AJH PTO Meeting

Wednesday, September 20, 2017 @ 9am

Meeting called to order at 9am by President, Alexis Szudarek.

Treasurer’s Report, Alexis Szudarek reporting for Felicia Farlow (absent):

* The budget for current school year was presented. Date and checking account balance updated, but otherwise not much changed from last year’s budget.
  + Lauren Price made a motion to install the budget.
  + 2nd motion made by Sarah Yoder, motion approved
* Introductions of those present: Alexis Szudarek (president), Lauren Price (mini fundraisers), Sarah Yoder (membership), Mr. Andrew Gibson (principal); Noelle Woodworth (secretary)
* Principal, Mr. Gibson thanked PTO members for volunteering and looks forward to working together this year. Mr. Gibson mentioned that he is looking for dynamic way to motivate students. Will continue “Caught Being Good”, but might offer other types of incentives that are not necessarily gifts which have worked well at his previous school.

Committee Reports:

* Apparel, Alexis Szudarek & Diane Younts (absent): All 4 school PTO groups working together to sponsor apparel sale. Flyers will go out 10/9 and sale ends 10/25. Each school will offer 4 different items. Delivery will be an option this year and the profit from delivery fees will be split equally among all schools. Flyer will also be distributed in AJH weekly emails.
* Book Fair, Selena Candelario: Announced the Book Fair is scheduled for Saturday, December 2nd at Barnes & Noble at Crocker Park, open to close. 2018 date is secured for December 1st. The book fair date also coincides with Teacher Appreciation Day which offers educators an additional discount. AJH earns a percentage of all sales that are rung under our book fair ID including sales from Starbucks Café who also sells cheesecakes from Cheesecake Factory. Cheesecakes can be ordered ahead of time and picked up day of book fair for school to get credit. Profits are tiered based on volume of sales both in store and online. The Art teacher will choose artwork to be displayed all over the store that day. Choir, Band and Orchestra will be performing in small groups throughout the day. It was decided we will offer a raffle worth $100 (1 $50 gift card to Barnes & Noble and 1 $50 gift card to Cheesecake Factory) to boost book fair profits. We will also offer gift wrapping at the store for additional fundraising (tips) which is 100% profit. Volunteers needed to gift wrap, sell raffle tickets and hand out flyers at our table. Sign-ups will be offered online. .50$ cafeteria coupon will be offered to all students that stop by table along with a chance to win door prizes that will be drawn by Mr. Gibson on Monday, December 4th. Customers can also order online with B&N and apply our book fair code for credit towards fundraiser. Will not be pursuing a Dine to Donate option in conjunction with book fair as it did not prove to be profitable in recent years. Last year book fair yielded $1092.91.
* Box Tops (Christy Fain, absent): We are still collecting box tops which provide the school .10$ per box top. They can be dropped off in the office; deadline for 1st turn-in will be at the end of October and will be announced in newsletter. Will ask Comet Kids Club at Powers if they are interested in counting AJH box tops.
* Dances, Selena Candelario: Announced the dances will be held on November 17 from 7-9pm and March 2 from 7-9pm for all AJH students (6th-8th grades). Snacks and drinks will be purchased by the PTO to be sold at dances for $1 each. Tickets will be sold on Thursday and Friday during lunch hours as well as at door. Tickets are $5 each. Need to secure DJ who will offer school appropriate song choices at competitive price. Staff will chaperone. Will need a small number of parent volunteers to work concession table.
* Dine to Donate: Looking for new opportunities with restaurants. Will request a date with Chipotle.
* Hospitality: no report
* Coca Cola Give Program, Noelle will sign up AJH. Codes are found under bottle caps and inside cardboard boxes. Each code is worth .05 -.38$ for the school of choice.
* Amazon Smile offers a percentage back to the PTO if the shopper chooses AJHPTO as their charity/organization to receive the profits. Smile.amazon.com and choose to support Amherst Junior High PTO.
* Membership, Sarah Yoder: Membership is currently down. PTO Membership forms are available in the office and a reminder will be posted in newsletter and on social media outlets. Membership is $5.
* Planning to run a donation drive to benefit 2nd Harvest Food Bank in November.
* Mini-Fundraisers, Lauren Price: Need to schedule volleyball game for November. Usually held the last school day before Thanksgiving and Dodgeball tournament for Spring.
* Yearbook: Mrs. DiFranco will be handling yearbook duties this year.

New business:

Alexis reported that money has been brought over from the Nord PTO budget for 6th grade camp scholarship. There is $1500 available to help subsidize camp for students in need.

Band is in need of new instruments for 6th grade general music class. Motion made by Sarah Yoder to approve $1000 for band instruments to be used in the 6th grade general music class. Lauren Price made 2nd motion. Motion approved.

* Next PTO meeting will be held October 18 at 9am. Meetings will be held the 3rd Wednesday of every month.