PTO Meeting 1/15/19

Meeting came to order at 9:30 Am. 12 People in attendance.

Review of minutes from the last meeting. Jamie Dean made a motion to approve; Sherry Androw seconded approval of the minutes.

* Budget snapshot-handout. Doing well so far. Still trying to fundraise for technology.

1. Phyllis Jones: Mental Health awareness
   1. Grant was given by McCall center
   2. Supports mental health training and awareness
   3. There are monthly newsletters available in the eblast and also on the district page. 211 reporting campaign info- such as emergency services, childcare etc.
   4. Health and wellness fairs- there was one in Nov and there is another on May 7th contact PTO for any info on sign ups. There will also be sign ups at the stratosphere event in April as well as a pledge walk in the spring.
   5. Other areas the grant covers:
      1. Region 10 against drinking, party patrol, safe party parent registry, compliance checks at local liquor stores, prescription drug take back, community forums, safe harbors, and others..
   6. Increase ability to recognize and respond to MH issues:
      1. QPR (question, persuade, refer) training at the end of the 2 year grant every region 10 employee will receive this training on suicide. SOS (signs of suicide) grades 7, 9, 11-12 will receive. (There are a lot of free online resources and handouts PTO has handouts and will also have them on the PTO table for future reference).
   7. Help seeking behavior at the elementary level: HCS pilot teachers who are receiving training and will pilot the Gizmo pawsome guide this year: 1 per grade: Mrs. McKenna, Mrs. Evans, Mrs. Clark, Mrs. Norton, and Mr. Adams. Next year all teachers to receive the training. (gizmo book is available for free online).
   8. Provide resources:
      1. Crisis teams in each building (Reg 10 had this already)
      2. Reduce access to any potential drugs
      3. Enhance awareness
      4. Promote connectiveness: teachers, students, parents.
2. Other items:
   1. Enrichment: Jamie Dean said most grades have had an in school science lab already this year. Earth Balloon School wide was very successful! Next all school assembly involving science is Jan 25 wild west theme. Jaime would like $200-$300 dollars more for a special preschool program to come in- either imagination or plants/seeds. Field trips may cost slightly more than budgeted due to a bus driver shortage and any field trips need to return by 2 pm so that the buses can be back in time for the afternoon run. Olivia Tierney made a motion to provide $200 from the ice cream social profit to enrichment. Jen Adkins and Sherry Androw both seconded the motion. Jaime said $200 would cover the expense!
   2. Mrs. Urso is also coordinating a week long community helper event. The week of Feb 4-8 she is looking for community volunteers to come in and speak about what they do. If anyone knows any firemen, EMS, policeman etc that would like to come in please let us know.
   3. Mrs. Nelson is looking for volunteers for this week to pick up read aloud books at the Torrington Chamber of commers: Thanks you Kristen Chenette for volunteering. She is also looking for donations for refreshments for the readers (approx 25) on Feb 13 or snow date Feb 14th. Doreen will reach out to Dunkin donuts to see if they would like to donate donuts. We will set up the coffee Urn with creamers etc and get some juice.\* side note Olivia mentioned having the kids make something for DD as a Thank you for their generosity this year Olivia will work with the kids on this!
   4. Donations have started to come in for the Husky Hustle! So far Disney tickets and a Ring doorbell!
   5. 4th grade year end activities PTO has budgeted $1825. We would like to get input from the 4th graders as to what they would like to incorporate into their activities. In the past they received a year book, T-shirt to sign and print, party, camp chase, and graduation. Looking for a survey and choices to align with what they want and also ideas on how 3rd & 4th grade could work together to fundraiser..Possibly penny wars. 3rd grade would keep funds for their activities next year and 4th grade to use funds for this year. Mrs. M is meeting with 4th grade teachers will mention this. Also, a motion made by Olivia seconded by Sherry to have 3rd & 4th grade fundraise and also to form a committee of 2 4th grade parents, 1 third grade parent, as well as a PTO member to work together on the activities.
   6. Bookfair- sales of $9668.98 we took 25% cash profit of $2417.25. Approx 1200 books purchased. $578 raised for all for books..Mrs. Nelson shopped using these funds for lots of new books for the library. Scholastic also donates this amount to a school in need. 103 books were purchased by families for classrooms, 15 books gifted to students by the PTO, 16 books gifted to teachers by the PTO. 212 in scholastic dollars earned. We are already gearing up for the Spring bookfair it is a dinosaur theme Mar 19-22.
   7. Exploratorium (Mar 29): The Theme is the Moon! The committee is hard at work planning and ensuring that each station is educational and there is more organization. They need help making some items for the fair please contact any PTO member if you would like to help! There will also be signups for shifts during the event.
   8. Wreath fundraiser: $7360 dollars sold in wreaths- profit of $3086.87 down slightly from last year. This could be due to short timeline to have the orders in. Ideas for improvement if we choose to do it next year: limiting items offered to most popular so there is not so much to pick from, earlier delivery, direct delivery only, online ordering/delivery, possibly having info available at open house with samples!
   9. Spring mother’s day flowers may be interest in this Katie Patterson has some info (past fundraiser she did with Grezyck farms) and interested in helping. Olivia has some ideas as well on setting something up. More to come..

Motion to adjourn Olivia seconded by Sherry at 10:35 AM.