

## **Holmes PTO Exec Board Meeting Minutes December 8, 2023**

### Principal Update

- Special Education Awareness breakfast was much appreciated by all staff
- The Holmes Holiday concert for 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade orchestra, advanced band and chorus will be next week. Grades 3-5 grades will get to see the dress rehearsal and it will be recorded for the lower grades to watch.
- OLSAT testing is the week of December 11 – one hour of testing for 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grades. Helps placement for middle school math classes and to help get a sense of how kids are doing. Best way for parents to support kids is to remind them to read the question and answer what is being asked, and to go back and check their work.

### Co-Chair Update

- Dr. Dadd's presentation at Holmes was very well attended. Additional meetings will take place in 2024, and meeting notices will be shared with parents.
- The next parent coffee will take place on January 11. One topic of conversation will be food service and Meghan Bendish will attend the meeting on behalf of Chartwells to discuss food service at Holmes.
- CDSP: budget deficit is now closer to \$600k, due to special education budget.
  - Literacy waiver for K-3: Darien's current curriculum is not on the state's approved curriculum list, however Darien received approval to continue with two parts out of the three it currently utilizes.

### Vice Chair Update

- Next week a notice will go out for room parents to share encouraging donations for the annual appeal

### Enrichment Update

- December 8: High Touch, High Tech for second grade
- January 8: Magic Science (school wide)
- January – Kindergarten enrichment
- February – Dance China (school wide)
- March – 3<sup>rd</sup> grade enrichment
- April – author visit and Bash the Trash

### DEI Update

- The International Cookie Exchange will take place on December 15 and so far has a decent amount of sign ups.
- Heritage Night (January 18) currently has 10 booth sign ups. The goal is to have at least 20 booths. It was discussed to send out a dedicated e-blast with detailed information to encourage families to sign up and encourage attendance to the event. Will ask room parents send out info as well.

#### Fundraising Update

- Annual appeal next week to encourage more donations

#### Special Education Update

- Four books were donated to the library last week and teachers were encouraged to do a read aloud with the new books