

**Joint Primary PTA Meeting Notes – Thursday, March 7, 2023, at 9:30am**

**Agenda Item Notes:**

1. Call to order: Kristen Whitaker, Meaghan Hurley and Amy McDonough welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked all the participants and speakers for joining.
2. General Membership Vote
  - a. Ali Calame reviewed the 3 grant requests to be voted on. Paper ballots were distributed around to in person participants and typed descriptions of the grants were available on the front table as well as on the PTA's website. Grant ballots were collected.
  - b. Ali Calame took a vote of hands for the 3 primary school candidates for the PTA Nominating Committee. Kristin Meriam was selected for Hemlock, Kristina Vaccaro for Homestead, and Maria Oliveri for Locust.
3. Principal's Introduction/Report
  - a. Mrs. Melanie Odone thanked the PTA for their support thus far this year
  - b. Tuesday evening, (3/12) and Wednesday day (3/13) are Parent/Teacher Conferences
  - c. Reports cards will be available on the portal Friday, 3/15
  - d. For parents with incoming Kindergartners, Principals have sent out Parent Square messages to sign up for screening.
4. PTA Committee Updates
  - a. Dinner
    - i. Courtney Finnerty, PTA Dinner co-chair announced that the PTA Dinner will be Wednesday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6:30pm at Garden City Hotel. There will be dinner, dancing, raffle baskets and balloon pop raffles, a silent auction and more
    - ii. Tickets went on sale on Tuesday, March 5<sup>th</sup> and can be purchased on the PTA's website
    - iii. Tickets can be purchased individually, in small groups, or as a full table of 10. For full tables you have an option to pre-purchase alcohol for your table. For individual or small group ticket purchasers if you want to be seated with specific people you can email your request to [dinner@gardencitypta.org](mailto:dinner@gardencitypta.org)
  - b. Pick A Read Partner (PARP)
    - i. Co-chair Alyssa Vitez announced that over 240 students signed up for the PARP Pen Pal program. If your child has signed up and not sent their letters out yet please do so.
    - ii. There was a successful virtual author event with Ganit and Adir Levy from the "What Would Danny/Darla Do?" on Monday night
    - iii. PARP Reading Week will take place March 18 – 22. Principals are recording their favorite adventure book to send out to students daily, kids will draw their favorite adventure book covers for teachers to decorate their classroom doors, and parents can help children log their reading minutes for that week.
    - iv. The school district will be hosting a Primary Math & Literacy Family Fun Night on Tuesday, 4/30 at 5pm at Homestead. Please join us for educational games and an array of stories to read with friends.
  - c. Health & Safety
    - i. Primary Health & Safety chairperson Victoria Diaz announced that before the winter break local pediatric dentist, Dr. Emma, visited the primary schools for

Dental Health Awareness month. She taught them about how to brush their teeth and make healthy food choices for teeth.

- ii. In May, the Health & Safety committee will be hold a Bike Safety Month poster contest and on Sat. June 3<sup>rd</sup> they will be hosting a Bike Safety Rodeo at the Garden City Middle School.
  - iii. This Spring, the Health & Safety committee will also continue their work on Sun & Skin Safety in collaboration with Mollie's Fund, a foundation that is focused on increasing awareness of melanoma prevention and was founded by a Garden City family who lost their daughter to melanoma when she was in college.
5. SEPTA Update
- a. Homestead SEPTA Representative Genevieve Cook announced that next Wednesday, March 13<sup>th</sup> (no classes in session this day) SEPTA will be holding two Physical Therapy Sessions courtesy of Keep Moving Forward, Inc. for any child with an IEP with Physical Therapy goals that was also impacted by the disruption of PT services in our school district. Please RVSP asap to [membership@gcsepta.org](mailto:membership@gcsepta.org) if interested in attending.
  - b. On March 12<sup>th</sup>, SEPTA will be hosting a Parents Night Out at Novita at 7pm
  - c. On March 21<sup>st</sup>, your children are encouraged to wear your funniest, most colorful socks for World Down Syndrome Day. Take pictures and send them to SEPTA to post on their social media account.
  - d. Parents are still encouraged to joint SEPTA Connect, a new platform designed to connect veteran parents just beginning their journey in the world of special education to veteran parents experienced in this area. To get connected, go to [www.gcsepta.org](http://www.gcsepta.org) and fill out an intake form.
6. 'Wellness' Presentation was given by Mrs. Sadowski, Locust and Homestead Physical Education Teacher and Ms. Sinacori, Hemlock Physical Education teacher. They gave an overview of the Physical Education curriculum and goals, discussed sleep & water recommendations for children, and provided activity ideas for families. Presentation slides can be found on the PTA website under Meeting Information.
7. Closing Remarks: Kristen thanked all for coming and participating.