

Hearst PTA Executive Board meeting - September 4th 2024

In Attendance: Hills, Rottman, Gray, Prince, Rose, Staffa, Rastegar, Knight Marvar, Carozza, Gandhi, Steadman

Summary

- Back-to-school night childcare needs more paid providers and improved check-in/out processes
- CLS scholarship demand exceeds current capacity; PTA to explore funding additional scholarships
- Immigration concerns raised by families; PTA to consider hosting info sessions and forming a subcommittee

Topics Covered

Back-to-School Night Planning

- PTA presentation limited to 15 minutes max
- Childcare logistics:
 - 50+ kids signed up already, expecting 70-80 total
 - 6 CLS providers confirmed, need more – perhaps non-classroom teachers. Shari has reached out to Hearst staff.
 - Will use the playground for check-in, transition to the gym later for parent pick up
 - Improved check-in process with grade-sorted lists
- EB members to help with check-in, pizza pickup, white goods and trash bags.
- Consider livestreaming the auditorium portion for families unable to attend
- Ask parents to stack chairs as they leave auditorium so childcare can use the space

CLS Scholarship Discussion

- Current situation:
 - 6 full scholarships, 6 partial scholarships are currently awarded by CLS
 - 4 additional students qualify for CLS scholarships but were denied by CLS due to the spots already being filled
- PTA has \$10,000 budgeted for after school scholarships
- If the PTA were to fund those 4 extra families currently 4 x 10 months of CLS care would cost \$16,000
- Ms Sartin and Dr Chen provided Principal Hills with a list of 17 families that may require financial assistance such as for aftercare or enrichment
- Plan to request CLS cost estimate for 4 additional scholarships

- Consider meeting with CLS to discuss the scholarship allocation process for next year
- Explore partnership with CommuniKids for future scholarship options.
- Communikids aftercare have expressed interest in using space in the Hearst building. Principal Hills discussed the impact of having a small custodial team this year which would prevent that, but next year we should consider that option with an additional custodian.

Immigration Concerns

- 5 families have already reached out to PTA with immigration detention concerns
- DCPS has strict protocols if ICE attempts to enter the Hearst property
- Hearst security is patrolling external doors throughout the day and particularly at pick up
- PTA considering:
 - Hosting "Know Your Rights" training at the October PTA meeting
 - Forming a subcommittee to address ongoing concerns
 - Sharing resources for families
- Need to balance safety concerns with hosting community events – Use of Zoom meeting could be useful

Financial Updates

- Transitioning from Wells Fargo to Rho Bank for improved financial services
- Exploring options like teacher credit cards for easier supplies purchasing and an improved reimbursement process
- Tax-exempt certificate renewal in progress