



Oak-Land Middle School

PTA Meeting: Wednesday, January 24, 2018

Meeting Minutes

Mr. Fields' Principal's Report:

Students during their Advisory class period wrote thank you notes to our Give to the Max local business sponsors. They will be delivered to sponsors this week.

Snow-related school closures: The Superintendent made a good call. There is an obligation to district families that children be cared for and educated. Mr. Fields explained what may have been a confusing text that some parents may have received regarding the early release of students this past Monday. It stated that kids could be picked up at 12:30, but it did not identify which school it was concerning. Parents with kids at the elementary school may have been confused and wondered whether their elementary kids needed to be picked up at 12.30. He offers his apologies for the mix-up.

Middle School parent meetings were given last week providing information regarding registration. All of the information presented is available on the school's website. Students will be presented with registration information next week and undergo the registration process, as well.

Mr. Fields voiced a message to students during announcements recently regarding offensive language that some students have picked up. Students may not understand the words they are using, but do understand their "shock value".

High interest reading materials have been ordered using roughly \$9,000 of funds donated through Give to the Max 2017. Speakers are being scheduled – we have an upcoming screening of "Screenagers" in April and

a screening of “Angst” about teenage anxiety scheduled for the fall. Thank you!!!

Mr. Fields gave us a presentation of a technology tool he is using - www.menti.com – during which he asked us two questions;

1. What 3 words best describe the middle school you want your child to attend?
2. What are 3 critical skills you want your child to have before moving on to the high school?

He will ask the same questions of the teachers.

Teachers are continuing a series of educational sessions during teacher workshop days with speakers from the Muslim community.

Conferences: A new style of “conferences” is in the works. Facts being considered: a. If teachers had a 5 minute conference with every parent, that would mean 13 hours of time, while the teacher contract allots for 5 hours of conference time. b. Even so, a 5 minute dialog does not allow for much meaningful conversation and information-exchange c.) With Skyward, parents have access to a lot of grade information, the kind of information that would have been exchanged in a conventional conference format. Mr. Fields requested our input on a new format the teachers would like to try – 1. Teachers would schedule “office hours” outside of the school day during which parents could drop by with questions if they wish, recognizing that some parents may not feel the need if everything is going smoothly with their child 2. Parents could schedule a specific time to meet with a teacher, or potentially with the “team” of teachers. 3. If a student is struggling, there is an expectation that the teacher will reach out to a parent, to request a meeting. **Mr. Fields stressed that parents can always request a meeting with a teacher if they have concerns; it does not need to coincide with conferences.**

Plans/Hopes/Dreams for fundraising for 2018-2019 – changes were discussed. Stay tuned!

Some Give to the Max 2017 statistics:

- We had 33 unique business donors and 192 unique individual donors.
- Fees paid to GTTM organization: \$44.77 - 130/145 donors paid the GTTM fee, as part of their donation - Thank you!!
- **Total \$ Raised: \$11,795.20**

Thank you for attending the PTA meeting!

Our next meeting is Wednesday, February 28, 6:30pm.