**Roosevelt PTO Meeting**

**Meeting in person in Roosevelt Multi-Purpose Room**

**Friday, May 6th, 2022 9am**

**Present:** Larry Garstki, Dr. Ed Condon, Gen Jones, Beth Vlerick, Melissa Lutz, Dawne Simmons, Ashley Palmer, Amy Hansmann, Laura Huseby, Amy Prestes, Gwen Geraghty, Caren Teclaw, Sara Wienkes, Megan Kinsella, Sarah Donoho, Katie Bevan, Audrea Montalbano

*Meeting called to order at 0910. Amy H moved to approve the minutes, they were seconded by Amy P. Minutes from March 2022 meeting approved.*

**Treasurer Report,** Amy Hansmann

We are switching to Byline Bank from 5th/3rd and we are in the process of moving money over. We started the year with about $80,000 and are ending at about $120,000. In light of that, we would like to cover 8th grade field day expenses.

We held a vote and it was passed.

Financials are available for review if anyone would like to see them.

Q: Would this be an expense every year? A: Perhaps, since it is held during school, this would be a nice gift every year.

**Superintendent Report,** Dr.Ed Condon

Dr. Condon expressed his happiness at being able to see us in person. He shared a story on students at Lincoln while he was dropping off Nurse’s Appreciation Day gifts on the adaptability of students.

Equity committee met this past week and our PTO Belongingness Committee was represented. There was also a discussion led by a national Equity Committee based on why Equity Committees are not more pervasive. A student panel was sat on by 3 Roosevelt students who answered questions on their feelings of belongingness and equity in D90.

Annual Safety Meeting is being held next week with the River Forest Police and Fire Department. District and School Administrators will be present to discuss and continue to refine our practices.

We are coming to the end of the planning of the Behavioral Threat Plan as well.

Summer School will be held at Roosevelt and Lincoln.

We have a volunteer tutor program that has been launched in collaboration with the local Y. Several high school students have been offering tutoring and this has been a successful and wonderful project that was completely launched by these 3 student leaders/tutors.

Student Registration is now open for fall. There is an early bird discount available until June 15th. If registration fees are a problem, please contact the district office to discuss options.

There has been a job fair held last week, to find and fill D90 positions with the best applicants we can find. D90 hires thoughtfully and we take this important job seriously.

COVID metrics are still being monitored and even though restrictions have eased we are vigilant in maintaining a safe environment.

Thank you for an amazing year!

**Principal Report,** Larry Garstki

The hiring process: We have a hiring protocol called Benchmarks for Excellence. Applicants have a test administered to them and the process is quite rigorous. There is an online screener based on FBI profiling, we then have a phone screening with 52 questions and then finally there is an inperson interview.

End of the School year. We are transitioning the 8th graders out and the 4th graders in. Graduation will be held in OPRF auditorium. Field day, Dance, motivational speaker are all coming up this month.

4th grade students will visit the school for a tour. Roosevelt Readiness will be held over the summer. Mr. Garstki will visit the grade schools to talk with the 4th graders and introduce the school.

Incoming parent meeting is being held next Thursday at 7pm for parents only.

MAP testing is taking place this week.

The Advisory Program will be relaunched next year. A letter will be sent out to parents informing of the new structures that will be in place. Larry is so proud of this program; Roosevelt has one of the only Middle School Advisory Programs and we are definitely ahead of the curve on this important trend. We use the “Castle 5” framework during Advisory. These components lend themselves to the lesson plans and we are already starting to plan for next year. Advisory is more important then ever when talking about reengaging students after these long and unusual pandemic years.

Dr. Condon commented that Larry gave an eloquent and heartfelt talk to the District stating the need for extra Social Workers at each grade level to incorporate all the new Advisory elements.

A student Advisory group will be created as well and we hope students will join in order to be student leaders and have their thoughts heard and incorporated during Advisory.

**Teacher Liaison Report,** Rachel Parker

No report

**Co-President Report,**  Genevieve Jones/Melissa Lutz

Gwen motioned to approve next year’s PTO slate, Amy P seconded. The 2022-2023 PTO slate was approved with a quorum.

