

Hearst Elementary School PTA Meeting
March 11, 2020

1. Auction Update

- a. Online Auction is up and running until March 15
 - i. Update on amount raised will be announced sometime after the Online Auction ends
- b. Event for March 28 at American University is cancelled, an in-person event may be held later

2. Principal Geoffroy's Update Related to the Covid-19

- a. DCPS Professional Development Day has been moved to March 16 instead of March 20
 - i. DPR camp will be rescheduled accordingly
 - ii. INNIS will operate on March 20
- b. Schools Chancellor will update DCPS community as soon as possible
- c. Hearst is working on resource acquisition in the event that schools are closed due to Covid-19
- d. At last Hearst community meeting, the children reviewed the importance of handwashing for 20 seconds and hygiene
- e. Precautions taken by staff include extra cleaning and a deep clean to be done March 16
- f. Questions by audience:
 - i. Will the end of the school year be affected?
 - 1. Answer: unknown at this time
 - ii. What are learning options of underprivileged if schools are closed?
 - 1. Answer: Hearst and DCPS are working on paper and smart device options
 - iii. Are area school systems working together?
 - 1. Answer: Unknown but possibly
 - iv. Are there resources for food and aid to parents?
 - 1. Answer: DCPS is looking into needs and how to distribute items
 - v. Does the school need cleaning and sanitizing supplies?
 - 1. Answer: No, Hearst has plenty of supplies
- g. Principal Geoffroy noted that racist comments have been made to certain students regarding the origin of the virus and asks that staff be notified if these behaviors are reported to parents or are observed
- h. Principal Geoffroy will update the Hearst community as news breaks

3. INNIS Presentation by Mr. Brent and Michelle Marbury

- a. Mr. Brent is the on-site coordinator
- b. Noted that there was no "meet and greet" at the beginning of the school year and apologized for this error
 - i. Lots of upheaval at the beginning of the school year with staff
 - 1. Challenges with getting DCPS clearance and TB testing
 - 2. Challenges with finding staff for limited hours

- c. Parents should feel free to ask staff who they are and what is their background
- d. Schedule for after-care was reviewed
- e. INNIS staff does the best they can to get students to where they should be, like enrichment classes
- f. New staff to help with organized activities
 - i. Sports on the fields
 - ii. Crafts at the tables
 - iii. Cooking/nutrition 2x/month
- g. Mr. Brent is putting together monthly newsletters
- h. Audience member requested that INNIS inform parents when Pizza Fridays occur

4. Student Support e-Committee Proposal by Michael Roy and Michelle Ueland

- a. New electronic-based committee would be a resource to increase feeling of support and safety in children and staff
 - i. Example – information to young ladies on how to obtain menstruation supplies
 - ii. Example – contact list for non-English speakers
- b. Committee could initially be implemented as a Google Doc or a closed Facebook Group, but other formats could be utilized
- c. Committee would help open lines of communications for people with similar interests or needs through a liaison-type action
- d. Proposed committee is similar to the previous Engagement Support Committee and the “ask a parent” or “PTA on the Playground” that earlier PTA bodies had supported
- e. Principal Geoffroy will put out a Google survey to determine if the proposed committee would fill a need in the Hearst community. Results will be reviewed at a future PTA meeting

5. Budget Review and SY 2020-2021 Budget Proposal Discussions

- a. Susan reviewed the reserves and the cash balance with the audience
- b. Tenets of the Owl Fund were reviewed; budget must honor reasons for giving
 - i. Reserves were built up well, perhaps too well
 - ii. Funds need to be used to help better support students
- c. Susan reviewed proposed changes to the 2020-2021 Budget Proposal
 - i. Enrichment class fees will continue to be \$50/class, 13 classes/seasonal session
 - ii. Drama Club will keep their net revenue in a separate account that the PTA would oversee but would not be owned by the PTA
 - 1. Similar to aquarium fund and autism fund
 - 2. Drama Club teacher pay would come out of the main PTA budget in the same manner as the pay for enrichment teachers
- d. The PTA budget will be OK without a big return from the annual Auction
- e. Research of charitable giving options will be reviewed by the PTA Executive Board before the final vote on the proposed budget