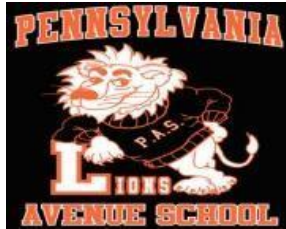


Pennsylvania Avenue School 27 PTO Meetings 2020-2021



- ❖ **Date:** April 26, 2021
- ❖ **Meeting Called to Order by:** Joy Barrett, Recording Secretary, at 6:35pm
- ❖ **Executive Members in Attendance:** Susan Palmeri, Michelle Pires, Gerard Palmeri, JoyAnne Barrett, Mrs. Clyne, Mr. Leusen, Principal.

- ❖ **Approval of Minutes from Prior Meeting:**
 - 1st Motion to Approve: Yes
 - 2nd Motion to Approve: Yes

- ❖ **Treasurer's Statements:** Gerry Palmeri, Treasurer
 - -PTO balance: \$25,571.43
 - -PTO Goals: \$16,442.98
 - More fundraising has come in now but has not been totalled as of yet.
 - The breakdown of the balance shall be tallied soon.

- ❖ **Reading of Communications:** JoyAnne Barrett, Recording Secretary
 - Ms. Connie sent a thank you to the PTO for the flowers & for the PTO celebrating & remembering her for Administrative Professional's Day.
 - Links for memberships and current events will be listed below at bottom of minutes.

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❖ New Dates to Remember:

- Restaurant Nights @ Ciro's Mondays in May and June
- April 27th School Spirit Day
- Restaurant Nights: Thursday 5/6 Smashburger (clark) ; 5/13 Moe's (linden) ; 5/27 Panera (clark) Jon Smith Subs(flyers will be sent out via email, Remind & social media.)
- Teacher Appreciation Week May 3-7
- Principal Appreciation Day May 1
- Firefighter Appreciation Day May 4
- Nurses Appreciation Day May 6
- Police Appreciation Week May 6-15
- EMS Appreciation Week May 16 - 22
- Next meeting Monday May 24, 2021

❖ PTO Meeting dates -

- Monday May 24, 2021

❖ Comments from the President:

- Wanted to thank everyone for attending the meetings.
- Really like doing the Zoom with creating the ability to have more attendance.
- And I want to thank the volunteers for fundraisers and clothing by the Pound.
- Thank you to all of you that have helped out when we reached out for volunteers and for those of you that have contributed to any of our fundraisers this year.
- We recently had our Spring clothes by the pound fundraiser. A big thank you to all that donated and helped out.

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❖ Comments from the President (cont.):

- We were going to hold a 50/50 last month but we ran into a regulation issue. We will be able to use the license for the 50/50 one day only and have chosen to hold it the morning of the 4th grade National Honor Society Induction. More families will be in attendance that day. Having already paid for the license I wanted to try and do it. I want to thank Joy for all the hard work she does in getting these licenses and amending all documents we need. Thank You Joy!
- We are making Bi-Annual updates to the PTO By-Laws and are asking the PTO to review the By-Laws and send comments to the pennave27pto@gmail.com by 5/14.
- Thank you to Chantel Leeman for putting together the Spring Break PS 27 Scavenger Hunt. I hope many of you had the opportunity to participate. It was very enjoyable. Thank you.

❖ Recording Secretary Joy Barrett to The Chairs & Floor:

- Reminder 1 : To all chairs, please send flyers, letters and public related posts to our Vice President, Michelle Pires at pennave27vp@outlook.com and she will review it prior to final approval by Mr. Leusen
- Reminder 2: When it's your turn to speak please limit your notices, questions and concerns to 1-2 minutes. If need be, you can always directly email the Executive PTO Board or Principal Leusen with a private concern or to speak further. We would like to try to keep these Zoom meetings as short as possible and this will help to ensure this.

