

## Sykesville Middle School PTO Meeting / January 6, 2022

Meeting start 7:00 pm via Google Meets

Executive Board attendees:

Jennifer Doe, President; Anja Cangemi, Vice President; Heather Carpenter, Secretary

SMS Staff attendees:

Mrs. Reppe, Principal; Ms. Millinix, Ms. Rothschild, Ms. Whitlow - Equity Liaisons; J. Sapp

Member attendees:

W. Forbes, A. St. Clair, K. Alascia, T. Glass

### President's Report (Jennifer Doe):

Jennifer welcomed everyone to the meeting.

- **Fundraising:** We're contacting several businesses to set up a restaurant night for January. Little Caesars or Joe Corbi fundraiser is being considered for February
- **Account Balance:** No funds were expensed since the last meeting. Our current balance is \$7489.84
- **December Door Contest Winners:**
  - Special Education – LFI Classroom
  - 6<sup>th</sup> grade: Cavey & McNamara
  - 7<sup>th</sup> grade: Snively
  - 8<sup>th</sup> grade: Kimble
    - Winners will get to choose either a pizza party or donut party. Parties to be planned in the coming weeks.
- **Upcoming Events for our students:**
  - **February 14 – We Love Our Students** – special sweet treat being planned for all students – likely during lunch period
  - **April 22 – Movie Night** – Originally planned for February, the Board voted to have it in April so we could safely host it outside and not have to limit attendees – more details to come

### Hospitality Committee (Heather Carpenter):

- **February 17 – We Love our Staff** – lunch catered for SMS Teachers and Staff (this is also Parent/Teacher Conference Night)

### Principal's Report (Mrs. Reppe):

- SMS is working with students to set goals for the New Year
- End of 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter is January 25<sup>th</sup>
- Starting January 27<sup>th</sup>, Related Arts classes will change. Students will be given copies of their schedules for 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> quarter Related Arts classes.
- 8<sup>th</sup> graders are starting to prepare for High School! They will be meeting with representatives from Century High School next week and there will be a parent information night for 8<sup>th</sup> grade parents in February.
- SMS welcomes any parents who would like to sign up for volunteer opportunities at school. Teachers would greatly appreciate help in the copy rooms as well as assistance with some special theme events coming up. Please fill out the PTO volunteer form [PTO \(carrollk12.org\)](https://carrollk12.org) or reach out to your child's teacher if you'd like to volunteer.

## **Guest Speakers (Anja Cangemi):**

Special Presentation by Sykesville Middle School's Equity Liaisons (Chris Mullinix, Devon Rothschild, and Carmela Whitlow)

Link to PowerPoint: [PTO Jan 6th Meeting - Google Slides](#) / [Educational Equity Defined · Due East](#)

Some highlights of the presentation:

- Equity is the foundation of everything we do:
  - Stay Engaged
  - Speak Your Truth
  - Experience discomfort
  - Expect and accept non-closure
- Educational Equity – It's a process of social and emotional well being
- Equality (all the same thing) v. Equity (what they need)
- 504s, IEPs, free meal plans are all examples of equity
- Looking through an equity lens – examples include ability, religion, family structure, race, nationality, language, etc.
- Equity requires us to focus on removing barriers for all students

## **New Business:**

Mr. Forbes presented his inspiring art work and journals to the PTO. He has been working with positive messaging and journaling and offered his services and experience to the PTO and staff. The Board thanked him for attending and will be in contact with him as his positive message would tie in nicely with the Equity and Inclusion theme at school.

Parent Question: My student is considering switching his club choice. Is that possible?

- Answer: Club Flex period is on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays and the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays are for Sources of Strength and catch-up opportunities. Students can talk with their counselors if they have any questions about their current club selection. Please be aware that some clubs are full while others are not. It is under consideration that students will be able to change clubs in March. Students who didn't get into their first-choice club this time around, will have opportunities if the clubs change.

Meeting adjourned 7:59 pm.

**Next meeting: Thursday, February 3, 2022 @ 7:00 pm. Meeting format TBD.**

Respectfully submitted, Heather Carpenter

Stay up to date on PTO events and news! Facebook Group: [Sykesville Middle PTO | Facebook](#)

Missed a meeting? Check out the minutes & presentations recorded from past meetings- SMS PTO webpage: [PTO \(carrollk12.org\)](#)