

Roosevelt PTO Meeting
Meeting via Zoom
March 11th, 2022 9am

Present: Gen Jones, Melissa Lutz, Larry Garstki, Sally Gregory, Sara Wienkes, Ashley Palmer, Katie Avalos, Audrea Montalbano, Pam Wynne, Mia Esposito, Caren Teclaw, Renee Sichelau, Amy Dwyer, Beth Vlerick, Megan Kinsella, Ashley Reed, Peggy Balesteri, Rashido Dairyko, Katie Bevan, Megan Thomas, Dawne Simmons, Amy Prestes

Meeting called to order at 0903. Melissa moved to approve the minutes, they were seconded by Ashley P. Minutes from February 2022 meeting approved.

Treasurer Report, Amy Hansmann, provided and copied from email

Only money that has come in is fun lunch!! \$1930 for February which is great!

Only expenses were hospitality.

I am having technology problems. Please make sure any requests for reimbursement say PTO reimbursement in the subject line. If you do not get an email response please text 312-339-3190. I have both in and outbound messages disappearing.

I suggest changing wording on Revtrak for sponsoring a student to say "with PTO activities, including graduation fees" instead of "graduation fees" only. If people donate to "graduation fees" it must be spent to cover graduation fees ONLY for those students.

Superintendent Report, Dr. Ed Condon, comments via Larry Garstki

At the COW meeting the board affirmed the mask optional mandate.

There is currently a STEM curriculum review going on.

Parent Teacher conferences went well. This may be the last time we do virtual conferences but still in discussion.

In regards to block scheduling, we have been very loose about students having breaks in the hallway, etc. But, with masks being optional and loosened mandates, the breaks will be limited and the school will be paying more attention to how long these breaks are taking.

Principal Report, Larry Garstki

With block scheduling, it was started in response to COVID. Previous to that, the school had decided not to do the block scheduling but instead increased math time and added the math academy in the morning. At this time, the school will be surveying teachers to see how they feel about block scheduling going forward and the school will be deciding whether block scheduling will be here to stay or changed back to the original scheduling model. Larry feels that there are many pros to block scheduling when considering instruction and student interaction/projects but it is also difficult for teachers to plan. Either way, block scheduling in the absence of covid mitigation will look different and will add variety should block scheduling go forward as the model next year.

We will know next week after the school presentation on block scheduling at the COW meeting April 5th. This presentation will include the responses to the survey currently being sent out to staff.

Katie commented that block scheduling perhaps has not had a huge chance to breathe and really work without the covid mitigations so she is hopeful teachers will know that there

are resources available to them and that the instruction will look different next year. Larry commented that teachers are aware they will be able to use block scheduling strategies that have been unavailable to them over the past two years.

Please email Larry if you have any further questions or comments.

Larry also commented that even if block scheduling is decided against, this does not mean it will not be revisited in the future.

If block scheduling is not adopted, math will need to reverse to regular scheduling as well.

Teacher Liaison Report, Rachel Parker, provided and copied from email

I think teacher update conferences went really well. Zoom meetings provided flexibility for families, which led to high turn out. Thank you for providing the delicious dinner during conferences.

Besides that teachers and students are looking forward to Spring Break and some warmer weather!

Rachel will be the summer school principal.

Co-President Report, Genevieve Jones/Melissa Lutz

Currently still recruiting for PTO positions for next year. There will be a note in the Bulletin this week. Many positions have been filled but there are still places for everyone. Co-president, Treasurer apprentice, Revtrak apprentice, Hospitality, Family Care, LLC Coordinator, Fun Lunch, Spring Fest need their positions filled.

Noonday jewelry fundraiser raised \$125. Should this be donated towards raffle for spring fest? Yes!

We are reviewing fun lunch and how we are doing it. There is a small committee working on this project. There is a survey going out asking parents their opinions on fun lunch trying to gather information on what is expected and needed from families. There are vendors meetings set up and there will be discussions on whether we should stick with Marla's or return to doing it ourselves.

We are moving fun lunch back to one day a week.

We received many thank yous for the parent teacher dinner provided.

We are doing an 8th grade service project and are collecting travel size toiletries so please collect these as you travel.

A bin will be in the foyer starting next week to collect donations for the Ukraine. There will be a note from Larry and in the Bulletin this week. There will also be a monetary donation link.

