

Cantiague PTA

PTA MEETING 10/13/22

13 October 2022 / 8:45 AM / In Auditorium and streamed on Facebook Live

ATTENDEES

PTA Executive Committee, Dr.Sapienza, Central Office and Board of Education members, parents

AGENDA

PTA Updates- Jennifer Cohen

- Welcomed all in attendance
- The Welcome Back Picnic (over 700 people in attendance) and 5th Grade Car Wash were huge successes
- Reminded attendees to pay classroom dues, join the PTA, and join social media pages
- Coat Drive starts next week and runs for 2 weeks. Andrew Howard donated drycleaning of all coats. Coats will be donated to Rock Can Roll.
- Reflections-see email that went out
- Fall Festival- October 29th. Weather will determine if it is indoors or outdoors.
- Halloween Parade will be on Monday October 31st instead of Friday October 28th. Parents will be invited to watch.

Principal Updates- Dr. Sapienza

- Welcomed everyone
- Thanks everyone for a successful Meet The Teacher Night. It was great to have parents back in the building.
- Field trips are being booked for May and June for all grades.
- 2nd Annual Halloween Parade October 31st- email will be sent out with more details regarding costumes and the parade
- PTA Reflections- see email sent out. It's a great opportunity for poets, artists, and writers to showcase their talents

Guest Speaker- Victor Manuel Assistant Superintendent for Business

- Questions submitted regarding school lunch program were addressed
 - In house program hurt us last year with staffing and food shortages
 - 15,200 students to be fed a day
 - Met with a consultant to consider going with an outside vendor
 - Large companies are not having the food shortages individual districts are having.
 - This is the last year we can do an emergency bid and try out using an outside food contractor. This will be discussed with the BOE at next meeting. Goal is to start early December.
 - Food portions are regulated and determined by the Dept. of Ed. Unfortunately they do not differentiate between the appetites of a kindergartener and 5th grader. If a child is still hungry they can go back and purchase an additional meal.
 - Compared to other districts the price \$3.15 is the average and actually lower than many other districts.
 - Lunch is prepared on site. Some components (ie sauce) is prepared at the MS/HS kitchen and delivered to the Elementary schools. Even if we go with an outside vendor, food would be prepared on site.
 - Cash or check (made out to "Jericho Public Schools") can be sent in with the child to school to add money to the lunch account to avoid the fee online for replenishment with credit card.
 - Quality Control is followed by all the schools according to all Health Department regulations
 - Big Daddy pizza will continue to be provided (maybe on more days)
 - Other ethnic foods have been tried but were unsuccessful (ie sushi). Demographics will be considered with the outside vendor to diversify the menu.
 - Different choices of lunch can not be provided at different price points. The cost \$3.15 per meal is what it is.
 - Even if kids do not like all the components of the meal, they are required to provide them. It is up to the child whether they eat everything or not.
 - No peanut butter or peanut products are in the elementary school kitchens.

- Salads, sandwiches, and yogurt are offered everyday as alternatives
- Existing staff would stay on as Jericho staff even with an outside vendor providing the food. They are looking for a hybrid version where staff would continue to be Jericho employees and there would be one manager from the outside vendor to help streamline the kitchen and process.
- All kitchens are well equipped and do not need updating at this time. The consultant is confident an outside vendor can come in and streamline and make things better.
- Currently to help with the staffing issues, they reached out to bus drivers to see if any would want to help during the day in between their bus routes.
- How much lunch needs to be prepared each day is based on what was sold previously. In 2018-19 1600 lunches were sold each day and in 2020-21 during Covid only 400 lunches were needed each day. In 2021-22 lunches were free so the numbers were 1900 a day. They also go by what meals are more popular than others.
- Breakfast surveys have gone out each year and the results show there is not a need so breakfast is not being offered any time soon. If there is a need they will consider implementing it.
- Long lines are an issue in the Middle School. They are 18-19 minutes on average and they would like to see them no longer than 12 minutes. They are hoping the outside vendor would help with that.