

## Heights Elementary PTO Meeting General Meeting Minutes

**Date/Time/Location:** January 14, 2021 at 7:00 via ZOOM.

**Meeting called to order:** By PTO chair Manjula Riley at 7:02 p.m.

Present: Heights PTO board members (absent Pulkit Shah, PTO Co-Treasurer), Dr. Dion, Mr. Crehan and approx 19 participants.

**1. Welcome and Introduction:** By PTO chair Manjula Riley. Special welcome to our new PTO member, Vice Chair Anisha Mendonza.

**1. Membership toolkit:** By PTO chair Manjula Riley

Reminder to parents to register with Membership Toolkit. Can also purchase Heights gear on Memberships. On Membership Toolkit, people can sign up to become a PTO member, which directly supports the school/PTO.

**2. PTO Budget Overview and Outlook:** By PTO co-treasurer Julia Li

See detailed budget information for specific information. Julia reported that the PTO is doing well financially, and thanked everyone for their participation and support of the PTO financially.

We were able to distribute full teacher reimbursements to all teachers who applied, which is a big success.

A motion by members approved the PTO budget.

Reminder to families to consider using Amazon smile to support Heights PTO when shopping. Heights PTO is eligible to receive 0.5% of purchases at no cost to the purchaser.

**3. PTO Updates:** By PTO chair Manjula Riley

Upcoming event: 5th grade Kahoot Virtual Party. January 23rd 6:30-7:30 p.m. Lots of fun prizes will be given out. Hosted by Melissa Trudeau and Melanie Young-Lee

Uptouch on Lifetouch school pictures. Everyone should have received their pictures. If they haven't, please contact PTO. A retake day will be scheduled in

the spring. A team will be put together to review different companies for next year for school pictures.

Update re: Sharon speaks events, had two talks recently and they were well received. Upcoming talks will be in February: Keeping your family healthy and understanding the COVID-19 Vaccine by Mena Mesiha & the Board of Health. March Sharon Speaks event will be "How to enhance your children' vision in an electronic world" by Dr. Alice Cusner. We welcome anyone who wants to help this program or if anyone has any potential speakers/topics.

**4. Spirit Committee:** by Michelle Crugnale and Rebecca Corke, Committee Chairs

Recently held Acts of Kindness event at Heights. Decorated the school with posters. Officer Brian Manetta came as a special read aloud guest (virtually).

Michelle and Rebecca have been trying to keep Heights Spirit Wednesdays going. Sales of Heights gear has been slowed down a little bit. Lots of inventory is still available. Purchase through Membership Toolkit.

Upcoming events will be a spirit week prior to February vacation. Might do different events each day that week. Planning on a Heights has heart day, and decorate the school with hearts, remote students can decorate hearts and drop off. Michelle has reached out to the New England Patriots to try to get a Patriot player or cheerleader to do a read aloud or a dance demonstration (virtual). She is waiting to hear back from them.

**5. Teacher Appreciation Committee:** Deb Freedman, Committee Chair

The PTO raised \$500, which helped to fund the Sweet Treats event. The event was catered by Karla Henry (former Heights parent) who made hot cocoa bombs. Teachers loved this treat!

Next event for teachers will be in May for teachers appreciation week. Planning on a boxed lunch catered for the teachers. Also plan on doing online kudo boards for teachers. Information on that will be sent out prior to April vacation.

Deb is always open to any ideas that we can do to support and appreciate teachers in the upcoming months.

## **6. Box Tops Committee:** by Amy Fried, Committee Co-Chair

Box Tops are back! First drawing for prizes will be next week and then monthly thereafter. If you are submitting box tops, just attribute credit so your child will get credit for the boxtops.

Different ways that families can submit box tops. There are still some of the old fashioned box tops, they are still acceptable to submit (as long as they are not expired). Go online, register, link it Heights, and mail it in and Heights will get credit for it. Or contact Amy to arrange a drop off or pick up.

Box Tops has an app, as long you take a picture of your receipt, the app will give you credit for any purchases.

If you get groceries delivered, forward your email to box tops for education. Almost every store in our area participates in this.

Can reach out to Yadelyn or Amy, abfishman@gmail with any questions.

## **7. Educational Programming:** by Jen Ezer, Committee Co-Chair

We have been able to do programming for all grades except for kindergarten. Kindergarten programming is forthcoming and will be scheduled.

Two programs were with the Discovery museum, which was a credit from last year. They added a free credit as a bonus. This is for 4th grade and 2nd grade (2 different programs)

Grades 1,3,5 are having Sheryl Faye programming- Will be different historical women, pre-recorded with a live Q A.

National Theater for Children had programming for grades 3-5. This happened in November 2020-topic was related to energy. This was well received by children and staff.

## **7. 5th grade Committee:** by Melissa Trudeau and Melanie Young-Lee, Committee Chairs

Working on putting together a yearbook for 5th graders.

Working on a class gift for the 5th graders. Planning on a drive by graduation celebration for the 5th graders. Will either by June 16 or June 17.

This committee welcomes any 5th grade parent volunteers who would like to help and/or participate!

#### **8. Diversity and Cultural Committee:** By Manjula Riley, PTO Chair

Working on Chinese New Year celebration for the month of January. Looking for more volunteers.

Each month they are picking different holidays and cultures to celebrate.

#### **9. Principal Update:** By Dr. Lisa Dion

Chubby Chickpea food truck is coming to Heights tomorrow from 10:30 to 1:20 p.m.

Dr. Dion expressed happiness and appreciation regarding positive things happening in the school and through the PTO. Especially during the time of COVID, all the work that all the committees are doing is much appreciated.

Thinking about having a teacher of the week. Planning on providing a special parking spot, decorated, for the teacher of the week. Students can decorate the teacher's door too.

Started to look at school improvement plan. Been meeting with Amy Muldowny and gave a presentation to Heights faculty about how to implement SEL learning. Might replay the anxiety talk in February with a live Q&A for teachers and parents.

COVID pool testing started this week. Will go for four weeks. First pool results came back and everyone was negative. Testing happened today and results come back on Sunday. Talking with DESE about providing COVID tests for when a pool tests positive. These COVID tests would be rapid and be provided at a designated area. This is to avoid students having to quarantine for 14 days if the pool is positive.

Question re: resources or plans on how to talk to students about the political climate. Dr Dion spoke in a 5th grade classroom last week re: the events at the Capitol Building. Dr Dion is trying to keep all discussion age appropriate

depending on the grade/age of the students. Dr Dion will share any resources with parents if she comes across any.

**Meeting adjourned around 8:04 p.m.**

**Next meeting, February 11, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. via zoom**