

## **March PTO Meeting Notes 3-18-2024 @6:30 pm**

PTO Attendees: Diane Thiegis, Molly Darsow, Jennifer Yiangou, Michelle Klonecz  
Parents/Staff: Dr. Kate Hinton, Meg Flowers, Erin Cramer, Kari Koerner, Greg Bettger, Jamie Brodd, and Sylvia Brodd (NHS student)

**Director Update**—Provided an update on admin's efforts to lobby legislature for additional funding. MSA is one of 15 MN schools that doesn't offer a lunch program. Admin is doing its best to make MSA's needs known and making efforts to get legislators/journalists to visit the school. A vendor is coming out this week to propose trucking in bulk prepared lunch items (at no cost per Minnesota's new free-lunch program). On April 4, there will be a townhall on MSA's expansion efforts. This year's graduation ceremony will be held at St. Kate's. It was voted that PTO will provide pizza to graduating students and bandmembers.

**Treasurer Report**—Jennifer presented the budget. Current balance is \$14,552. Projected pizza day profits will bring us under-budget this year, but we found cost savings in other areas. Consider moving a portion of checking account balance to an interest-generating account. Jennifer will look into that possibility and if allowed with non-profit status. Due to rising costs, instead of free pizza on last school day, we will discount to \$1/slice.

### **PTO News**

- **Winter All-School Event (1/22)**—Great turnout at *M Health Fairview Sports Center!* No behavior issues whatsoever. Molly was very proud of the kids who attended. There was one skating injury, but the event was overall a great success. Soccer/football/badminton and more were played in the fieldhouse. PTO was overbudget due to decision to cover student skate rental costs. It was decided this should be an annual event. Next year we will try to negotiate a flat rate for skate rental. Also consider hosting an open-gym day at MSA as it would be low cost and only necessitate adequate chaperones.
- **MSA Open House (1/23)**—Very packed! Lots of excited prospective 6<sup>th</sup> grade families. Diane and Jennifer hosted the PTO table.
- **Chipotle Restaurant Night (2/7)**—PTO made \$123.42. In future, consider getting MSA on a fixed restaurant night schedule, such as the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of every month (yay – MSA Mondays!). Also, consider varying location—Chipotle in Cottage Grove has faster service.
- **Conference Meal (2/22)**—NHS students Sylvia and Abby helped with setup. The taco bar was super appreciated! Parent donations were supplemented by a PTO catering order of rice/beans/shredded chicken/sopapillas from Acapulco.
- **Winter Formal (2/24)**—good event! DJ was a great addition, especially the lights. Student photographer did a great job. Consider adding some fun props for next year's photos.
- **Pi Day (3/14)**—Pi Day was very enthusiastically received by both students and staff alike. A handstamp donated by Greg Bettger ensured everyone got a slice. To go bags over pie boats were helpful for those participating in Ramadan. In future, consider making 4 volunteer slots for each building. NHS might be able to help with this event next year.

### **Upcoming Events**

- **Teacher Appreciation Week (4/6-4/10)**—Tuesday 4/7 NHS students will decorate the sidewalks with encouraging chalk messages, Wednesday 4/8 the PTO will host The Wandering Mug beverage truck from 8-9 am, a staff lunch and snack-and-beverage cart for Mon/Thurs, and pizza on Friday will round out the week.
- **Coffee with the Director (April TBD)**—Caribou donated coffee 1/9, PTO purchased 2/13.
- **Healthy Snack Day (4/7)**—Parent Kari K. informed us that 4/7 is National Banana Day! Jennifer Y volunteered to set up a Signup Genius requesting ripe bananas. Kari volunteered to gather some fun banana facts, and Molly will make banana posters.
- **NHS Volunteering**—Sylvia Brodd represented NHS at tonight's meeting. NHS is seeking volunteer opportunities. In addition to their encouraging chalk messages for staff on 4/7, students will offer to clean teacher rooms during office hours, redo bulletin boards, and operate the snack/beverage cart during Teacher Appreciation Week.

**Next PTO Meeting Dates**—Next meeting date is May 13 @6:30 pm.