

CMS PTO Meeting

Friday, January 22, 2016

Call to order: 12:00 PM

Agenda approved, minutes from prior meeting approved

Board Members in Attendance - Leslie Blackowiak, PTO President, Kelly Hopper, PTO Vice President, Crystal Kokal, PTO Treasurer, Lisa Kremer, Volunteer Coordinator, Julie Hartle, Secretary, Lisa Sheppard Pearson, Communications

Fundraising Update:

- Successful fundraiser with \$10,800 profit and some online donations still outstanding
- Thank you to the students and parents for their time and generous donations
- All dollars go to supporting to our students

Treasurer's Update:

- Discussed allocation of dollars to programs including Kindness Retreat, 8th grade party
- Noted that there are set fees for insurance, banking, President's Council, and carryover to next year
- Noted not a lot of dollars will be left for additional teacher grants this year
- Further discussion to be held at PTO Board Meeting

Nate Swenson, Principal Central Middle School

- Welcomed everyone to the meeting
- Shared that one of the students described why Nate has students presenting to the parents at the PTO meetings - "We have to prove to the parents that we are actually learning here."
- Thank you for coming and taking time out of busy schedules
- Appreciate the opportunity for the students to have an opportunity to present

Student Presentations:

- **7th Grade Student – Derick Cross**
 - Coding that he is learning more about at CMS
 - Some students from high school came to talk about coding
 - Downloaded hopscotch and made a presentation
 - Created a quiz using coding for Spanish
- Nate talked about thinking about opportunities for coding in CMS – would be good to give kids more opportunities

- **7th grader – Martin Zhou**
 - Science Fair Project - The Effects of Colored Light on Plant Photosynthesis
 - Topic had to be some sort of life science
 - What color light would result in the best plant photosynthesis and growth
 - Used grass
 - Measured how tall grass grew

- Nate compared this presentation to his own education and pointed out how education has grown since we were in school. Talked about how rigorous our education is now

- **Keegan Wolf – 8th grade student**
 - Project for Science
 - Present a lot in 7th and 8th grade
 - Not always interesting in watching someone else's presentation so he has been trying to make his presentations in a way to relay a lot of information without making you want to fall asleep
 - Less words, more pictures, more interesting stuff to watch
 - Mini project – Research Extreme Earth Science
 - He researched super volcanoes – massive volcanoes
 - Made a 6 minutes video on everything he learned
 - Took a really long time to create

- Nate talked about that kids do present a lot here and the building goal for this year is Communication (three C's are Communication, Collaboration and Critical Thinking). The business world is telling us that communication is an important skill to have

Guest Speaker - Tim Quick, EPHS Associate Principal

Purpose of Presentation: What to expect at the high school, Registration process, What makes the high school what it is, Share information and answer questions

Notes:

- Registration coming up
- Wed, 2/3 registration night to come and learn about classes, departments represented for classes
- Comes quickly but to meet all timelines, need to start the process now
- Making decisions for next year only ½ way through this year
- Parents should take a look at their kids – you know them
- Encourage to schedule to be challenged but not overly challenged. Build in time to be a 14/15 year old freshman
- Wealth of opportunities at all levels
- Regardless of direction the student takes, they will have a tremendous experience
- Kids come in with skills, respect for classmates
- Create community

- If you graduate from EP high school, you will be successful. We have the highest percentage of students who go to college, stay in college, graduate in 5 or fewer years
- Strong program for activities
- It is a big place, but have an activities department offering more activities than any other high school in state of Minnesota
- Activities Fair in the fall
- 2,938 students today – when find activities, the kids find their niche and get acclimated quickly
- Connect 9 – All students have a Connections class, meet 1 time per week, freshman connections classes assigned 3-4 upper class mentors and come in to talk about high school highlights
- Connection teacher - have for 4 years, reads their name at graduation – same group all 4 years
- Security staff at the high school, welcoming presence, security guards get to know the kids names and welcome them each morning, get invited to staff appreciation at sports events
- Registration process
 - Wed night 2/3 parents come in, students not required but welcome
 - Walk through what a typical freshman day looks and a 4 year schedule example
 - Freshman – encourage to sign up for full load of classes, study hall not typically effective use of time
 - Biggest question around math – don't encourage doubling up in math freshman year
 - Can get through entire math curriculum wherever you start
 - Registration open February 4th – February 12th

Meeting adjourned at 1:10 PM

Notes prepared by Julie Hartle, PTO Secretary