

## Ames PTA Virtual Meeting

January 21, 2021

6:04 Call to Order-Susan Wolfe

President-Susan Wolfe

- Thank you for coming and let's welcome our Superintendent Martha Ryan-Toye

Superintendent

- Saliva Screening – we would love to increase participation in screening. Currently we are at 74% of students participating, and would love to be at 85% or so. Its surveillance screening which helps us understand pre-symptomatic. Reliability of testing is 'high'
- District would love feedback from parents about the screening
- Cost of tests are \$11 per test per person. The school district/taxpayers absorb the cost, but we hopefully will be using federal funding that will cover this. We are anticipating receiving \$598,000 in federal funding. Will pay for saliva screening and summer school, and still determining how to allocate these funds.
- Currently there are 2 new cases. 1 at Hauser (identified from screening) and 1 at Ames
- We are really pleased to be able to offer in-person learning. Thanks to families for continued support
- School schedule will likely remain the same for duration of year. We probably won't be able to add hours/modify schedules
- We still have a lot to learn, and planning for next year has already begun.
- Beginning 1/22 info about the 3rd trimester shift will be posted if they want to switch to/from in-person learning.
- Summer school will be at Ames this summer. Hopefully we will have lots of options
- Strategic Planning is off to a good start. Discussions about the district and its future focus. Reach out to Susan, Jen or Aaron Butler or Mrs Duve if you have questions on discussion points.
- Comment for Martha—thank you for letting the kids switch to/from in-person. Transition from remote to in-person has been fantastic
- Thanks to the teachers for all you do!
- Phase 1B includes teachers for vaccines. This phase starts 1/25. Still unsure how our staff will receive it. Quick survey of staff: 159 total-5 say they will not get the vaccine, 15 unsure if they will get vaccinated.

Mr. Gierman

- Thanks to all parents/staff for giving it your all. Adaptive pause was the right thing to do and we are all really happy to be back.
- Map testing for 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> graders will be on Tuesday and Wednesday
- Student Council food drive is going on now for Riverside Food Pantry
- Discussions have begun for class picture/yearbooks.
- Erin's Law Program will be Feb 18

Mrs. Duve

- We are partnering once again with AAUW for the Women's History Poster Contest. Mrs King will help with posters and hopefully they will hang in the library again.

Mr. Bookler (via email)

- In lieu of fun election stuff that we normally do, we found ways to teach kids about voting and ballots and found fun ways to 'vote' for stuff
- 5<sup>th</sup> grade celebrations are still unknown. 5<sup>th</sup> grade tshirts will be created

Mr. Becker

- Kids are awesome and we all appreciate how they are handling covid situations. Thanks!

Comments/Questions for Mr. Gierman

- Drop off/Pick up line still needs to streamline the process
- Crosswalk situation on west side of the school isn't ideal. There are too many kids for 2 separate walks with one guard. We may need to revisit the footprint. Especially when all of Ames kids are in school together next year.
- Basketball court - we will install nets in the spring. They were left off to prevent congregating. Nets are coming to protect neighbor house
- Playground is great. It feels like a fun place to be
- For the Historical Perspectives assembly we can do an online presentation, but would we get enough out of this experience? Looking for feedback.

Secretary-Patty

- Minutes from December Meeting approval- Kelly, Maria

Treasurer-Kelly

- No new stuff. Budget gets updated periodically

VP Communications-Lou Fitzgerald

- Please follow us on social media and read links in newsletter
- Searching for some help on website revamp. Anyone savvy with wordpress templates, please help!
- Lou manages emails, so if anyone needs anything published in newsletter or info or questions, email her at: [loiusa.worthington@gmail.com](mailto:loiusa.worthington@gmail.com)

VP Cultural Arts & Educational Programs-Jennifer Butler

- Historical Perspectives virtual assembly is a 'maybe' still deciding
- Holiday shop is confirmed for next year.
- One Book/One School is shelved for a year

VP Fundraising- Auste Graham

- Restaurant Night-Portillos in Forest Park is Feb. 9

- Book Fair-we are trying to have an in person book fair instead of virtual. Not sure of details or if its actually possible.
- Bricks-\$100 each. They are put into a reading circle. Bricks are offered every other year. Hopefully we can get them done and delivered before school gets out. No guarantees.

#### VP Room Reps-Maria Munch

- Mystery Reader (virtual) for 1<sup>st</sup> graders a huge success.
- Drive In Movie night for spring is in the works. Stay tuned for more details.

#### VP Hospitality-Michelle Galindo

- Coffee/Bagels in teachers lounge this week for a little winter appreciation
- Teacher Appreciation committee will get together soon to begin talks of spring teacher appreciation week

#### New Business ?

- Peggy Collings-Jr Great Books will have to be virtually during lunchtime. Look for email soon.

#### Adjourn 7:20

Attendance-Martha Ryan-Toye, Mr. Gierman, Mr. Becker, Mrs. Duve, Susan Wolfe, Maria, Jen & Aaron Butler, Deanna, Marissa, Auste, Lou, Kelly, Patty, Meg Binder, Katie Kowal, Shelby Mitchell, Peggy Collings, Michelle Galindo, Pina Ritacca, Carrie & Mike Zalewski