

PTO GENERAL MEMEBERSHIP MEETING

MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, September 30, 2020 / 7:00PM

Item	Discussion	
PTO Welcome Back	Welcome Back! It is going to be a fantastic, if somewhat different, year at Mt. Horeb! Board introductions Thank you to those involved in the kick-off for the 2020-2021 hybrid school year! We have been getting ready for the past several weeks and want to give a special shout out to Jill Parry - School Shirts, Heloisa Santos – School Kits, Darlene Carter – Lanyards, and to EVERYONE for YOUR SUPPORT!	
Mr. Cook	Welcome! And thank you to all staff for assisting during the summer preparing for the new school year. The Return to School Committee for Mt. Horeb was a great help in getting prepared. Thoughts for this year: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Theme for 2020-2021: GATOR STRONG!- “Team Approach” – We are all in this together. Each of us has a story relative to COVID – big or small – but whatever the issue, it is significant to the individual. Now more than ever we need to come together and be aware of the different circumstances in each home.- Growth Mindset: Optimistic. Recognizes that everything is an opportunity for growth and learning. Dr. S. and Mr. Cook working this mindset into the lesson plan. Library: Update complete! Children are able to check-out virtually books and the books will be delivered (all cohorts) Staff: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Introduction of new teachers.- Discussion on staffing adjustments- Good balance between staff in school and working from home. COVID update and adjustments to school day: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Process in place. Extra masks. Extra cleaning. Social Distancing. Staff to act as role models for the kids. Everyone – kids and staff alike – are doing a wonderful job. Signs in the hall ways help to direct traffic and maintain social distancing.- Formal movement break and What I Need (WIN).	Reminder to complete health check each day by 8:30. THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU

- Specials: Predominantly asynchronous learning. There is a specific start time, but there is flexibility at home. A work in progress to possibly move to synchronous. Focus is on core subjects.
- Preschool: Both morning and afternoon. With cleaning between playground usage.
- Reach and ELL during WIN
- ASAP services have not yet started. Mostly b/c ASAP staff have been reassigned to classrooms as needed for coverage. The good news - classes are much smaller and well-staffed which allows for a higher teacher to student ratio and more personalized attention.
- Materials exchange for Cohort D: Every 2 weeks seems to make the most sense but can be adjusted if needed (about 20 families). All classrooms are trying to maintain a connection to Cohort D

Enrollment: 202. Down from 224. This year is not a normal year.

Staff messages to the PTO:

- VERY MUCH appreciate the efforts at home.
- Thank you for Mini-Grant opportunities to support distance learning
- Common goal of independence for students. Please try not to sit next to your students while they learn. We definitely needed you more in the spring. The model currently in place is structured to require less of you at home. We know this can be a difficult balance ... and....
- It is OK if your child struggles at times. They will work through it and can ask the teachers for assistance.
- Staff using Go Guardian to watch students online. If your children are using your computer, it can be monitored by the BOE
- Be sure your child is on time, present, and returns to class after a break.
- During movement break at school, please have your child move at home (away from the screen)
- Daily Wellness Check: By 8:30.
- Live availability is for STUDENTS not for parents. Please reach out for the teacher separately as a parent.
- Pods: For parents who have developed at home "pods" for their students, please try to segregate grades so the students have the space to work
- K – 2 Schedule adjustment under consideration: K, 1 and 2 to be in school 5 days. Up for BOE vote. If adopted, staffing for Cohort D may change, as Cohort D will be district wide (and not just school based). In-school cohorts may be adjusted from the current alphabetical grouping to gender and need based, which is how it is normally done.

	<p>- Grades 3, 4, and 5: Also under review. Need to ensure sufficient staffing for all school in the district.</p> <p>Mt. Horeb School Spirit T-Shirt designed by Mia Lee and Maya Rebimbas. Awesome job students and thank you PTO for the shirts. Review of current school model. Discuss highlights and challenges.</p> <p>We are trying to make a concerted effort to be more connected to families at home. If you are not feeling that, please reach out.</p>	
<p>PTO Membership and Donation Campaign</p>	<p>Your PTO provides so many important programs. Even with this year’s challenges, your PTO will STILL provide and support T-Shirts, Lanyards, Ice-Cream Day (one already scheduled), Teacher “Wish Lists”, School Garden, Halloween Parade Treats, International Day, Field Day, and Class Parties. And we are currently considering other virtual events for later in the year. We NEED your SUPPORT to make it all happen!</p> <p>So.....</p> <p>Join the PTO! Membership entitles you to vote on important issues and a <i>free online</i> Directory! And you get to hang with some awesome peeps who care about Mt. Horeb as much as you do! Join via Venmo! Membership letter online and attached,</p> <p>PS: Ask if your employer has a matching gift program!</p> <p>Membership is currently at 50%. Would love to be at 100%</p> <p>First ice-cream day today! Huge success. All Cohorts will participate.</p> <p>International Day: Every other year. We are in “wait and see” mode. Same for class parties.</p>	<p>SUPPORT YOUR PTO!</p> <p>Share your ideas on virtual programming! What would excite you and your child? We would love your feedback.</p>
<p>Food Days</p>	<p>Food Days accounts for over 50% of PTO annual revenue. No Food Days this year and revenue is expected to drop dramatically.</p>	
<p>Amazon Smile</p>	<p>An EASY way to help! Shop at AmazonSmile.com and designate Mt. Horeb PTO as your charity. The PTO will receive a small percentage of the cost of goods purchased. AmazonSmile now works through the app.</p>	