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❖ Chairpersons Reports/updates : (LIMIT TO UNDER 2 (TWO) MINUTES.):

- Spiritwear: Spiritwear brought in an additional \$10.00 from an On Hand Order. (Joy)
- Restaurant Nights: Ciro's is averaging about \$70 a month in fundraising through them and we will continue to be reserved for Mondays at Ciro's for May and June. We will also have Thursdays reserved for PS 27 Restaurant Nights at Smashburger (Clark), Moe's (Linden), Panera (Clark). We did very well switching it up on Thursday's. (Dates listed above in New Dates to Remember.)(Joy/Michelle)
- Hospitality: We were able to use some of the restaurant gift cards received from 80's night to feed our teachers last month. The few gift cards still remaining will be used during Teacher Appreciation week. *We are looking for donations for Teacher Appreciation week. Please text Vanessa Branco at (732) 510-8109 if interested in helping with donations for the teachers. It would be greatly appreciated.
- Family Fun: Spring Break PS 27 Scavenger Hunt winners were called for gift cards. There were 17 participants. We put all 17 names on a wheel of names and chose 3 winners below. (Chantel Leeman)
- 1st Place \$50 to Ciro's - Alana Boyce & Family
- 2nd Place \$20 to Colonia Dairy Maid - Ethan Kitchell & Family
- 3rd Place \$10 to Dunkin Donuts - Emma & Sarah Burisch & Family

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❖ Chairpersons Reports/updates : (LIMIT TO UNDER 2 (TWO) MINUTES.):

- 5th grade coordinator: Fundraising for 5th grade has gone very well this year. Thank you to all the fifth grade families and other supportive Penn Ave families that have helped contribute to this success. Yearbooks are being finalized. Please reach out to Connie Maskel with any questions or concerns in regards to 5th grade yearbooks at pennave27ptofifthgradeco@gmail.com. Michelle Pires went over details for Connie who was not at meeting. (Connie Maskel)

❖ New Business/Old Business: (LIMIT TO UNDER 2 (TWO) MINUTES.)

- A google form will be going out this month to get nominations for next year's PTO positions. Please consider yourselves as well as other Penn Ave parents as nominees. After nominees are acquired an email will go out asking for votes. This is Sue's last year as President. As Treasurer, Gerry has been Treasurrer for many years and his son has one more year left here at P27. He's willing to do one more year but, with that being said, he needs to start training someone to learn the ropes and will need a shadow for the Treasurer so someone needs to reach out to him.
- Please review the Bylaws located on our PTO website. Any comments or suggestions should be emailed to the PTO at pennave27pto@gmail.com no later than May 14th.
- When teachers are in the building. A few times a month we will coordinate and donate breakfast goodies or drinks (box of Joe, dozen donuts, muffins) for teachers & staff at PS27. (Johanna/Joy) Every few weeks the PTO Fairy has consistently dropped off muffins or something for everyone, if anyone is ever interested in contributing to bake or donate something please text Joy Barrett at (732)754-5131.

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❖ Principal's Comments: Mr. Thomas Leusen, Principal:

- Thank you everyone. Thank you to all volunteers. I appreciate all efforts and they definitely do not go unnoticed. It makes us so much more effective. We have now been back 5 days a week. Staff and 250 students 5 days a week. We are at the top 3 in the district including middle and high school. It's like a regular school. It's been great and everyone is doing well with it and if there are slip ups we offer gentle reminders. It's been fairly successful. I hope and am confident these next few days going forward till the end of the year will go well. The teachers have been able to get vaccinated. BOE arranged for teachers and staff to get vaccinated which helps keep schools open, helping us have enough staff.
- School equity and diversity council removing ESL barriers roughly 40% of our students are Hispanic help preventing barriers. District is pushing E&D & this was introduced this year and this program has been successful.
- There is no NJLSA testing this year. The Federal Gov. approved no testing and I believe it is wiser that we instruct students. In fall 2021 we will do the Start Strong assessment, which is not as long of a test.
- End of year activities are coming up and will be in person, all outside with rain dates. The dates will be announced from the office. The ceremonies are:
 - EHS 5th graders ceremony
 - EHS 4th graders ceremony
 - 1st grade reading ceremony
 - Kindergarten stepping up ceremony
 - Kindergarten orientation
- We WILL Celebrate the end of the school year! Each class will get to do something with their class...(We will not be having a field day though.)

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❖ **Principal's Comments: Mr. Thomas Leusen, Principal (cont.):**

- In person summer school is planned for the entire month of July for 3 hours a day.
- Each school will nominate students that are not meeting academic levels to get help with funding from The Federal Cares Act. (middle school always has summer school, HS always has Credit Care, this is new for elementary) but will really help struggling learners.
- For everyone that is interested; The Imagine Learning Program is available over the Summer.
- We have a New Superintendent Massimino. This happened very quickly. Dr. Zega is not retiring but will hold another level somewhere else. Dr. Zega did a great job and it was very challenging, especially this past year with the challenges of the covid pandemic and I really think he did what was best for everyone.
- That is all I have. Thank you.

