Kenmore Middle School PTSA Meeting Minutes
October 25, 2022

**Meeting commenced at 7:35 pm.**

**In attendance:** General membership, Mr. McBride (Principal), Nga Nguyen (President), Kathy Evans (Treasurer), Amanda Martin (VP, Fundraising), Anita Cater (VP, Programs) and Alice Burke (Secretary).

**Welcome** – Nga welcomed everyone and began short presentation by the VPs, accompanied by PowerPoint slides (copy attached to minutes). Nga gave a short overview of PTSA’s support of the Hispanic Heritage Month luncheon through purchase of a portion of the meal. She also relayed the success of the first PTSA event, a movie night on the law of Kenmore on the night of October 20. Approximately 150 people attended to watch Sing 2 and to enjoy the free popcorn and sno cones. Given the successs, the PTSA will plan for another movie night in the spring. Nga also reminded all that Arlington Mill Community Center would be doing a free registration clinic on October 25 for ParentVue registrations, which are due by October 31.

**Fundraising Update -** VP Amanda Martin gave a fundraising update on the Brick’s Pizza purchases the night of the outdoor movie, and reminded others that several restaurant nights are coming up.

Kicks of Kenmore has started in the front hall of Kenmore. All students and families are encouraged to drop off gently used shoes. On November 18 and December 9 (the night of the dance show) there will be extra dropoff locations for car dropoff in the evening. All are encouraged to ask friends and neighbors to also drop shoes. Proceeds go to a non-profit that resells the shoes overseas to micro-investment organizations, and will share the proceeds of shoe resale with Kenmore. Please note, no rollerblades/ski boots/etc. – just shoes.

The Raise Right gift card program is running for PTSA, but Amanda noted that the online gift card delivery portion of the site is expected to be running by spring, and focus for this fundraiser may be better at that time.

Finally, plans are beginning for the spring 5K, and for a potential inter-school faculty basketball game in the winter, perhaps with Carlin Springs Elementary.

**Treasurer’s Update** – Kathy Evans updated that membership is growing; in September PTSA received $875 in membership dues, and $500 in no-sweat contributions. Spirit Wear was $96, and the Amazon Prime $59. Please remind all at Kenmore to sign up for Kenmore as the designated charity for the Amazon Smile program.

**Principal’s Welcome** – Mr. McBride agreed that the movie night was a success, with lots of families that represented a diverse cross-section of the community. It was a great activity for being together and talking, as there is a real need for students to feel connected to the school. There is a planned dance fundraiser October 26 after school for students to help raise funds for the new dance floor.

Conferences were held last week. Mr. McBride reminded that all parents are encouraged to call the Kenmore hotline 703-228-6800 (yes, the main number) and talk with their grade’s school counselor and/or assistant principal about questions they may have about Kenmore or to report and discuss issues their child may be facing.

Mr. McBride reminded that there is currently no late bus on Fridays.

**Presentation – Navigating Canvas (Mr. Papparella)**

Mr. Papparella gave a presentation on the use of Canvas, ParentVue and Student Vue. [The slide presentation is attached to the minutes.] The presentation was helpful and drew several questions from the audience, first about the site and then branching to other subjects (see below).

**Q&A from General Membership:**

Q: how a parent can get access to the StudentVue site, which has more details about assignments and status than ParentVue? A: There is a limited access option for StudentVue that requires a code and for the student to grant access. More information on this will be forthcoming.

Q: What is the best method to reach a teacher? A: The Talking Points app on the school Ipad is the best method to reach them, remembering that they may not answer late at night and on weekends. Canvas is the backbone of communication between students and teachers.

Q: What is Paper? A: Paper is the free online tutoring service. All students have access 24/7 to a service called Paper that will help with any subject. The tutors will not do the homework for the students, but will provide them with guidance and additional assistance in working through reasoning. The service is FREE and accessible through Clever, located on the school Ipads.

Q: What is the status of letting kids outside at lunch? A (McBride): Kenmore is looking to hire another teacher’s aide to supervise outside, at which time they will issue passes for up to 30 kids to go outside each lunch period. If your child is desperate to be outside now, please contact your grade level counselor or assistance principal about options.

**Other Business** – Mr. Pratte (Band) reminded everything that the fall band fundraiser for pie is running now, and that he will need some volunteers on November 15 to assist with the staging and delivery of pies for distribution. **Meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm.**Submitted by:Alice Burke
Kenmore PTSA Secretary
on November 1, 2022