

PTF meeting

Elyse Bogner, Paris Strayer, Cara Svetkovich, Maggie Salandro, Lauren Depalma, Melissa L?, Megan Hissem., Kayla Ellis, Val Varchetti, Heidi Reese, Candice Rinaldi, and Mrs. Tallerico

Mrs. T. went through questions that were submitted.

Fifth grade is hosting the Teacher Appreciation luncheon in May and there was a question around timing because Teacher Appreciation Week is May 2nd – 6th. Fifth grade could plan to hold the luncheon during that week, or it could also come at a different time. Teachers appreciate everything provided and everything thus far has been great. Sandwiches are nice for those who need to take a meal back to their classrooms, and folks seem to also love pizza and salad as well as desserts. Mrs. Bogner eats gluten free and Mr. Frye is a vegetarian.

Lori Glavin has been handling the ordering of spirit wear from Dominick's and orders are ready. Items should be sent home with students who ordered on Friday. Thank you to Lori for coordinating all of this.

There was some discussion around how this year's fundraisers have been going. A parent asked if we could eliminate the second ticket/calendar. Heidi mentioned that for some families, they try to avoid asking the same pool of people for sponsorships and donations, and some families end up buying their own tickets. It sounds like there might be less of an issue selling tickets in the fall, but some families are having a harder time selling them in the spring. If we brought the cash bash back, could we get rid of the ticket? It sounds like we have raised just as much money as we did in the past when the event was in person. It is very popular event, but it seems like the same people are carrying the load for most of the work at the same event, so this may be something that we look at next year to try to recruit some new families. On the other hand, everyone acknowledged that it is important to get the school community back together when we can. Mr. Frye mentioned in an email that we reevaluate each year, and the current schedule/plan is being implemented according to what was voted upon last year.

Amy mentioned that she is willing to take help, and some of the newer families might be willing to do so as well if they are educated on that's involved. Elyse is stepping away from running the cash bash but will work to transition her duties to whomever steps up to help with the organization of this event.

There was further discussion of other ways to come together as a school community. It might be nice to go to Legion Keener and rent a pavilion, families could bring a pot luck and we could perhaps do this at the start of the school year. Kayla mentioned that there is a cash bash at St. Vincent Grove that's indoor/outdoor and perhaps we could do something like that. Perhaps if we rearranged the race to be early fall and moved cash bash to spring, it may work out better for an indoor/outdoor venue. Several families thought that the outdoor movie night was great and the kids had so much fun running around the parking lot. Heidi suggested that perhaps some Friday early evening, families could meet in the parking lot to show a movie, and maybe we could get a snow cone machine. Melissa agreed, and thought that other kids of all ages would probably enjoy running around and playing, and that perhaps we could plan to do this as a school once a month. There was also discussion of hosting a summer picnic at Idlewild. Many already have season passes, and the group could get a pavilion. Amy agreed to help get some info on this. Mrs. T. said that in the past, CDT would go to the park when Latrobe went.

Maggie mentioned that it might be nice to bring back Pray and Play days. Mrs. Powell would organize a schedule of churches and parks where families could attend mass and then take the kids to the playground. This began in July in the past and ran through the summer.

A parent mentioned concern about outside recess when it was cold outside. The school has a policy that if it is 32 degrees or above, the kids go out for recess. They encourage families to send in coats and gloves whenever it's cold. The kids need to get out and run around most days, and recess generally only lasts for about 20 minutes.

A parent asked if it would be possible to amend the concert dress policy so that girls could wear pants, at least during the winter. The concern seemed to be for the older girls, rather than the younger kids. Mrs. T. reported that these types of concerns had never been brought up before and this hasn't been discussed. Amy mentioned she could relate to some of the concerns around wearing skirts, and asked if the school would be talking with the teachers about this, or with the older girls themselves. Maggie gave her perspective as the mom of four girls, and Elyse mentioned that skorts are built in to the skirts. Although it is not always the students' first choice, the school can determine how it chooses to present itself and dressing up shows respect and reverence for the church (and is just once a week).

A concern was raised about bullying and what is being done. Maggie mentioned that four separate families who weren't involved came to her with a concern, and that there are folks who are scared to say something and they are concerned about backlash. A parent asked if there is a specific section in the school handbook that discusses this. (There is a section in handbook beginning on page 13 which lays out the steps that are taken.) The school takes any allegation of bullying very seriously and they do as much as they can to investigate all sides of the story, it is not generally something that can be dealt with in a day and the investigation takes some time. When there are issues, there is a process where there are conversations and an attempt to gather all of the information. When it comes to bullying, the schools needs to be sure it is bullying versus bad behavior and many factors are taken into account. They take this seriously and would like to speak to any parent who has concerns. The staff want kids to feel safe and comfortable. In the past, some kids have made comments without realize that they are being mean. Is there a way not to single kids out, but to maybe hold be a large seminar, or have classroom discussions so that kids are better equipped to deal with bullying? Mr. Surloff did come and talk to a first grade class about bullying and it was really receptive. A lot of kids may not have realized that they were at times being unkind. A few parents asked if he could do this presentation with other classes to try and stay ahead of bullying and it sounds like this can happen. Elyse said in the last few months, there have been at least two cases of kids coming to the office to report bullying. When that happens, everything else stops and it gets put on hold and students take precedence. Elyse said there is a form that is to be completed that is to be completed, which launches the investigation. When those are happening or when a counselor comes in, are parents notified? Usually not, unless it is serious. Amy felt it would be good to give parents a little heads up on things like this so that parents can reinforce this at home.

There was a question about whether or not Mrs. Shimko would be returning next year and she will not be. If you have a child in second grade, they are looking for her replacement. There was a question about whether or not Mrs. McDonald would move up another grade again. What will be going on next year? There have been kids who have had her for 2 years on a row (and she has been wonderful, there was just a question about the coming year). They aren't sure right now but there will be two second grades. It would be really hard to ask Mrs. M. to move again.

Feel free to reach out or email Mr. Frye if there any other questions.