

PTO Meeting 2/9/2021

Present: Pam Schnatterly, Hongmei Xu, Alana Marino, Rebecca Wasynczuk

Social Media The Thurston Facebook community is growing and it provides a convenient source of middle school information.

Snowman Contest entrants are posted on the Thurston Facebook page. All Thurston student builders are invited to email photographed submissions of their winter snowman creations. The contest continues through February 19. Prizes will be awarded in several categories on February 26.

Family Tech Talk will be on Tuesday, March 9 and is available to the parents of Thurston Middle School Students. The PTO has arranged this event and flyers will be forthcoming in the AtoZ backpack. Details will also be posted on the Facebook page. Alana will follow up with the Family Tech Talk lady and email a blurb out reminding parents of the event before March 9.

METCO participated in the Westwood Community Book Talk on February 1 which hosted author Jennifer DeLeon who wrote the book *Don't Ask Me Where I Am From*.

SEPAC has been busy hosting back to back events on January 26 and February 2 regarding transitioning planning.

Teacher Appreciation event planning is underway. For Teacher Appreciation week in the spring, the PTO plans to provide either a food truck or a boxed lunch for teachers. The cost of this endeavor will be substantial, and an opportunity to contribute by "sponsoring a teacher" for \$5 (or any donated amount) will be available.

High School Virtual Clubs. The big effort to investigate the viability of launching virtual clubs for middle school students led by WHS students continues on. A survey revealed student interests, and now Karen will follow up with WHS guidance counselor Lynn Medsker to find high school leaders.

6th, 7th, and 8th grade festivities. Watch for an email inviting interested parents to volunteer to help plan the Sixth Grade Scavenger Hunt. Hopefully this event will be coming this spring as covid allows. The 7th grade writer's workshop is arranged by Thurston staff and the PTO will help by purchasing a related memento for students. Julie, Dawnmarie and Alana have several ideas for the 8th graders. They will be selling t-shirts to raise money for some of their end-of-the-year events. They are also hoping to offer a spring drive-in in conjunction with WHS. Other plans can be rolled out on short notice if the covid restrictions change.

Apparel Sales. The next apparel sale will be offered in the fall.

Site Council. The Site council met in January.

PTO Officers. The PTO has a position open for next year. If you are interested in serving on the PTO board as treasurer, please email Thurstonmiddleschoolpto@gmail.com.

Next Meeting of the board will be on Tuesday March 9. Special thanks to Hongmei Xu on her amazing technical know-how, and for setting up and acquiring a license for the PTO's Zoom account.