**Atherton Hough PTO Meeting Minutes- October 27, 2016**

* **Volunteer sign-ups** have been going great using the newsignup.com site. Links will be posted on the PTO website and Facebook pages for each event. Flyers will also be sent home. Room parents will begin using this to contact classes as well.
* **School Pride Apparel** sales are ongoing. T-shirts are $10; Long-sleeve t-shirts are $15. We will send out another order form closer to holidays if people wish to purchase for gifts.
* **“No Hassle” Fundraisers**
	+ Stop and Shop A+ Rewards- This program has started. Please check your Stop and Shop receipts to be sure you are earning points. If not, you can visit stopandshop.com/aplus to register your card.
	+ Box Tops for Education- You can attach 10 to each sheet. If you have more than 10 box tops, you can put them in bags of 50 and label it with 50. If you have the extra bonus box tops, you can send those in a separate envelope. We average $1500 per year with Box Tops!
	+ Textile bin- Continue to fill the bin! If you ever see that the bin is full, call the school and we can call for a pickup. If anything gets wet, it will not be taken.

**Fundraising Update**

* **Yankee Candle-** Thank you for your support! We sold over $7,000 and will make a profit of a little over $3,000. Orders will be delivered prior to Thanksgiving. Remember, our online sales continue until January!
* **Harvest Dance**
	+ After expenses, we made $562 on dance admission, pizza and raffle basket. Sold $120 in apparel. Thank you to everyone who came and to those who volunteered

**Upcoming Fundraisers**

* **Tuesday, Nov. 8th Election Day Bake Sale -** Bakers and workers are needed 7 am – 7 pm for the church hall. Volunteers will be needed to make/buy baked goods and/or work the tables. Baked goods can be brought to school with your child on Monday, Nov. 7th or dropped off at the church hall on Nov. 8th.
* **Fall Fundraiser- FAMILY EVENT: Bingo Night**
	+ Friday, November 18th
	+ Prizes will be different themed baskets.
	+ Flyer will be sent home on Monday. Grade levels will be assigned themed baskets and asked to send in items for those baskets.
* **Winter Fundraiser- FAMILY EVENT: PL Polar Plunge**
	+ Saturday, January 7th- tentatively 10:00am
	+ We will have a bake sale, pizza, hot cocoa.
	+ Receive a T-shirt when you sign up.
* **Monthly Teacher Appreciation Lunches** organized and coordinated by Room Parents. Room parents should get the help of other class parents to provide for the luncheon.
	+ Grade 5: November 1st
	+ Grade 4: November 29th
	+ Grade 3: December 13th or 20th – TBA to coincide with conferences
	+ Grade 2: January 31st
	+ Grade 1: February 28th
	+ Grade K: March 28th
	+ All grades: May date to coincide with Teacher Appreciation Day
* **PTO Volunteers are needed:**
	+ Assist with library inventory and re-shelving books
	+ School Store- third Thursday of each month. Next store is November 17th. No store in January.
	+ Work the Holiday Store – week of December 19th-23rd
	+ Join the 5th grade Yearbook committee (5th grade parents)
* **Looking Ahead:**
	+ Next PTO meeting will be held on Wednesday, Nov. 30th from 6:30 – 7:30 pm. Babysitting provided.
	+ Teacher Appreciation Luncheon organized by Grade 5 Room Parents – November 1st; Grade 4 Room parents- November 29th
	+ Election Day Bake Sale on Nov. 8th – bakers and workers will be needed. Sign up will be available on our website

**Treasurer’s Report**

We have almost $12,000 in our account right now. PTO has met with Mrs. Moreira and we will be using the funds to purchase the following for the school:

* New computer chairs for the computer room.
* A set of 30 Chrome books for classrooms to use. We hope to be able to purchase another 30 later in the year so that each floor would have a cart of Chrome books to use.
* Possibly class sets of headphones to be used in the computer lab. Each student would have their own set of headphones that would be stored in the computer lab for each class.
* Laminator for the teachers.
* We are also working to get funding/grants to purchase several alternative seating options for the classrooms (standing desks and alternative chairs) to allow movement in the classroom.

We are always open to suggestions for ideas!

* **Questions, Comments, Concerns/Wrap Up**
	+ Don’t forget to check the website for important information and updates. [www.athertonhoughpto.digitalpto.com](http://www.athertonhoughpto.digitalpto.com)

* + Also, find us on Facebook – Atherton Hough PTO

Kindergarten parents had the highest number in attendance! The Kindergarten teachers will receive a Staples gift card!

