

PTO Meeting Minutes 9-30-2020

Welcome: Meeting called to order at 9:40am by PTO President Melissa Dowding. Thank you to everyone who joined our first ever virtual PTO meeting.

Principal's Report: Mr. McAuliffe is overall very happy with how the beginning of this school year has gone, given all the unknowns with opening for in person learning during a pandemic. New drop off and pick up procedures have been going smooth, but he asks anyone who has a suggestion or sees a problem to email him. All students have been doing very well with masks. They are becoming part of the routine and some kids don't even want to take them off during recess. He is also quite happy with how lunch and recess have been going. Kids seem to get more time to eat their lunch because things are not as crazy in the lunchroom. Classes also seem to be more inclusive on the playground since they are only able to play in one area per day. Virtual Wednesdays have started off slow and he is working with teachers on trying to get a balance of too much/not enough work for students. Mr. McAuliffe is excited about pink week as it should bring some excitement and feeling of normalcy to the school to do some fun activities. Halloween will look a little different than we are used to this year but he is going to figure out what exactly it will look like and what can be done to celebrate. He is trying to be more proactive and inclusive with BVA students and communication, but can only do so much. He is also not sure what coming back to in person learning is going to look like or how it is going to happen for BVA students at this point. As far as technology is concerned, he thinks everyone who needs a device for virtual Wednesdays has one at this point. If anyone hears of someone in need of a device, direct them to email him so he can help them through the process.

Treasurer's Report:

A.) Community rewards (Kroger, Busch's, AmazonSmile, Shoparoo, Box Tops) are our highest money maker right now. Kroger makes us the most money currently. The Shoparoo program has now ended. Box Tops are moving to a more digital format, you will be scanning receipts instead of cutting out actual tops. We also have Mabel's labels and local shop Ivory Vines that give our school kickbacks.

B.) See annual budget posted on the Hawkins PTO website. Our biggest expense this year has been classroom funds. We increased all teacher classroom funds this year as this was the best way for us to help our school during this pandemic. We are hoping some fundraisers we have planned will help build our budget back up.

Teacher Liaison: Mrs. Brenda Hurley is going to continue as our teacher liaison for this school year. She said right now there is nothing the teachers really needed her to bring to us as requests, but that they did want to express a big thank you for all the extra money we gave them this year to help them with the extra programs they wanted.

Technology Updates:

A.) The PTO website <https://hawkinselementarypto.weebly.com> is fully up to date. It is the best resource for all PTO information.

B.) Sign up for the remind app through the link on our website to get text reminders for important upcoming happenings at school.

PRC's: Parent room coordinators have not yet been chosen as there are many changes associated with being a PRC because of the pandemic. We are looking to assign 1 parent per room in the near future to act as an in between for teachers and parents as needed, as well as to help the teachers with any take home projects they may have. Also, having this person in place will be helpful if it becomes possible to go into school and volunteer at some point this year. Look for more information on becoming a PRC soon.

New Business:

A.) Hawkins T-shirts: Class level shirts are being made by Ivory Vines. They are going to look different this year and will all be the same color. A mock up will be available soon as well as directions on how to order.

B.) Pink Week: The main focus this year is on building community spirit rather than donations. We are going to follow the high school spirit week. Monday - First responder/essential worker day, Tuesday - Zoom call day, Thursday - Jersey day (jersey or shirt of favorite team), Friday - Pink out. Pink shirts are available for purchase from Ivory Vines for Friday but you can still wear all pink without purchasing the shirt. Look for a post each day on our facebook page... both in person and BVA students can comment with a picture of them in their spiritwear.

C.) Family Pumpkin Decorating Contest: For a \$10 entry fee, families can participate in our first ever pumpkin decorating contest. One entry per family and each family makes their pumpkin at home and delivers it to school on Friday morning, October 30th. All students will vote on their favorite during the day and families will be able to drive through our circle drive and look at the entries through the weekend. The winner will be announced on Monday, November 2nd. The winning family will receive a family 4 pack of Potter Park zoo tickets and each Hawkins student in the family will receive some Hawkins swag. See flier on our website and coming home about this contest later this week for more information.

D.) What Will Mr. McAuliffe Be For Halloween: Submit your suggestion(s) for what Mr. McAuliffe should dress up as for Halloween. \$1 per suggestion and you can submit as many as you want. The suggestion with the most votes will determine what he dresses up as for Halloween. Both in person and BVA students can submit suggestions, and we will post pictures of the winning costume that he has to wear to school on Friday, October 30th. See flier on our website and coming home later this week for more information.

E.) Pop Can Drive: We have decided to run the pop can drive as part of the UofM/MSU game as we have in the past, but it will look different this year. We will be taking donations on multiple days throughout the month of October instead of all in one week. There will be a sign up genius for dropping off donations as well as one for volunteers willing to return the cans. An added feature this year as an incentive to bring us your return slips instead of cans is that you will get a raffle ticket for your return slip or each time you volunteer to return cans. The winner of the raffle drawing will receive a \$100 gift certificate to Ivory Vines. See flier on our website and coming home later this week for more information.

Closing Remarks: Our yearbook company, Lifetouch, has agreed to have the printing company of our yearbooks from last year reprint them because of the mistakes and blurry pages. We do not have a timeline on when this will be completed, but when we receive the reprinted yearbooks, we will send them home with anyone who ordered one last year. They are not able to reprint the class pictures.

Our next meeting date is still to be determined, and we will post the date once we know when it will take place. Meeting adjourned at 10:45am by President Melissa Dowding.