

O'Hara Elementary PTO Meeting Minutes

January 13, 2017

Meeting was called to order at 9:19am and adjourned at 10:27. Approximately 37 members were present, including PTO officers Dana Rofey, Carrie Work, Faith Moser, Tonja Condron and Sarah Shaffer.

Project and Committee Updates

- Fifth Grade Day
 - Collection jars were sent home in December of 2016. Students will be turning in the money in a few weeks, and again in April.
 - This year's gift will be to spruce up the courtyard, including a new table with plaque.
 - Volunteers have been assigned.
- Giant Eagle Apple Students
 - Program has 947 supporters
 - O'Hara has earned \$1,817 this year.
- Square 1 Art
 - Orders can still be placed.
 - PTO will earn 15% of profits throughout the year on any purchase.
- Spirit Sale
 - Online sale will likely begin Mid-February.
 - Susan Buchman brought in sample items provided by Friday Marketing.
 - Sale will be online, with several evening opportunities to view samples.

PTO Board Update

- Budget w/ Proposed Allocation of Reserve Funds to be presented for vote at February 10 PTO Meeting

O'Hara Administration Update (Mrs. Batis)

- Update on lunch/recess policies/procedures
 - Discussion on bathroom policies
 - Discussion on order classes are called to line and dismissed
 - Lunch Monitors requested monthly meeting and clarification on policies and procedures
 - Explanation of "coats off the floor" rule (not a change; enforcing for safety)
- Update on dismissal
 - Proposed changes discussed at November PTO meeting tabled pending finalization of renovation plans for front parking lot.
- Explanation of benchmarking (STAR)
 - Administered four times per year (September, November, February, March)
 - 30 Minutes Reading / 30 Minutes Math (K is combined, 30 minute total); Often in different weeks.
 - Norm based bench marking (based on nationwide data)
 - Focus on individual GROWTH (not achievement)
 - Sample individual report shown.

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- Eventually students will chart their own growth and goals ("Student Data Folder")
 - Shown to increase results by 32%
- Question re: sharing data with parents (Eventually)
- Question re: kindergarteners using computer (Changed to iPads to avoid issues with mouse).
- Question re: results seen by students (assessment finishes with a congratulatory note regardless of score).
- Question re: use of assessment results in teacher evaluations (Noted that teachers are evaluated in some part based on how they use data to drive instruction; not on the scores)
- Principal coffee hour for January will focus on STAR

Upcoming Events

January 16 – NO SCHOOL

January 20 – NO SCHOOL

February 10 – PTO Meeting, 9:15am

February 17 – NO SCHOOL

February 20 – NO SCHOOL

PALS - The next PALS meeting will be held January 25th at 6:30pm at the Sharpsburg Library (1212 Main St). Speaker Cindy Duch from The Peal Center will be discussing 504 Plans. More info at palsinfo.org

District Forum - The next District Forum will be held Tuesday, February 14th at 9am in the LGI room at the Fox Chapel Area High School. The topic will be technology. More info at foxchapeldistrictforum.com

INCOMING KINDERGARTEN CLASS – DATES TO NOTE!

Pre-Kindergarten Story Time

Last Names A-K: February 9, March 9, and April 20 @ 2 p.m.

Last Names L-Z: February 10, March 10, and April 21 @ 2 p.m.

New Kindergarten Parent Orientation Meeting - February 21 – 6pm

District Wide New Kindergarten Registration

February 27 – 4pm – 6pm @ Sharpsburg Community Library

March 1 - 4pm – 6pm @ O'Hara Elementary

March 4 – 9am – 2pm @ Dorseyville Middle School