**Principal’s Update**

* Room parents have been chosen. Everyone should have received a notice home asking for contact information to be provided to the room parents to allow them to communicate with parents.
	+ May send another revised notice home to encourage more parents to send in their contact info.
	+ Suggested that possibly next year parents could give permission for their emails to be shared from the contact cards filled out in September.
* If volunteering in the classroom, parents must have an active CORI on file. The only time a CORI or fingerprinting is not needed is for whole class/school events (i.e., concerts, assemblies, grade wide events such as gingerbread decorating)
* Central office is encouraging families to get fingerprinted. PTO will reimburse fee, if needed.
* Holiday concert will be held Friday, December 16th
	+ 8:15am- K-3rd grade
	+ 9:15am- 4th, 5th, and band
	+ Students will have a separate concert at a later date.
	+ Suggestion to have the 5th graders perform first at the Spring concert so that everyone can acknowledge their hard work at their last performance.
* The school is in need of substitute lunch attendants. Need to have CORI and fingerprinting. Hours of work would be 11:00am-1:00pm. See Mrs. DeBoer if interested.
* Safety Drills
	+ Fire drills- 4 planned per year
	+ 2 lockdown drills per year- 1 in fall, 1 in spring
	+ The first lockdown was held Wednesday, October 26th. Everyone did great!
	+ Lockdowns consist of three areas:
		- An outside threat, where students do not need to be sheltered in rooms, but are not allowed outside of the building (ex: if there was a wild animal outside)
		- Reverse evacuation- when students are outside the building and need to get back into the school as quickly as possible. Mrs. Moreira has an air horn that she uses to alert classes to that.
		- Indoor lockdown- Mrs. Moreira makes an announcement to “prepare rooms for lockdown”. Teachers secure their doors (lock their doors), quiet the children, and conceal the children. Some teachers place covers over their windows and doors.
	+ The police come and check during the drills.
	+ Different staff (i.e., guidance, psychologist, etc.) are assigned to different areas of the building during each type of drill to assist teachers.

**MCAS Presentation**

Mrs. Moreira shared information on the results of the 2016 MCAS testing.

* Parents should have received reports in the mail last week for each individual student.
* Results from the PARCC testing were not included in the levels, as this was a pilot last year. Quincy chose as a district last year to continue with MCAS and pilot one session of PARCC.
* The PARCC looked very different from MCAS. It was timed and the multiple choice questions were different in format. They were a two part question with a) what is your answer? and B)How do you know? Or it said to “choose all the right answers”
* 2017 MCAS will be called MCAS 2.0
	+ Very much resembles the PARCC testing
	+ “blueprints” will be released in January for teachers and students to look at and practice.
	+ There are many different practices online and teachers are weaving these new types of questions into their instruction.

Composite Performance Index (CPI)

* Each year schools are given a CPI score. This looks at these two questions:
	+ Are we meeting the goals that we set out?
	+ Are we narrowing the achievement gap in our population?
* The last few years, Atherton Hough has been a Level 3 school because we were not making progress in closing the achievement gap.
* This year, Atherton Hough was raised to a Level 2 school! We had great improvements in our ELA scores on the MCAS. Level 2 means we are in the highest 80%. Quincy as a district is still a Level 3 district, but this allows us to get more state funding.

Mrs. Moreira shared tables the tracked the same group of students each year and looked at their scores in ELA and Math (looking for proficient or higher in students). This “historical analysis) shows the improvement students have been making in ELA and Math.

Each year schools need to set goals. Atherton Hough’s goals are in 4 areas:

1. ELA
2. Math- increasing fact fluency
3. School culture- implement PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention Supports)
4. School Wellness Council Goal

Testing 2017

* There is a larger testing window this year for MCAS. Testing will take place between April 5th and May 26th.
* ELA will be first and they are adding a 3rd ELA session.
* The state is moving towards computer based testing for all students. By 2018, the state wants all districts taking MCAS tests on computers.
* For 2017, students in grades 4 and 8 will take all MCAS testing on the computer. The larger testing window is to accommodate schools like Atherton Hough who do not have enough computers to allow all students to test at the same time. This is very different than previous years where all students state wide were taking the same test on the same day.

If any parents have any questions regarding the MCAS results for the school or any questions regarding your individual student’s results, please contact Mrs. Moreira.