decisions on sports for student support services. Maybe he can do something to offset the cost. We need it! It’s been years of asking for this floor. No answer on floor.
   5. Additional items can be introduced in this forum but wouldn’t hold vote on monetary items until later.
7. Next Meeting
   1. Need to talk to Mr. Williams and athletic department.
   2. Make it February 26 at 6:00 p.m. for SAF and 6:15 p.m. PTO.

Meeting adjourned 7:43 p.m. Andrea motions to adjourn. Sharon seconds.