

PTO General Meeting Minutes

Boyce Middle School PTO

November 13, 2019

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

The November 13, 2019 General Meeting of the Boyce Middle School PTO was called to order by President Gina Swanson at 9:30 AM in the Boyce Middle School LGI. Secretary Natalea Oliverio recorded the proceedings. Seventeen (17) people were in attendance including the Executive Board (with the exception of Mr. Henderson).

Reading and Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the September 2019 General Meeting were not available. They, along with these minutes, will be made available online as soon as possible and will be presented at the next general meeting in January.

Statement from the Treasurer - Stacey Friday

Ms. Friday presented a report of the most recent PTO account activity. See the attached Treasurer's Report. The report includes a beginning balance of \$18, 312.62. Income between September and this meeting came from Student Activity Fee payments, school notepad sales, and Book Fair sales. Payments were made to a multiple people (see the report). After outstanding cash on hand is deposited, the PTO had an ending balance of \$39, 119.64.

Also included in this report is the Deer Valley account. This account was closed on November 12, 2019. The amount of \$6, 164. 91 was withdrawn and the money was deposited in a school account for Deer Valley Scholarships. This will be the last report given for these funds.

A motion was made by Connie (Do not know last name.) and a 2nd by Pam Kunjaranaayudhya

Correspondence - Natalea Oliverio

There was not any correspondence noted this month.

Executive Committee Reports

- President - Gina Swanson gave the floor to Ms. Daphna Gans for a report from the School Board
- 1st Vice President - Andrea Amorose had no report to give
- 2nd Vice President - Dan O'Rourke
 - Mr. O'Rourke gave a discussion using a PowerPoint presentation. He began by reemphasizing the theme of the year "We Rise By Lifting Others" and schools NO PLACE FOR HATE prerogative. This theme is a vessel to portray the spread of empathy throughout the building. Students are working during Advisor time to learn aspects of this concept. There is more information about this on the website. He briefly discussed the talk given by Dr. Michelle Borba. See attached article written about it.
 - Mr. O'Rourke discussed the Panther Paws Awards given out monthly thru the Panther Paw Program.

- There was a discussion about the Himalayan Institute, which puts an emphasis on prioritizing Mindfulness and Breathing. There was a staff training about this on September 18, 2019. There is an APP that supports this called Head Space.
- Board Advisor - Jennifer Schnore shared about the Boyce excuse notepads. They are great to have on hand when you need to write a note for school. You can buy them at the PTO meetings for \$2, or in the main office.

School Board - Ms. Daphna Gans

- The Wellness Committee sponsored a talk on empathy given by Dr. Michelle Borba. She gave lectures during the afternoon of November 11th to district staff and in the evening to the community. Her talk discussed Empathy in our lives. She is the author of the book Unselfie. Dr. Borba's lecture was successful.
- The Youth Steering Committee is hosting a Wellness discussion/panel, on December 11, 2019.- There will be a discussion about vaping as well.
- The school board gave recognition to the High School Girls Soccer team their wonderful act of sportsmanship in a recent game. They were paired against a team that could not keep up. Rather than completing the game, the team decided at halftime to mix up with two teams and play a scrimmage instead. They realized that there was no point in "beating" the team. They would rather teach and learn from the experience.
- An update on ALICE training was given. On all levels throughout the district, schools are implementing the training exercises with talks and drills.
- The School Board is in the process of reviewing and updating policies. They are using templates from the PA School Board Association.
- An update was given on construction projects in the district. The pool project at the high school is behind schedule due to lack of manpower. No exact date has been given for the completion of this project.
- Planning is taking place for a viewing of the SCREENAGERS movies. More information to come in February/March.

Standing and Reporting Committees

- Apples for Students/Amazon Smile - Jen Schnore reported. Funds can be raised through the Apples for Students program at Giant Eagle by parents adding Boyce Middle School to their advantage card. Funds can be raised through Amazon by utilizing the Smile.Amazon.com page to shop. Parents must designate Boyce Middle School as their charity.
- Box Tops - Aylin Alkshirli was not present to report. All physical boxtops have been sent in. From now on, an app will be used to scan shopping receipts to search for eligible products.
- Boyce Pride - Andrea Amorose gave a report. Since September we have had 55 students honored with Boyce Pride Awards. 37 in September and 18 in October. These students were recognized by their teachers or other staff members for going above and beyond, and being extra kind. We meet once a month in the Library or LGI room. One of the guidance counselors or Mrs. Mussomeli will read the awards to all of the students, acknowledging each child's kindness to others. They then receive a token of appreciation (we have backpack tags or Boyce Middle School pencils) and have their picture taken with Mr. O'Rourke. The pictures hang on the wall for others to see. It is amazing to see what wonderful things are kids our doing!

- Chess Club - Andrea Amorose reported on this as well. We have 2 more afternoons in the first session in Chess Club. Thirty students signed up right away filling the first group of kids. We will offer 2 more sessions of Chess Club, one in winter and one in the spring. The cost of the club is \$10. We have 5 high school chess club volunteers working with our students, teaching them strategies and assisting them if needed while they play other students in chess matches. This afternoon will be the semi finals and we will have a tournament next Wednesday, November 20th. The first 3 place categories will receive a place medal, but all of the children will receive a Chess Club button made by the Shop@Boyce. We will have a pizza party and the students can also enjoy a special treat made by the students participating in Eagle Sweets. We are working closely with parents and the school nurse to make sure none of the children are allergic to the treats.

The winter and spring chess club dates are:

Session 2

February 5
February 12
February 19
February 26
March 4

Session 3

April 29
May 6
May 13
May 20
May 27

- Band - There will be a band concert on December 11th at 7pm. On December 13th, there will be a school-wide concert for band, orchestra, and chorus.
- Deer Valley - Pick up for the Deer Valley Fundraiser items from Charleston Wrap and Chestnut Hill Candles is scheduled for Monday, November 18th and Tuesday, November 19th. Updates to student's Deer Valley accounts will be available soon.
- Yearbook - Michelle Urban was not present to give a report. Jen Schnore made comments. The same vendor will be used this year as last year. Orders for this will begin in January.
- Spelling Bee - Yesha Katakota and Carrie Fick are chairing this event. Ms. Katakota gave a report. The committee is looking for additional volunteers. Signups will be held this week. There will be a PreTest given on January 16th during Pride Time. The Boyce Bee will be on January 30th. The Regional competition will take place on March 7th at Robert Morris University.
- Spirit Wear - Hani Kelly and Kris Jenkins are chairing this committee. Today, they provided samples. Orders can be placed online and will be delivered before the

holidays. Samples will also be available in the office if anyone is interested in stopping in.

- Staff Appreciation - The next Staff Appreciation Luncheon will be held on December 13, 2019. This will be a catered meal. There will be a cookie table.

New Business

- The PTC will be hosting an Open Mic on Wednesday, November 20th at 7pm. Dr. Rozzo will be there to answer questions. Wellness will be the topic. Questions can be submitted in advance.
- The next PTO Meeting will be held on January 15, 2020

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 10:55 AM.

This report is submitted by Natalea Oliverio.

Date Approved: November 22, 2019