

PTA Advisory Meeting- March 3, 2021 10:00am-12:00pm

• Road to Success

- During the summer we began working on plans to get back into the schools
- We had to follow CDC guidelines, state guidelines as well as local guidelines
- We set up 4 plans with the idea we may need to pivot to another plan at a moment's notice
- We prepared schools for safety when they were ready to reopen
 - Desk Shields, rolling shields for teachers, hand sanitizing stations, PPE
 - Rearranged classrooms and moved teachers to ensure we could keep 6 feet of distance between desks
 - Rules put into place regarding social distancing and face coverings
- We enhanced digital resources
- Our road back has truly been a huge success with schools being open roughly 105 out of 110 possible school days
- We are currently planning as an admin team next steps to eventually move closer to our pre-COVID normal (full days)
- All decisions of when to close school or when to reopen are planned in close connection with the Board of Health. Their recommendation weighing very heavily on any decision made.

• MJS Updates

- Currently phasing to 5 day in person learning
- Student performance is being monitored and this data is helping to identify students who would benefit from more in person learning
- Phase 1 is to bring the blue and gold cohorts together
- Phase 2 will be to bring the 100% virtual students back into school
- A survey was sent out recently regarding this phase back to 5 days in person and there has been a huge response so far (266 out of 468 already responding)
- Teachers now have dedicated support periods in the afternoon
- Return to Spring Sports
 - 176 students have already registered to play in school Spring sports
 - The start date of practices will be after Spring break to allow for students who traveled out of state to quarantine
- Year End Events
 - Can't commit to anything yet, but planning is starting
 - Speaking with WPHS in regard to having outdoor graduation ceremony if it cannot be held indoors
 - 8th grade dance planning will start end of March and will discuss if there is a way to make a dance possible
- PTA
 - Wall mural is completed and looks terrific
 - Will support any end of year activities that are able to occur
 - Plan on doing lawn signs again this year
 - PTA meetings have been very well attended this year

- **MTV Updates**

- Staff has done an amazing job of keeping spirits up and having school be a fun environment
- Running various activities to keep school spirit up
- Working to keep usual end of year activities going this year
- Partnering with WPHS Junior Achievement Group for virtual meetings with the students
- Barclay's is meeting with the 4th grade classes for Digital Eagle Coding. This program is to help inspire kids to engage in technology
- PTA
 - Continuing with the Dine to Donate programs
 - Working on a fundraiser to raise money in order to supply teachers and staff with a special lunch for Teacher Appreciation week

- **BMS Updates**

- Starting to plan end of year activities, cannot commit to anything yet though
- There will be roughly 120 new kindergarten children in district next year
- Kindergarten screening is in the process of being planned
- Kindergarten orientation will be virtual this year
- PTA
 - Having virtual assemblies for students
 - Read-a-thon currently going on. Students have already read for over 22,000 minutes and the PTA has raised over \$11,000
 - Working through a \$40,000 grant for the new playground
 - Activities that have happened: Dine to Donate, Trivia Night, Gertrude Hawk, Donuts fundraiser, Valentine's Day cards for frontline workers

- **SDS Updates**

- Just finished the SOUPerbowl with the other schools in the district. 2,031 lbs of food were collected and donated to the Interfaith Food Pantry. District will receive a plaque for collecting so much food
- School had a visit from Cat in the Hat, have had Mystery Readers and participated in Wacky Wednesday in celebration of Dr. Seuss
- PTA
 - Having a virtual PJ Bingo night for students
 - Started a Grant Program in which teachers can apply for a grant from the PTA
 - Fundraising efforts include: Valentine's pizza kits, string art, birthday lawn signs, private easter egg hunt, trivia night
 - 5th grade held a wreath sale and bake sale (with Nothing Bundt Cakes)

- **Special Education Updates**

- Just had a workshop meeting which had 25-30 participants
- Application process for the inclusion preschool has occurred
- There will not be a lottery this year for the pre-school, everyone is accepted

- **Recreation**

- Registration for the pool is now open. Zoom meeting tonight for registration
- Guests will be allowed during the week this year
- They are hoping to have swim team this year
- Girls Lacrosse program will be happening for grades 4-8.
- Planning a movie night for 5/14. A survey will be sent out to pick the movie
- Hopeful to have camp this year at Blackbrook Park

- Also hoping to be able to offer the Traveling Teens program again this year
- Hit the Trail program is underway
- Hanover Township Day is September 18th

- **Hanover Township Education Foundation**
 - 5K Run for Health and 1 Mile Fun Walk will be held virtually this year
 - Proceeds of these events goes to our schools through grant programs

- **Spring NJSLA Assessment**
 - No assessments will happen prior to 4/5
 - Federal Government has said assessments need to happen
 - Requested to move the tests until Fall. Still waiting to hear back
 - 8th graders would take the test as 9th graders

- **Teacher Recognition and Excellence in Service**
 - These awards will happen in the Spring as they normally do
 - Letter will go out from Mr. Wasko asking for parents to send in nominations
 - Committees to vote are made up of each school's administration, PTA President (parent rep) and last year's Teacher of the Year recipient

- **2021-2022 District Calendar**
 - Approved at the January Board of Education meeting

- **2021-2022 District Budget**
 - Will be presented on March 9th at 6:30 to the Board of Education
 - There is a slight decline in student enrollment for next year
 - Staffing will remain flat
 - Budget takes into consideration
 - 500 new Chromebooks for students
 - Replacement laptops for teachers
 - Roof repairs at all schools
 - Asphalt repairs (parking lot, sidewalks)
 - Increase of \$85,000 in state aid
 - Tax increase of roughly 1.5%

Respectfully Submitted by Christina Cronkite, Mountview Road School PTA Vice President