

Clintonville Elementary School PTA Agenda

Wednesday 11-14-18 7:00 pm

Secretary: Tammy Lizotte



1. Opening of meeting (Megin Kelly - President): Time:7:04 pm
2. Guest Speaker: Mrs. Diane Lizcano, Clintonville Social Worker who will discuss anxiety
 - a. Anxiety is a natural reaction to the stressors in life – first day of school, new friends, lunch, tests, etc.
 - b. Unpleasant but can serve a purpose with motivation, unless it is overwhelming and getting in the way of getting everyday things done.
 - c. Parenting is stressful and can cause anxiety – when children sense parent stress, their anxiety can increase.
 - d. Important to normalize anxiety to kids (like anger, sadness and frustration).
 - e. How to help children manage anxiety:
 - i Breathing exercises
 - ii “Inner Coach” – self talk
 - iii Thinking positive thoughts
 - f. Helping a child manage anxiety builds resilience and self-esteem:
 - i Resilience helps children build skills to manage life stressors in the future,
 - ii Help children push through a little discomfort to feel successful builds resilience,
 - iii Unspoken message of being overprotective and shielding children from all stressors means that they cannot do it,
 - iv Children need to know that they are competent to manage.
 - g. Signs to look for:
 - i School avoidant / school refusal can become a bigger problem if we do not confront it,
 - ii If anxiety is getting in way of everyday things,
 - iii Eating habits,
 - iv Sleep habits,
 - v Sleep walking – nightmares,
 - vi Irritable – mood changes,
 - vii Somatic symptoms.
 - h. School resources are available to help assist and have students work through anxiety and fear (anticipatory anxiety) is the most challenging but getting through helps them feel successful and more confident - School psychologist, school social worker, nurse, administrators, SRO, and teachers are all part of the resource group.
 - Focus on the long-term goal of developing self-efficacy and resilience and not the short-term circumstance,
 - Anxiety is more prevalent in the population; lack of connection to real world, pressures, genetic

component versus environmental circumstances.

3. Principal Shares (Mrs. Dowling):
 - a. Attendance – Chronically absence rules are defined by the State Department of Education (number of days absent versus number of days school has been in session)
 - i Mrs. Dowling has to send a letter about chronically absent when the student's absence (excused or not excused) reaches the definition – Mrs. Dowling will write notes on letter to help parents / guardians understand process
 - ii Chronically absences do not mean truant, but the letters will be sent monthly
 - iii Truancy however is also dictated by state definition
 - iv The state collects information about absences per school and per district to monitor absence rate
 - b. Trees of Hope for Ronald McDonald House – Dec 1 through Dec 9th (10am to 5pm)
 - i Theme is diversity – students will create a garland of people to be left at the school for students to see the connection we all have to one another
 - ii Purchase a tree for donation
 - iii Maritime Center Event with trees that will be on display –
 - iv Each class has chosen an ornament
 - c. Food pantry collection / donation (Month of December)
 - d. Pretesting for the SBAC testing will begin (grades 3,4,5)
 - e. Early dismissal protocol
 - i All call from district or school – no YMCA, no after school activities, or enrichment
 - ii Delayed openings – superintendent makes the decision based on safety and weather report
4. PTA Council Report (Nicole D'Aria):
 - a. Next meeting is Nov 27, 2018 and we will be given update at the next PTA meeting in January
5. Board of Education Representative Report (Lisa McCann):
 - a. Focused on superintendent selection – all candidates have been vetted, per Dr. Joe Eradi
 - i More learning through play in the elementary schools was a big topic
 - b. Professional Development of Stop the Bleed for staff and teachers
6. Treasurer Report (Holly Gifford/Brian O'Connor):
 - a. Brian O'Connor presented the Sept 1– November 12 Profit and Loss Report
 - i He attended the mandatory Treasurer PTA CT State training
 - ii Still working on the credit card payment process so families can run a purchase
 - iii Attended Junior Achievement Fundraiser and presented a motion for \$100 to be donated to this program – will put on the January 22, 2018 agenda for all voting members to participate
 - 1 Suggestion that we promote that the JA program works purely on donation although the program actually cost \$50 per student and that we set a date for next year prior to the conclusion of this year
 - b. Income Received Report
 - c. Items Paid Out
 - d. Fundraiser updates (profit)
 - i 5th grade – Pampered Chef \$200, Election Day Owl Donation – over \$1000
7. President (Megin) shares:
 - a. All PTA Meetings for 2018-2019 Year will be in the Clintonville Conference Room from 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm
No December 2018 meeting – next meeting is January 22, 2019
 - b. “Boo Bingo” - October 24, 2018 (6:00 pm to 8:00 pm) – very successful night – possible increase fee to \$8
 - c. Fall Festival - October 31, 2018 – Positive outcome for kids even with the changes that had to be implemented regarding food – Staff reported to having a really get time with kids having fun
 - d. Election Day “Fill the Owl” – very successful!

- e. Girls Scouts want to thank Clintonville community for helping collect 55 coats for Share the Warmth
- 8. Current Clintonville Important Events, through December 2018:
 - a. November 14, 2018 – Restaurant fundraiser at JRoos (coupon/flyer must be present for dine-in and/or take-out!)
 - b. Book Fair - November 28-30, 2018 – Roxanne Harris is the coordinator
 - i Can fill your account online for the student to spend and will be credited back for any unused monies
 - c. CRIF – Week of December 3, 2018 (contact Committee Chair, Jaime Russo if interested jaimerusso@gmail.com) – Looking for more volunteers to work in the class with reading activity
 - d. Holiday Bazaar – Saturday December 1, 2018 (Chair Bill Wargo, burner610@aol.com) – 9-3pm
 - i Food trucks, crafts
 - ii No picture with Santa this year
 - e. Winter Music Concert (grade 4 & 5) – December 10, 2018
 - f. School Wide PBIS Spirit Day / PJ Day – December 21, 2018 (ALL SPIRIT DAYS CAN BE FOUND ON PTA WEBSITE – monthly calendar)
 - g. Art Program is run by Nicole D’Aria and could use help – looking into Shutterfly – please email Nicole if interested in getting involved

- **Keep in mind the amazonsmile account fundraiser given the holidays**

9. Close of Meeting: Motion: Megin 2nd: approved 8:21pm Stacey Yarbrough

NEXT PTA MEETING –January 22, 2019