School Board Liaison Report, Sara Wienkes, provided and copied from email

Covid mitigation protocols - Condon

Ed Condon reviewed the revised protocols for school exclusion and masking (as of 3/1/22), which revised certain protocols for exclusion from school (i.e. implications from "close contact"), lifted of mask mandate (masks optional indoors and outdoors except as noted), and updated certain mitigation protocols. Regarding school exclusion:

- if vaxed and boosted (over 5 yrs) or covid pos within 90 days, then don't need to exclude from school, but should wear mask for 10 days

- those who are not vaxed or boosted are recommended to stay home and wear mask for 5 days and get tested. Those not boosted will be not be excluded unless symptoms develop and they test positive.

- asymptomatic close contacts are not required to be excluded from school

Ed specifically highlighted the removal of (1) the requirement that EEs be vaccinated or submit to weekly testing; and (2) the requirement that close contacts be excluded from school even if asymptomatic. There is also an added section on masking, and when it might still be required (nursing station, when at places that require it, if there is an outbreak in an elementary class, etc). Based on request of BOE, the revised protocols also have recommended face mask tiers:

- if high community level - go back to masking; based on CDC eval'n of Cook County community level

- if medium community level, still mask optional, but encourage ppl to talk to dr re what they should do

- if RF or one of our schools become outlier with high levels, could go back to masking

- if there is an outbreak level that requires going back to masking, per CCDPH (short term masking - 14 days after last diagnosis)

- student vaccination levels matter

- if CDC/CCDPH requires masks again - go back to masking.

Ed stressed that decision to go mask optional was based on many things and with the expectation that we would not have to revert back to mask required in near future as he recognized that would be very hard.

D90 safety and school climate report - Dawne Simmons

Dawne Simmons went through the D90 safety and School Climate Report, said that the 16 recommendations that the group had come up with were all largely implemented (the BTAT is still in progress and they are hoping to have it operational by the end of the year; 2 chairs will report on progress at next BOE meeting). D90 takes safety (physical and emotional safety as well as emotional wellness) very seriously. Need safety to achieve D90s top 2 priorities (1) health and safety for everyone; (2) high quality equitable education for all.

She will get message of report out to community by all means possible (reporters, weekly update, website, social media, principal newsletters, Tri-fold, other outlets)

Education report - Alison Hawley

There is a 23 member committee from all schools reviewing the k-8 Science /STEM curriculum (refer to her powerpoint for list of ppl). D90 is using a consultant to unpack Next Generation Science Standards and Practices (90 pages; technical) - NGSS. The group discussed mission and vision for science and stem - will draft mission statement at next meeting in March.

Biggest task of committee (besides selecting materials) is to go thru professional development to learn how to select the curriculum. This will take 5 full days of deep dive to get group prepped to review data. They will use the EQUiP Rubric developed by non profit to evaluate curriculum.

RMS will look at 3 curriculum options, elementary schools will look at 4-5. RMS starting earlier than elementary schools. Would like to pilot selected program (at least one) at RMS by spring or early fall at latest, and have final decision by October, 2022. It looked like she was planning for new curriculum to be implemented in the second half of the year, with teacher training happening January -April 2023. For elementary it will be a little slower, with pilot in fall 2022 or winter 2023, selection of program in Spring 2023, and professional development in August 2023-May 2024. See BOE presentation for more specifics.

According to Larry they like the RMS science program they are using currently.

Committee Reports

Positive Youth Development, Megan Hunkele

No official report.

Comments from Gen that we are continuing with the Glenbard series and have had a presentation every week.

Fun Lunch, Gwen Geraghty, Ashley Palmer

We have a new member coming in to shadow next week who will be present to oversee fun lunch through the end of the year. Fun lunches and volunteering has been going well otherwise.

PIMA, Audrea Montalbano

Fun lunch is being held next week on St. Patrick's Day. There was a good response from the last fun lunch that PIMA sponsored.

Jazz band performance will be on Tuesday night. Thank you for parents' support during restaurant nights.

G4G, Renee Sichlau

Eco warriors did a textile collection and Renee was happy to support them. The 6th graders collected the most textiles and were given a hot chocolate party.

April 9th is the bike exchange. Information will be present in the Bulletin this week. If you donate a bike, you are welcome to find a bike to exchange and take home with you. You can still take a bike home without bringing one but you are encouraged to give a donation if able.

The police department will be available to register bikes, any resident can come and register their bikes.

Buzz Café will be providing coffee.