❖ **Concerns from other Committee Chairs(cont.):** (If not urgent, please speak with the Executive Board separately.) **(IF SPEAKING LIMIT TO UNDER 2 (TWO) MINUTES.) Please ANNOUNCE YOUR NAME PRIOR TO YOUR QUESTION/COMMENT.**

- Colleen Machado- Is there a Field Day? Individual Class Day Fun Days but no OFFICIAL Field Day but we are in the plans with the teacher to do individual class activities, Sue will keep pto in the loop
- Paya Patel - Is there a way to get Positive covid data for the last time a kid was in the building?
- L- You would receive a follow up notice email
- Payal Patel - What about now that they are sharing a lunch room?
- L- they are sitting farther than 10 feet than an individual class.
- Payal Patel - What about Thermometer checking?- Any further discussion from last meeting? I'm concerned about transmission.

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- ❖ **Concerns from other Committee Chairs(cont.):** (If not urgent, please speak with the Executive Board separately.) **(IF SPEAKING LIMIT TO UNDER 2 (TWO) MINUTES.) Please ANNOUNCE YOUR NAME PRIOR TO YOUR QUESTION/COMMENT.**

- L-We did discuss internally. Between Nurse Clyne and another registered person the PTO did purchase thermometers for our school so every child gets temps checked within half an hour of entering the building. We will always err on the side of caution with our kids and our school. We follow the board of health guidelines. Even with a covid test. Mr. Weisenstein is liaison. And even with updated guidelines. They use district guidelines. We follow every guideline.
- Payal Patel - Has there been any in school transmission?
- L- NO. & That is our ultimate goal.
- Tricia Arrendando - Is there any word on full five days?
- L- No word. Because there is the need to sanitize all the busses in the district for all the schools.
- Tricia Arrendando- I heard that the new superintendent said busing shouldn't be an issue
- L- I haven't heard anything new.
- Tricia Arrendando- What about holding the Color Run?
- L- no for spring but POSSIBLY for fall
- Michelle Pires- Can we get a date for 5th grade promo activities?
- L- call the office tomorrow for that we have the dates in office & will be able to announce.
- Jackie Wilson- will remote students be allowed to attend outdoor activities if the family feels comfortable?
- L- yes, For instance, I know the 5th grade wants to do a picnic, so I don't see why not. We'll just have to work out logistics for everyone.
-

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❖ **Concerns from other Committee Chairs(cont.):** (If not urgent, please speak with the Executive Board separately.) **(IF SPEAKING LIMIT TO UNDER 2 (TWO) MINUTES.)**

- Chantle Leeman- There was a child that went away out of state. And then was allowed in the building. I'm wondering why no one quarantined this child.
- L- This may have been a situation where the child was temp checked and had no symptoms. If there were symptoms we automatically would send those children home. There are times we have to play detective. That has become the hardest part of this.
- Chantle Leeman- I was under the impression those that went away out of state would be quarantined.
- L- It may be something to look at going forward but NJ is the worst with covid and we would not leave a child alone in a room quarantined especially if we can't reach their parent.
- Kristin Szawan- I just want to extend my gratitude and thank you for everything you and the staff have done, being an administrator and you've all done so well and this is so hard and you've done an exemplary job, thank you.

❖ **Final Comments from the Presidents:**

- Thank you for attending. I think that will be it, want to call it Joy?

Adjourn Meeting: Time Called: **7:25: PM** by Joy Barrett Recording Secretary

Pennsylvania Avenue School 27 PTO Meetings 2020-2021

LINKS

Penn Ave Facebook Link:

<https://www.facebook.com/PennAve27PTO>

Penn Ave PTO Website Link:

<https://pennave27pto.wixsite.com/pennave27pto>

Link for Membership:

<https://pennave27pto.wixsite.com/pennave27pto/pto-membership>

Link for Meeting Minutes:

<https://pennave27pto.wixsite.com/pennave27pto/pto-meeting-minutes>

Link for Flyers:

<https://pennave27pto.wixsite.com/pennave27pto/flyers>

Link for 5th Grade Booster:

<https://pennave27pto.wixsite.com/pennave27pto/basic-11>

Link to View By-Laws (Can also go directly to PS27 School Website & view under Documents>PTO.):

<https://www.woodbridge.k12.nj.us/o/pennave27/browse/138166>