

Home & School Association

HSA Meeting Minutes October 16, 2024

6:30 PM



I. Opening Prayer

II. Introductions

- Megan made mention of SignUp Genius for signing up for SJE school events

III. Lake County Library Presentation – Jennifer Miller

- Resources for Student Success – can get full access library card through Lake County Public Library system.
- Jenny went over student library cards – how it works, full access vs e-library card. The only difference is you are able to visit and take home books with full access card. Student access cards do not have late fees or damage fees.
- Displayed LC Library website – how to use Online Research tools for finding databases
- New York Times, Rosetta Stone, Wall Street Journal – use student card for free access
- Research Tool for Students – sorted by topic (science, language, biographies, etc). Curated, edited, and updated regularly
- Career Learning Database – CareerCruising
- Free Apps – Hoopla and Libby (eBooks/audio books). Teachers have taught students how to use Libby. Jenny passed out sheet about 24/7 access to eBook apps. Hoopla has TV shows, comic books, and movies. Libby is more user friendly with more popular titles. Can customize view on Libby.

IV. Treasury Update – Heather DeJarlais

- We are doing just fine. Reimbursements are going through, little slow as trying to reconcile things. Set up your online Race for Education account (only way to get a NUT card). We were able to, at the beginning of the school year, offer Teachers \$200 to help supplement materials for classroom/students/subscriptions. We're going to continue this next semester as well.

V. Grandparents Day Recap

- Round of applause for Grandparents Day chairs. Seamlessly executed! Thank you Olga and Aimee! HSA is going to address the lack of chairs situation. Need to dedicate funds to ensure we have enough tables and chairs in the gym for school events. The day is a lot for teachers – give up a day of instruction – but great feedback. Suggestion would be to do Grandparents Day on 11:55am dismissal days. Could we tighten timeline/activities in gym? Feedback about lunch time open classrooms so teachers are available while grandparents are visiting classrooms.. Question about grandparents who are no longer with us – can they bring a special person? Emphasize Special Persons Day next year.

VI. Treat Cart

- Treat cart is going really well – largest participation ever this last Spirit Day. Everyone is involved and remembering to bring dollars. It does run on donations. The purpose is to help our Student Council fundraise for their events. Student Council threw middle school dance but this dance depleted their funds. HSA funded first round of treats, rest of it is on them and parent volunteers.

QR code on screen to buy treats – you do not have to buy on Amazon. Leaning toward healthy snacks. Fruit sells big time! Everything is priced at \$1. Suggestion – link to Amazon wish list on service hours portion of website or is there a way that parents can make a donation and someone else can order what is needed?

VII. Teacher Appreciation Breakfasts

- We had our first one last month – it was lovely. We're using HSA funds. There is a committee who handles this. Everything is going well. Next breakfast is October 18th, 2024.

VIII. Race for Education – Megan Lowe

- Megan and Jackie running Race for Education this year. Parents need to set up race page on our new crowdfunding platform to receive NUT day card. HSA page has link to create students page. When donations are mailed in, Jackie enters all mailed in donations to students specific race page. Once you make a race page, you can send out the student specific link. Goal is every student to raise \$200. Above 20k raised so far. Grades 1-4 will walk from 10am-11am to Prairie West. Culvers will be giving out ice cream to all the walkers. K, 5-8 will walk from 1:15pm-2:15pm. Our goal is \$60k, necessary funds to raise for science, technology. Teachers are asking for science/math subscription. It really is making a difference having these funds available! There is no last day to donate.

IX. TRIP Video

- Megan played a video about TRIP. TRIP Program is tuition credit for things you are buying and using every day. Email to get link for gift cards. App download takes a few days – you will need to add payment to app. Options to do gift cards or e-gift cards. E-cards come instantaneously. Whatever dollar amount you spend, 2-2.5% comes back as tuition credit (given out twice a year – Christmas time and end of year). Most retailers have e-cards.
- What can we use TRIP for if we are on vouchers/choice scholarship? Can be applied towards iPad fees, it can also go towards PASS donations.
- Video and email will be included in weekly update (SJETRIP@gmail.com)
- There are several local businesses who participate in TRIP who are not online. They give vouchers for portion of sales back to you.

X. PASS Update

- PASS is Parent Assisted Salary Supplement. Program instated 3-4 years ago to replace gift giving around Christmas and end of year. Instead of buying gifts, we are asking parents to make financial contributions to PASS which gets distributed back to teachers. PASS is twice a year – Christmas and end of year. Teachers are making less than public school peers, it's a nice contribution for them at the end of the semester. Small push made during Grandparents Day (QR codes, messaging). PASS is at 2k right now. Our total goal for entire year is 60k. Our first major push will be pre-Thanksgiving. A big turkey to put on wall in school and each child will get a feather to write a teacher they are thankful for and include donation to put on turkey. Each teacher has received around \$500-\$800.

XI. Upcoming Events

- a. Halloween – wear orange and black
- b. All Saints Day Parties – dress up as a Saint
 - a. K-4 parties
 - b. 5-8 Fun Lunch – Papa Johns pizza (supplemented with snacks provided by Room Parents)
 - c. Costume Parade at Mass

XII. Veteran's Day – November 8th

- Check weekly update for Veteran's Day information. Parent participation is available, we still have openings for that.

XIII. Thanksgiving Food Drive – November 11th-19th

XIV. Daddy/Daughter Dance

- Looking for new person to take over Daddy/Daughter dance, need people to shadow. It is a lot easier compared to previous years. Takes place at Halls of St George. Sign up will be put on SignUp Genius. Always at the end of Catholic School Weeks. This year's date is Friday January 31st, 2025.

XV. Spring Fling – May 9th, 2025 – Sydnee DeJong

- Biggest fundraiser event for the school. 2 tickets are parent obligation. Last year's theme for Kentucky Derby, continue horse theme. Same set up. Looking for volunteers. First meeting will be Oct 30th at 7pm at the MEC. We meet monthly beginning in January. Made the most money ever last year, made over 100k.

XVI. Q & A

- Are we doing Mother/Son event this year? Yes, we have a committee. When details are ready, will be shared at future HSA meeting.

XVII. Closing Prayer