Box Tops	<p>No more clipping! Download the App! Takes a few minutes to set up, but then you are up and running and it is easy peasy. Contact Jill Parry or Vicki Armenti if you have any questions.</p>	<p>Download the App today! Please contact Jill Parry or Vicki Armenti if you have any questions</p>
SOS Form SUPPORT OUR SCHOOL!	<p>This form includes information on volunteer opportunities for parents and gives the Exec Board information on who is interested and for what events. We have received 32 responses to date – thank you! Remember Multiple people can respond from one household.</p> <p>The SOS form currently focuses on virtual events, which will allow for greater flexibility in planning and time commitment for volunteers. If we are able to provide more face-to-face interaction, we will update the SOS form to request volunteers as needed.</p> <p>Review of the volunteer opportunities: Include ... Authors Day, Book Fair, Box top Collection, Clothing / Spiriting Wear, Dine Out Fundraisers, HRP, International Day, Staff Appreciation, Virtual Assemblies, Yearbook.</p> <p>There is always a member of the PTO Board who is there to assist and guide you in your role. Someone who has (for example), the vendor contact information for school spirit shirts and will assist you in getting into contact.</p>	<p>Please submit your SOS form!</p>
Budget	<p>Review and discussion of Budget.</p> <p>Last year \$38,500 for total income. This year: Approximately \$5,500 expected as income. Conservative estimate. Review of changes (loss of food days, ice cream day and donation revenue, reduction in programming). Looked at areas where we can reduce expenses (in person programming, like Riverbend family event), and areas where we cannot (insurance, professional fees). \$46k on hand. If we spend according to the budget, would bring us to \$24/25k, which is the minimal reserve amount recommended.</p> <p>If we are able to provide more in person programming, we may run another donation campaign for specific events.</p>	<p>Moved: Darby Finkelstein Second: Darlene Carter</p> <p>Unanimous</p>
Simply Gourmet	<p>Snack service begins October 5th; snacks delivered fresh each day and to be enjoyed by students during snack break. Orders must be placed by tomorrow, October 1st. Comes prepackaged and labeled for easy and sanitary distribution.</p>	

Internet and Social Media	MtHorebPTO.org. Great resource! EVERYTHING is there! PTO Executive Board contact information, Committee information, Simply Gourmet Calendar really, EVERTHING! Mr. Cook on Twitter: #MtHorebGators Mt. Horeb PTO on Facebook. Check us OUT! It is a closed group. Please ask to join.	
Directory DirectorySpot	On-line and LIVE! Join the PTO to get access. Directory information is provided by the BOE. You can edit <i>your own information</i> . The Directory will be updated for edits, new students, etc. during the school year. The phone app is a good resource and the desktop provides additional features (ie., sort by class or grade).	
PTO After School Programs	On the Court being held at the Municipal courts Others On hold	
Yearbook	Send pictures you have from this year to the yearbook website. We are not in school to take the pictures we normally take so we are relying on parents. Selfies! Please provide!!	Take pictures, take selfies and send to INSERT EMAIL ADDRESS!! We have a few extra yearbooks for anyone who did not order (\$31). Please contact Jill Parry if interested.
Coupon Books	On hold until November	
Future Events		
Halloween Parade	/27 and 10/30 for children ONLY. Parents are not invited. Parties and pre-packaged crafts will also be provided to all cohorts. Treats to be provided by the Exec Board.	
Committees and Home Room Parents	Thank you for signing on to be HRP! We are working through the process and we are all learning. Thank you for your patience and	Letters to be provided to HRP to distribute to the classroom.
Future PTO Meetings	NEXT MEETING DATE	