**School Board Liaison Report,** Sara Wienkes, copied and pasted from email

* **Summary of April 18 and May 3 meetings**:

**Public Comment**:

During the April 18 meeting, several parents addressed the Board regarding their concerns about the block schedule.  These concerns included:

There have not been, in practice, the increase in instructional minutes that was promised (due to using instructional time for homework, taking breaks because kids can’t focus or need to move, kids watching movies during class time, kids getting bored and wandering halls, etc).

It is difficult for kids to sit and pay attention for so long.

Kids should be studying math and language every day.  Studies show that learning something a little every day is far more effective than bigger blocks of time less frequently.

Impact of absences (if kids miss multiple days and those days happen to fall on the same block (A or B) then that child misses significantly more instruction in those 4 subjects)

Kids don’t need an 82 minute gym class 2-3 times a week.  They would be better off with shorter gym period every day.

Benefits of advisory are not being realized.

Gartsky said social workers are against block schedule/find it difficult to work within.

There has been little or no training for many/most of the teachers.  They are not teaching in block format, they are teaching their old format in a new time frame, and it's not working.

Teacher support for block schedule is overstated, and survey was too vague to be helpful (which teachers liked it and which didn’t, and why)

Parents have to pay for private tutoring to make sure their kids are learning what they need to learn to be successful in HS and beyond

Parents suggested the use of a hybrid schedule - used at other high schools and middle schools - where some classes get longer time periods and others get shorter.

Parents noted that the presentation on block was one-sided, and no one on the Board asked any probing questions or asked for evidence or data supporting the efficacy of block scheduling, nor was any evidence or data given.  Parents were really disheartened by that.

**Fee Increase**

BOE approved a 7% increase in school fees

**Intergovernmental Agreement for the Youth Engagement Program**

At the April meeting, there was a presentation by reps of the Oak Park Township regarding the Intergovernmental Agreement for the Youth Engagement Program that the Oak Park Township wants D90 to renew.  This program started as an OP anti-gang program in 1995, but around 2019 it has shifted to provide short term mental health interventions and community outreach and training. And they are also in process of developing a curriculum for mentoring life skills but did not give specifics. Their services are short term. If someone needs longer term mental health services, they are referred to a counselor.

They presented some data collected during the OP Township’s fiscal year which runs April 1, 2021- march 31, 2022.

During that time, they saw 80 kids at some point or other.  18 or those were RF youth, and 17 or which were D90 kids.

During that time they received 54 referrals, of which 14 were from RF.  RF referrals came from d90 social workers (13) or the nurse (1)

Their services are paid for with taxpayer dollars through contributions from various governmental entities in OP and RF.  For example in RF, they have gotten funds from the RF township, RF Park District, RF Public Library, D90, and they hope to get money from the Village of RF.

Their budget for 2022-2023 is over $307,000.

The board noted that the group is doing good work, and is a helpful resource.

It is hard to evaluate if this is a cost effective program as there was no discussion of this aspect of the program, or any cost/benefit analysis.

**In the May 3 Board meetin**g, the Board approved the agreement

**Update on Essential Objectives 2021-2022**

During the May 3 BOE meeting, Ed gave an update on the progress of D90 toward achieving the “D90 Essential Objectives, 2021-22"

Ed also touched on the Strategic Plan (which is being put back into the COW packet).  Noted that it is here and is intended to provide direction, and they are looking to reengage with this document.  There will be a board retreat in June, and it will allow Admin to get specific direction from the BOE in advance of next school year so they can hit the ground running.  During the May BOE meeting, they plan to discuss/decide how they will run the retreat.

I would recommend that everyone review D90’s Essential Objectives and Strategic Plan, and provide your input to the Board prior to their retreat so that stakeholder input is considered as they prepare to review these documents.  Because as Ed said, “What is on here is what gets done”.

**Overview of Equity Collaboration Event**

Ed, Katie and Stacy gave a summary of the event.  Beth was also there and she probably is planning to talk about this so I will leave it to her.

**The following was typed live at meeting:**

Board has been talking about continuing the block schedule into the future. D90 held a discussion on this and there were several comments from the community.

The amount of instructional time was questioned and whether students could sit and pay attention during the larger periods of time. Some comments on the lost instruction time if a student misses a day or two.

An increase in school fees was approved

Youth Engagement Program gave a presentation. This Program focuses on short term mental health care and assistance for students who seek out their help and counseling.

The idea is to intervene with kids before they interact or encounter police intervention. Focus has moved away from just anti gang into mental health intervention in all forms.

