

Garden City PTA
Stewart School PTA Meeting
Thursday, October 3, 2019
Stewart School Cafeteria

Call to Order: 9:30 by Stewart PTA Director Zeynep Vitale.

General Meeting:

Quorum: a quorum of 30 members was met.

Handouts: Agenda, PARP Info Sheet, "Intelligent Lives" 10/3/19 event advertisement, Draft minutes from 5/29/29 PTA Meeting.

Sign-ups: Nominating Committee and Interview Committee Volunteer Forms.

Approval of previous draft minutes: the minutes from the 5/29/29 PTA Meeting were available for review and were approved unanimously by a show of hands.

Committee Reports and Event Announcements:

Boxtops: (Zeynep Vitale) Boxtops are switching to a mobile app. Please download to earn funds for Stewart—last year over \$1,000 earned. Reminder that Stop & Shop proceeds also go to Stewart.

Nominating/Interview: (Jen Sullivan, PTA Exec. VP) Nominating and Interview committee sign-up sheets. Please sign up!

Membership: (Michelle Rossi) Encourage to join the PTA—once for all five schools, but need to join every year. Recent PTA contributions to the Opera, Mindfulness room, and flexible seating.

Reflections: (Tiffany Scola) Deadline is 11/4/19. This year's theme is "Look Within." National program; review rules and paperwork. Can submit in multiple categories. This year will be one awards ceremony for all grades.

PARP (Pick a Reading Partner): (Colleen Ciullo & Erin Debrich) This year will be in November, used to be in March. This year's theme is "Reading Takes You Places." Travel theme, convert reading minutes to "miles" and see how far they've traveled. Parents will fill out and sign tracking sheets. Encourage reading and make it fun!

- Events: 11/11/19 Movie Day, 11/26/19 PJ Literacy Night (K-1), Culture Days on Wednesdays during PARP, High School students visit younger schools to read "This is Me" by Jamie Lee Curtis and Laura Cornell. Tie-in with GC Library "Selfie Challenge."

Legislation: (Colleen Ciullo)

- October is Dyslexia Awareness Month, two bills are pending in NYS Senate. Sign to send to our representatives.
- Focus on Bus Safety to teach motorists the law regarding stopping at a school bus. 10/10/19 presentation by GC Police at All-Schools PTA Meeting. Will have car magnets to distribute. New law permits installation of stop-arm cameras—our district is looking into it.
- Push to remove Public Polling from schools or allow schools to opt-out. Senator Kevin Thomas coming to 10/10/19 meeting to present.

SEPTA: (Maureen Lagarde) Please join SEPTA—it helps all students. 10/3/19 screening of "Intelligent Lives" at the High School.

Curriculum: (Maureen Lagarde) Committee met once with all schools. Will be meeting with Stewart School and Principal Norton soon.

Sportswear: (Zeynep Vitale) Final Sale at St. Paul's this weekend and will be selling online samples. Online orders end 10/17/19.

Stewart School Reports:

Nurse's Office Report: (Debbie Mastromatteo)

- Call the Nurse's office if your child will be absent—(516) 478-1420
- For strep or other contagious diseases, the sick child's class will be alerted.
- Part-time Nurse: Maureen Patrickakos
- Third & Fifth Grade students need physicals

Principal's Report: (Linda Norton)

- Keri Hand given official title of Assistant Principal.
- **The Year Ahead Presentation**—Attached.
- Space Management: incoming Second Grade is 188 students—added two classes. Added a class to third grade. Resource Room, ESL and OT all sharing a room. QUEST now in science lab. 2 math specialists.
- New/Returning Staff Members:
 - Peter Burke, second grade
 - Kathleen White, second grade (from Homstead first grade)
 - Beth Wills, second grade special education class (from Locust)
 - Michelle Galligan, returned from leave
 - Kathleen Yoniak, third grade
 - Laura Riker, fourth grade
 - Jake Boulay, music
 - Alissa Adessa, paraprofessional
 - Gloria Casale, paraprofessional
 - Lauren Goldstein, paraprofessional
 - Beverly Hegarty, paraprofessional
 - Tim Schoelle, paraprofessional
 - Lisa Ignatow, office communications/calendars (with Amy Norell)
- Halloween show will have a large audience but it cannot be split up due to the Stratford parade.
- Teachers College Reading Initiative: Staff developers will work with teachers to implement the Teachers College Reading program. Number of books taken out of the library is going up! The children are really reading.
- Foundations ends in second grade. Looking into programs for going forward.
- All classrooms are now “food sensitive,” to avoid having the same children grouped together every year. No nuts in the classroom. Will still have nut-allergy tables in the cafeteria.
- Already had 5 fire drills and 1 lockdown drill. Will be doing a lockdown drill during lunch.
- Relationship with GC Police is strong. The police always have access to Stewart School and the cameras.
- Pizza with a Purpose
 - Parent participation has been reduced to cut down on the number of adults entering the building during school hours.
 - October/November pizza Fridays to support Veterans. Can also send in Halloween candy to be donated to the troops.
 - This year all grades, not just 5th, will be a focus of the service learning.
- Access to the school is by appointment only unless there is a special event (PTA Meeting, etc.) that day.

- Dismissal Procedures:
 - No “releases” between 2:30 and 2:45. Early release needs to be before 2:30. Walkers leave at 2:47.
 - Don’t email teachers during the day regarding dismissal changes because teachers do not always read emails during the day.
 - Calls for changes to dismissal need to be made from your phone because the office cross-references phone numbers to ensure the change is valid.
- School Theme is “Be Unstoppable!” Hope to order t-shirts with the theme.
- Donations to the school in excess of \$75 must go through the Board of Education.
- DASA (Dignity for All Students Act) Assembly already took place.
- Stewart Bucks are handed out when a student “gets caught” doing something good and can be used at the school store.
- Assessments
 - Formal Running Records: 3 times a year (at least) for grades 2-4, 2 times for grade 5.
 - NWEA: Assessment in Reading & Math, 3 times a year for each student. Can be accessed on School Tool but not while the testing window is open. Contact Ms. Hand with questions.
 - Cogats: Test given October of third grade and May of fourth grade. Third grade test used to assess for QUEST program—score of 130, not flexible.
 - NY State ELA and Math Assessments
- Upcoming Events:
 - 5th Grade Opera 10/22/19
 - Halloween Show 10/31/19
 - Knowledge Café 11/18/19

Adjournment: Zeynep Vitale made motion to adjourn; the motion was seconded. Meeting adjourned at 11:15 am.

Minutes submitted by Joy Jankunas, Stewart School PTA Secretary