



## **Sparks Elementary PTA Meeting (Virtual) Wednesday, October 13, 2021**

### **Meeting called to order at 7:03 pm**

- 1. Welcome:** All Board Members present, Principal Chyko, AP Alvarez, Berna Oates School Counselor, and Tina Ludwig teacher representative as well as 7 parents/guardians.
- 2. School Updates** (Ms. Chyko and Ms. Alvarez)
  - a. Superintendent Williams visited 10/12. Went well!
  - b. AEW- Info still to come from BCPS.
  - c. Halloween- Parade to be held on Friday Oct 29 at 2 pm with parties to follow. One parent in each classroom only will be allowed.
  - d. AAA positions open if anyone would like to apply, contact Mrs. Alvarez
  - e. The PTA should have a Special Needs Liaison. Will address.
  - f. The Shivers!!! The Shivers is a school-wide positive behavior plan. Surveys have shown a 20% gap between School Pride at Sparks and feeling of belonging. This program hopes to bridge that gap for students.
    - i. Students will be assigned to a “shiver” (like the houses in Harry Potter). Sharks hunt in “shivers”, hence the name. All students and staff/employees will have a shiver assignment and coordinating color.
    - ii. All adults in the building will have tickets to award to students for exemplifying shiver behaviors being promoted. Tickets will earn points for your shiver.

- iii. Monthly shiver winners will be recognized and a party for everyone in the school held.
- iv. #6Shivers1school

### **3. School Counselor (Ms. Oates)**

- a. School plan for the year presented. Each class is visited once per month and topics discussed. Topics this year include: Bullying, celebrating differences, safety, and more. This month's virtue is Fairness (applies to Shiver behaviors as well).
- b. Mrs. Oates meets with students individually and in small groups.
- c. Mrs. Oates coordinates with My Neighbor's Foundation for students in need.
- d. Outside therapy services with hours at Sparks ES are available.
- e. Spring Into Kindness will happen this Spring with "kind-o-grams"

### **4. Board & Committee Updates**

- a. **Executive VP** (Corinne Roth): Thanks to Mrs. Alvarez and Ms. Chyko for serving at our Rita's fundraiser!
- b. **1<sup>st</sup> VP** (Meredith Heyl): Virtual room parent meeting held, 25 parents attended.
- c. **2<sup>nd</sup> VP** (Erin MacDougall):
  - i. Chipotle Spirit Night- Good turnout. Some product shortages occurred due to supply chain issues. Overall went well!
  - ii. Woodfire Spirit Night- Wed. Nov 10
  - iii. Charitable Event ideas- "Spread the Love" PB&J drive for Baltimore Hunger Project, PJ Drive for Casey Cares (kids donate pjs and get to wear pjs to school).
- d. **Treasurer** (Matt Barr): We have 109 PTA memberships this year to date. \$7800 raised in Direct Donation.

- e. **Financial Secretary** (Rebecca Franklin): PTA Annual Financial Review completed and will be submitted to Free State PTA.
- f. **Membership Toolkit, Family Mini Golf Night** (Alex Castillo): No MTK updates. Golf Night was successful and raised approximately \$570.
- g. **Corresponding Secretary** (Cassie Jackson): Check out Fb and Twitter!
- h. **Spirit Wear** (Kerri Brozene): Used Select Spirit Wear. Items have shipped to the school and will be distributed to students. \$601.00 profit. Next Spirit Wear drive will be before the holidays.
- i. **Hospitality** (Erin MacDougall/Anneli Plantholt): Staff room decorated for fall and treats given. Pictures of the staff room are on Fb! Custodial Appreciation Day- staff was able to order lunch from the restaurant of their choice.
- j. **Recreation Equipment** (Meredith Heyl and Rebecca Franklin): 109 items purchased and distributed to classrooms! Thanks to parents for donating.

## 5. New Business

- a. **Holiday Shoppe** (Jenn Dickerson): Will be virtual again this year and will run Wednesday November 17 to Friday November 26. Flier to come soon.
- b. **Reflections** (Meredith Heyl & Cassie Jackson): NPTA sponsored arts program. Sparks will participate in the visual arts category only. Divisions for primary grades( K-2), intermediate grades (3-5), and special artists. Entries will be judged by 3 judges and given positive feedback. 4 contestants from each division will have their work sent on to the county level to be judged. Submissions due November 15.
- c. **Thanksgiving Food Drive**: Will coordinate with Mrs. Oates again this year. Will donate to Sparks families in need as well. Flier with info to follow.

## 6. Announcements

**October 29-Halloween Parade and parties, 2 pm**

**Nov. 5 Half Day**

**Nov 10 (Weds) Woodfire Spirit Night**

**Nov 10 PTA Meeting 7 pm**

**Nov 15 Reflections Due**

**Nov 15-19 American Education Week**

**Nov 17 Thanksgiving Food Drive (tentative date)**

**Nov 17-26 Holiday Shoppe**

**Nov 25-26 Thanksgiving Holiday**

**7. Adjournment- 8:05 pm**