D90’s Essential Objectives would be discussed and finalized during an executive retreat in June.

Larry made some comments on the benefits of block scheduling and perhaps the lack of understanding some members of the community have on block scheduling. Variety of instruction, excellent teachers, and engagement of students is the basis of block scheduling.

Q: How do you account for the lack of repetition A: The repetition takes place during the class.

Q: Will there be modifications next year, for example with gym. A: Some modifications will be taking place with 5th/6th and modifications happen in real time as different issues arise.

Q: Is homework meant to be completed during classtime? A: Some work is done in class but some will continue to be done at home as well.

There was a discussion on the benefits and perceived drawbacks of block scheduling with Larry responding to each concern. Gen tabled the talk at this time in the interest of continuing the meeting.

**Committee Reports**

**Positive Youth Development,** Megan Hunkele

No report

**Fun Lunch,**  Gwen Geraghty, Ashley Palmer

We made a little over $1600. We are a little short on volunteers in May.

Last day of school is not a Marla’s Day so we will have a PTO sponsored Pizza Day.

Six weeks left of Fun Lunch.

**PIMA** , Anna Cook, Audrea Montalbano

Pizza lunches have gone well.

Monday the 9th is the final band concert at Dominican. Everyone is invited.

The following Thursday is the final orchestra concert.

There is a Great America trip this month and then practice begins for Graduation Ceremony.

Wednesday the 25th is the end of year celebration for band and orchestra.

**G4G,** Renee Sichlau

Shoe drive was held, 19 pairs were upcycled

**8th Grade Coordinator – Graduation, Dance** Amy Dwyer, Pamela Wynn, copied and pasted from email

Cap/gown and yard sign distribution will take place on Monday after school in MPR from 3:15-4:15. Tuesday also for those not able to pick up Monday.   
  
Still waiting for update from Larry on details for actual graduation… timing, number of family members allowed to attend, etc…

“All Glown Up” (neon glow theme)

7:30-10 in the North Gym

Tickets on sale $40, includes DJ, photo booth and light snacks/drinks

Volunteer slots for 7:15-8:45 slot are full

Only 2 openings for 8:45-10:15 slot.

Thank you to all of the 7th grade parents that volunteered!!

Yearbook: There will be a yearbook but it is being run by a very small number of students and is in process

**8th Grade Field Day Coordinators,** Peggy Balesteri, copied and pasted from email

* We received a $500 donation for the service project from someone who read about it in The Journal.  So generous! That money will enable us to buy the remaining materials we need for the project and maybe even add a few items. We mostly still need small water bottles, granola bars, shampoo and tissues.
* T-shirts and drawstring bags are ready to be picked up.
* Mr. Mendralla is coordinating the teachers to head the groups. He will also get us classrooms for the 8 groups to put together the service project bags.
* I’ve coordinated with the janitors and PE teachers about equipment, tables, etc, that will be needed.
* We have only a few volunteer slots open.Woohoo!
* Placed a bulk order at Jewel for the Italian Ice that will be picked up that morning.
* As we discussed, Domino’s pizza will be served for lunch. Where do you think we should put the tables for lunch? Just outside the gym? Trying to keep the food in the shade.
* Attached is a proposed layout for the stations.
* I am working on a schedule for the teachers and volunteers to follow that day. (see attached draft)
* We are working on instructions for each station and the service project so everyone knows what to do. (see draft instructions for stations)

Let me know if the PTO approves the motion to cover the Field Day costs.

**Inclusion and Belongingness,** Beth Vlerick

Collaboration meeting was held last week including all the Belongingness Committees in the District and Township. Roosevelt’s group is still in the building and learning phase this year. Some students were present to lend their voice and their direct feedback was very helpful. The Roosevelt branch of the Belongingness committee is coming together and there are now members and they are focusing on these tenets:

All children and their parents feel included, regardless of race, in PTO and school events, Making sure children who are non neurotypical are included in PTO and school events, making sure all children who identify as LGBTQ+ feel welcome and accepted in the District and at events.