Hepzibah kids are invited to come early and pick out bikes as well

April 18th-21st is Earth Week. We will promote walking and biking to school and will focus on the environmental aspect of walking/biking.

On Wednesday, G4G would like to collect food during lunch for composting.

There is a group who would like to do bird watching in the morning.

There will be a sneaker collection for recycling.

We would love to get together a group for the Des Plaines River Cleanup.

6th Grade Service Projects, Sally Gregory

Over 600 Valentine's were delivered

126 books were donated to Hepzibah and a group of students is being put together to deliver the books.

Shout out to this amazing committee.

8th Grade Coordinator – Graduation, Amy Dwyer, Pamela Wynn

Caps and Gowns are available for purchase. People have been very generous in donating money toward those students who are in need of assistance. Corey Kessler will be taking photos and donating proceeds towards Beyond Hunger. Yard signs have been ordered. Lisa generously offered to send out an email to those who have not registered, time is short. 8th grade graduation is off to a good start. Many parents are asking about the 8th grade dance and would love to follow up with Larry.

Larry commented that he is not sure where we are. Likely, we will look into planning the dance and Larry hopes it can move forward. Perhaps it can be held at the school. Venues around town have been used previously but now that we are so close to the date, the school may be the best option. Amy, please have the parents interested in planning, contact Gen and Melissa so that we can begin.

Graduation will take place in the large auditorium at OPRF.

About ½ of 8th graders have registered for graduation so we need the remainder to be contacted and for them to register. Lisa will be following up.

8th Grade Field Day Coordinators, Peggy Balesteri

In lieu of the lock in, we are holding a field day.

May 18th, rain day May 20th

Survivor themed

Park District has given release for using the field.

T shirts have been ordered, using Great America sizing.

Students will be split into groups. The day will start with the service project and then they will move outside for lunch and proceed to move through the 8 stations.

We will need to ask money again in the month of May for both the Field Day and the Dance.

PTO can also help with donations if needed. We are counting on \$25 per student.

The dance will likely be held on June 10th.

Inclusion and Belongingness, Beth Vlerick

There will be a collaboration event later in the spring including all the schools and working through the inclusion items being put into place in the district and pinning down what the committee will be going forward.

Spring Fun Fest, Caren Teclaw, Megan Kinsella

Previously the fall fun fest is being reimagined currently. The theme is Back to the Future.

4/29th from 6:30-8:30. The full dinner will be eliminated and instead concessions of snacks and drinks will be offered (perhaps hot dogs).

Fest will be pared down:

Karaoke, cake walk, carnival games, inflatable jumps, silly string, face and nail painting, showing of the movie Back to the Future. Katie offered to volunteer as the silly string monitor!

Instead of having the raffle just the night of spring fest, it will be held throughout the month of April. There have been several donations and it is shaping up to be a great raffle. A calendar will be put together for the month of April. For every school day, there will be a pull for a different raffle item. The buying of the "raffle ticket" is being worked on currently and will be live soon. The large items will be pulled for on Friday and the largest item will be pulled on the night of Spring Fest. The purpose of doing this through the month is to collect money as we go for the actual holding of the fest.

Renee offered to work through an Earth Week raffle or perhaps a table at the fest.

There will be a 50/50 at the event. This can also be a 25/25/25/25, for example or split up in different ways.

Candy cakes will still be held during cake walk and there will be a form so that people can make candy cakes and still list ingredients for those with allergies.

Caren asked for a pizza party donation from the PTO as a raffle prize. Larry offered himself as an addition to the raffle – pizza party with Mr. Garstki! He would love to offer his lunches as a chance to hang with the students now that COVID mitigations are loosened. Melissa asked if he would be willing to do a Bamboozled challenge and he is absolutely in for it. Larry reported that he is loving being able to spend time with the students outside of handing out detentions, etc and getting to know them one on one.

After Spring Break we will be sending out a sign up genius for parent volunteers. This is essential for the Spring Fest to be able to move forward. There are probably over 100 slots to be filled.

Old/New Business

The PTO would like to ask Larry what gift the teachers would like or what is needed for the students. It has been awhile since we have given a large gift and PTO would love to do so. Perhaps sprucing up the teacher's lounge, benches for outside, fixing the basketball or four square area. We are working at a surplus and would love to donate some back to the school.

Rashida asked a clarifying question about the end of school. Gen thanked her for pointing out the 17th end day is only with the 5 extra "snow days". Gen said the date of the dance will be reevaluated.

Meeting adjourned at 1018.