

PTO Board Meeting Notes: 3/12/19

1. The annual open PTO meeting has been rescheduled to Tuesday, May 14 @ 7pm. It will be held at Comellas to allow for parent socializing afterwards. The guest speaker will be School Resource Officer Brad Pindel. Either Mike or Matt will attend.
2. The PTO voted to pay for a cast party for the 7th / 8th grade musical up to \$200.
3. Amazon Wish Lists for teachers: At the request of the PTO, Mike & Matt asked teachers in recent staff meetings if there was anything they needed that the PTO could supply. One teacher provided an Amazon Wish List. The PTO is postponing a funding decision in hopes of soliciting similar Amazon Wish lists from other teachers. M/M agreed to discuss with teacher team leaders. In elementary schools, parents typically contribute money towards 2 gifts / year to their child's teacher (Christmas & end of the school year). This doesn't happen in middle school, so parents might welcome the opportunity to make direct contributions to their child's classrooms through Wish Lists at these same times of the school year. The PTO would publicize these lists & could also make purchases. Purchases could be made through Amazon Smile to benefit the TMS PTO. Possibly do a parent appeal in conjunction with Teacher Appreciation Week @ the beginning of May if there is enough teacher participation.
4. No updates on 8th Grade semiformal.
5. Erin & Liz reported that they had met with Nicole Banks, Westwood Recreation Director, and Joe Bertone, Program Manager, to ask the Rec Department to provide after school programs @ TMS for the 2019-2020 school year. Erin / Liz reviewed current TMS after school offerings, including Tues / Thurs. enrichment programs, drama, and seasonal sports. Ideally, and depending on the availability of space and rec staff, programs could be: held on each day of the week, not just Tues / Thurs; offered seasonally, in sessions lasting between 6-8 weeks; organized & staffed by the Rec Department; promoted @ TMS and also through the Rec Department's seasonal brochures. Not dependent on the availability of late buses. Possibly offer one-time special programming for short Wednesdays, including local trips such as Escape the Room, rock climbing, etc.. Parents would register their students for programs, and pay, through the Rec Department. The PTO could make grants to reduce to costs of programs and also provide individual grants for students needing financial assistance. Maybe a "trial" program on one or two remaining short Wednesdays this year? Rec Department agreed to consider and to meet with us again.
6. Discussion of bus hopping: Matt to investigate and follow up with the district bus coordinator.
7. School greenhouse: The PTO voted to fund a small growing system requested by the CASE teacher, which can be put to use immediately, at a cost of about \$700.
8. Breastfeeding Room: Mike & staff volunteers have been investigating options. Liz presented the Mamava, a self-contained and portable breastfeeding room. Discussion re: MA legal requirements for a breastfeeding space and whether or not it must include a sink. Further investigation required.