**Spring Fun Fest**, Caren Teclaw, Megan Kinsella , copied and pasted from email

Caren and I are really excited to share some fantastic information about the 2022 Spring Fest, Back to the Future:

* Due to COVID mandates lifted, we only had 8 weeks to plan the event, typically planners have a year in advance.
* We sold 15,700 tickets.
* Approximately 300 Families attended.
* About 1,000 people came through the event.
* We generated $28,542 between calendar draw, donations, and ticket sales.
* The Split-the-Pot was a total of $2,566.
  + Half of that, $1,278, we donated to UNICEF for Ukrainian families.
  + The other half of the pot we split among three winners, $426 each.
* Total net profit was $15,031.
* We discussed what worked and what can be improved for the future:
  + First, we want to address the very long lines to enter the event. We are aware they were too long and it took a little over 30 minutes for all to get through. Going forward, some recommendations to address this would be:
    - Pre-ordered ticket sales either be sent home with students or have a pick up time before the night of the event.
    - If weather cooperates, set up ticket sales outside on circle drive to provide more room.
    - Have separate locations or separate lines for cash tickets vs. credit card tickets.

There is a lot that can be done to improve this situation.

* Consider two rooms for Karaoke.
* Add another inflatable, also with that look to local business to sponsor an inflatable. For example, Reeg Plumbing sponsored the large obstacle course inflatable.
* The Cake Walk would need a little better planning for the lines since it was such a hit.
* The Split-the-Pot could be divided into three parts, one for a charity, one for the PTO, and one for students.
* We all agree two hours was a perfect time.
* We would suggest to not serve dinner and to keep concessions as is, it was very successful. We spent $1000 on concessions and sold all drink and food.
* The Brown Cow concessions sold out very fast and we would like to consider a local business to sponsor the Brown Cow ice cream treats.
* Continue with the Arts & Crafts room.
* Add a Bingo Room with a table of prizes.
* The Spa was non-stop, so next year we would split it into two locations, one for hair and one for nails.

Conclusion

* Overall it was a great event, and a great experience to chair with Caren. The positive feedback was humbling. Thank you to everyone that supported.

Last, I have to mention this event is still open and looking for chairs. Please know we will share all our planning with the new team ahead of time to support as much as possible.

***The following typed live at meeting***:

Thank you to the community for their support and positive feedback.

Fun Fest was planned in about 8 weeks and it was a mad dash!

15,700 tickets were sold, 300 families attended and 1000 people!

With the lines, it took about 35 minutes for every family just to make it through the doors. The committee had some ideas on how to shorten this time frame.

Karaoke was a huge hit! Perhaps dedicate 2 rooms to karaoke.

Inflatable room was a huge hit. Reaching out to local businesses could be a help to sponsor individual inflatables.

Cake walk was very popular. Next year, we need to figure out the line configurations.

Split the Pot at the end was very hectic. The pot doubled at the end of the night. There also needs to be a hard stop at adding to the pot.

Two hour time period seemed perfect timeframe.

Concessions sold out at the end of the night! Brown Cow sold out early and was very popular.

Arts/crafts was quiet and fun. Perhaps add a Bingo room next year.

Spa Room was jammed – perhaps 2 rooms would be better.

Silly String is so fun and popular so as crazy as it is, it is a chance for the kids to do something they would never get to do otherwise. On the other hand, it is very expensive so perhaps we could charge more or have sponsors.

There was a discussion on whether to keep the fest in the Spring and the general consensus was to perhaps keep the date as it worked out so well. The raffle and the prizes were so generously donated from the community to the point that we wonder if it will be sustained at that level next year. In general, money was made for the PTO, students had fun and it is something to be discussed next year.

Caren gave a heartfelt thank you to all the volunteers and the families who so generously donated their time and money. The night could not have happened without you!

Gen commented that the goal was to have fun and that was accomplished! Students enjoyed themselves and so did families.

**Old/New Business**

Laura Huseby addressed the PTO about the OPRF Imagine Project. In 2016, there was a need for new facilities, especially the pool. The Imagine Project was born to address this issue and lead a corroborative effort at improving the physical spaces of the school.

Monday night between 5:30-7:30 pm the community is invited to see the new spaces that were improved during Phase1.

Phase 2 will include the pool and physical education spaces.

This will cost money and as homeowners we all have a stakeholder say in this.

The Imagine Project itself and all its plans can be found online at the OPRF website.

Gen spoke on the PTO investment into Roosevelt Middle School. A proposal was presented encompassing gifts to Academics, Art, Athletics, and STEM

Amy made a motion to accept the proposal, Beth seconded it and the investment proposal was passed unanimously.

See attachment

Meeting Adjourned at 1050