Pine Grove Elementary School PTA

**PTA Meeting**

**Monday, January 10, 2022**

Meeting Notes

**Meeting held virtually via Zoom**

**Call to Order** – 6:31 pm by President Anna Gibbons

**Attendees:** Anna Gibbons, Jennifer Keiber, Hillary Martell, Tasha Logue, Diane Richmond, Melissa Markel, Kristine Kubala, Candice Matthews

**Quorum Met?** No (This was not a General Meeting, no elections were held, and no formal amendments to the budget were made).

**Welcome:** Anna Gibbons, President: PTA hasn’t been able to do a whole lot in the last month due to the holidays and limitations with in-person activities. PTA did Teacher’s breakfast before winter break, which went well and was appreciated by staff. The Nailed it cupcake challenge in December was also successful and provided a way for families to do something online for the school since we can’t do anything in person right now. We are open to other ideas for online activities that could be done in the next couple months while we can’t do anything in person. The student support network continues to be available as a resource for those in need and was utilized around the holidays. Gift-cards were distributed around the holidays to those designated by Ms. Kubala.

**Budget Update:**

Hillary Martell updated – the bank account is around [$15,953.03]. Outstanding expenses = [$615]. Deposits = [$0] – total operating, we have about [$14,978.03] as our working budget right now. Cupcake fundraiser income has not been added yet. Updated bank statement should arrive later this week.

**Teacher’s Update:**

Ms. Kubala updated – Thank you for the teacher/staff breakfast and for the donations through the Student Support Network.

**Principal’s Report:**

Principal Richmond updated:

* Teacher/staff breakfast was really appreciated by all
* The spirit week and other fun activities are appreciated as team building activities for staff and students and something fun to look forward to during these challenging times.
* Asynchronous learning is taking place Monday and Tuesday this week to allow teachers time to prepare for the potential for virtual learning. Mrs. Richmond was made aware on Friday, which was when the notifications were sent out by the county. Today teachers spent time preparing their schedules for virtual learning. For some of the new teachers, this is their first experience with virtual learning, so they needed some time to prepare. Some schools went to virtual learning last week with no preparation time for teachers, which they realized didn’t work and teachers need a couple days to prepare.
* A lot of the schools in BCPS switched to virtual learning due to staffing shortages. Many of the schools that were on virtual learning last week are returning to in-person on Wednesday this week.
* PGE was very close to having to go to virtual the first week back from winter break due to staffing shortage, but they were able to get enough coverage to remain in-person. It is not just classroom teachers that they need coverage for, but also para-educators, cafeteria staff, and other staff considerations.
* Department of Health Services monitors number of students out and considers that data when determining if schools need to close. 23 students are currently out on isolation from PGE, either because the student or a family member has tested positive.
* Community Notice Communication was sent out today about cases that were identified over the weekend, and the students were in school and potentially contagious last week.
* Everyone needs to continue wearing masks in school. We ask that students not wear mesh masks. Disposable masks are the best right now; otherwise a good quality cloth mask.
* Any child that has any symptoms at all needs to stay home. They will be sent home by nurse if they present with symptoms at school and they will need to quarantine or have a negative COVID test to return.
* Tomorrow is the pick-up day for rapid home COVID tests provided by the county. Families can come to PGE bus loop between 9:00 am- 4:30 pm to pick up one kit per student. Please write student’s first and last name on a piece of paper to show staff handing out the tests so that the name can be checked off their list. Another designated person can pick up the test for your student with a note from the parent. If family can’t pick up the kit tomorrow, another time can be arranged, but the test can not be sent home with students.
* Eventually the county is delivering KN95 masks for all students and they will be sent home with the student. Teachers have already received one. Technically they should only be used for one day.
* Plan is to reopen school on Wednesday for in-person instruction and hopefully this will continue.
* Make sure if your child is quarantined that they truly stay quarantined and are not playing with friends, etc, to avoid further spread.
* Last week a couple buses had issues so families had to come to school to pick up their children—thank you for everyone’s cooperation and patience with this. And thanks to the Student Support Network, those students who had to stay late at school to wait for their ride were provided with water bottles and a snack.
* Question was asked if parents can do anything to assist with staff shortages (i.e. volunteers)—Mrs. Richmond reported that any volunteer in the building needs to be vaccinated and they are limiting numbers right now. Vaccinated volunteers who are interested in helping in the cafeteria should contact Mrs. Richmond or Mrs. Markle. The two of them are in the cafeteria every day for all of the lunch periods and would be willing to oversee a limited number of volunteers. Help in the classroom would depend on the situation and would be discussed on a case by case basis. Anyone who wants to apply to be a substitute is welcome to—a formal application would need to be completed so that background check and clearance can be obtained, and then the person substituting would get paid for their time. Any college degree would qualify or somewhere around 90 college credits would also qualify. Mrs. Richmond also said that when you apply as a sub, you can designate what school you want to work at (i.e. if you only want to work at PGE). Adult assistants are also needed in schools and this is another job that requires an application, background check, etc. Contact Mrs. Richmond if interested. Hillary Martell reported she will share this information on Facebook to spread the word.

**Open Discussion:**

* No additional items were brought up for discussion

**Closing:** Thank you everyone for joining tonight’s meeting. Thank you for the updates, Mrs. Richond. We are looking forward to the children returning to school on Wednesday. The teachers and administration have been great with communication about the temporary switch to asynchronous and that was appreciated. We will send out the date for February’s PTA meeting soon.

**Meeting Adjourned** – 7:02 pm meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jennifer Keiber

PGE PTA Vice President