

Roosevelt PTO Meeting
Meeting outside at 7600 Augusta Ave
September 3rd, 2021 0930 am

Present: Stephanie VanDerSchie, Ashley Palmer, Erin Llanes, Gen Jones, Beth Vlerick, Amy Hansmann, Gretchen Radach, Sally Gregory, Sara Wienkes, Gwen Geraghty, Larry Garstki, Tim Artz, Anna Cook, Lailani Workman, Julianne Nery, Tracy Norwick, Allison Yumlu, Dalila Torres, Megan Bane, Megan Hunkele, Katherine Nix, Renee Sichlau, Caren Teclaw, Amy Prestes, Emily Jones, Gwen Birkel, Andrea Montalbaro, Melissa Lutz

Meeting called to order at 0908. Notes from May 7th 2021 zoom call approved. Amy moved to approve the minutes, they were seconded by Beth.

Gen welcomed everyone to the first PTO meeting of the year. Gen and Melissa introduced themselves. Attendants introduced themselves. Larry introduced himself.

Treasurer Report, Amy Hansmann

Reimbursement form is on website, will be updated shortly. Please send to Amy when you need reimbursement for your committee. Please deposit money through Lisa or Amy. We were down last year due to loss of income from various fundraisers. We are still ok bc of the surplus we have always operated with. Luckily, we have had generous donations throughout the year. We would like to brainstorm different ways to generate income this year.

Spring Fling, April 29th, will take the place of fall funfest so hopefully that can still go forward and generate the income we are used to.

Marla's Lunch is not the fundraiser that our old fun lunch was. This used to be our biggest income provider and we no longer have that. Marla/PTO are partnering to contribute toward lunches for fee waiver students so that one Fun Lunch meal is provided per week. PTO donations were up last year and we will ask again this year. A note will be placed in the Bulletin asking for donations to the PTO.

See treasurer report for more detailed information and numbers.

PTO funds various items and events throughout the year. Needs in the community are rising and PTO tries to rise and meet that need.

Motion made to approve budget by Amy Prestes, Tim Artz seconded.

See attached.

Superintendent Report, Larry Gartski for Ed Condon

Covid screening testing to move forward at Roosevelt. An email was sent out explaining procedure. Money was given from the state for this process. The screening is a plus because we can trace covid exposure and allow students to resume several clubs that otherwise could not go forward. Vaccinated individuals are exempt. Vaccination status should be uploaded to powerschool to make process easier. The test is a spit test that will occur during gym – one grade per day.

Q: What information is passed on beyond the school to protect PHI? A: Larry is unsure and will look into it. As far as he knows only name and school is passed on.

On Tuesday we will be receiving the new Roosevelt newsletter “In the Loop.” This is meant to be a one stop email destination to limit the number of emails parents receive and to cluster information to make it easier to digest. The email will also be sent to students.

An intervention that is taking place at the classroom level is that students are being allowed to move more freely around their classrooms as long as they are masked and in a situation where social distancing can take place. Lockers are still not being used but teachers and students alike seem to like having their belongings with them.

No advisory this year which is a negative. The goal with advisory is to have a small group and an adult that know you better than anyone else at the school. Each student should have at least one adult and a small student group that they can go to if they need help. We are partnering with Sarah’s Inn to workshop how to make friends, keep friends, navigating social situations, problem solving, etc. We are hoping to get this back up and running because of the importance of the advisory program.

Communication structure for teachers include team meetings every day at every grade level. The goal is to provide individual teaching and care for each student. Larry is so proud of the work the educators and staff put in to making each students’ experience special. Goal is that everyone gets everything that they need to move on to high school and thrive.

Q: Where do kids put their boots if there are no lockers? A: They take them with them.

Q: Are sports taking place and do we have concessions. A: Yes and sometimes.

Q: Do volunteers need to upload their vaccine card? A: Yes they need to be vaccinated, we will find out if this needs to be upload or just presented in office.

Q: What’s happening with Open House and Conferences? A: Sept 23rd will be open house and it will be virtual, prerecorded videos will be available. Some teachers will be monitoring their emails during the time frame the videos will be shown. Conferences will most likely continue to be virtual.

Principal Report, Larry Garstki

Combined with Superintendent report, see above.

Teacher Liaison Report, Rachel Parker

None

Co-President Report, Genevieve Jones/Melissa Lutz

Before school started, PTO presidents worked with Larry to help create/approve the calendar and budget. Several committees were busy at the beginning of the year, each will be reported on, see below, committee reports.

Adventure Ed was planned and went off amazingly. Tshirts were delivered and were so appreciated.

Penny Wars will be marketed to generate revenue. This is a competition between grade levels and will be explained in greater detail. This will occur during the last week of September and first week of October.

School Board Liaison Report, Sara Wienkes

August 16th was BOE meeting.

Sara went through school board agenda and notes. Meeting can be found online.

Some highlights: Students cannot eat or drink for an hour before covid spit test. Some thought will need to be given to when the testing will take place so students are not pulled out of class for too long.

There will be no remote learning unless someone is quarantining because of exposure or when waiting for a negative test, this will be triggered through the school nurses. Remote learning will not be provided for those who are asymptomatic or who are quarantined due to travel unless they test positive. Those with close contacts but are vaccinated will not be provided with remote learning if they are asymptomatic.

Covid positive cases will be recorded and provided but individual emails will no longer be sent out, this information will be found on district website.

Delays in HVAC were experienced but all systems are up and running.

Committee Reports

Positive Youth Development, Megan Hunkele

Focuses on substance abuse and mental health in our youth. Oak Park and River Forest have higher than state average numbers in substance abuse and mental health issues in 6th-8th grades so we have received a grant to help mitigate this issue.

The township is always looking for ways to advertise that PYD exists and is available to help when needed. PYD would like to spread the word that they exist, and will mostly be promoting the Glenbard parents series this year.

PTO Website Coordinator, Gretchen Radach

Updates needed to be run on the websites and all three schools were involved. All three sites were migrated over to a new server with the help of a Lincoln parent. The new server has less bugs and is secure.

In the future, if you need spot in the Bulletin, just send a quick note to Gretchen so she can save a spot for you.

Fun Lunch, Ashley Palmer

12 restaurants this year up from the 4 last year.

Volunteer spots are all full through October which is great!

Marla's Lunch will be canceled for the day of the 8th grade field trip for 8th graders.

Q: PIMA volunteers? A: They are represented during the 3rd quarter.

Teacher Appreciation, Melissa Lutz

Coffee and muffins and scones were provided to staff and educators by the PTO for the first week of school. Dinner will also be provided during Open House.

PIMA, Anna Cook

We are always trying to recruit more students to PIMA. PIMA dues are due and links will be sent out.

Anna would like to partner with the PTO to offer coffee as a fundraiser, "Bulldog Brew."

Q: If you have a 4th grader who would like to join band, would they need to be tested bc they cannot be vaccinated? A: No, because there are less students and more room to spread out.

Q: Are rehearsals still in the morning? A: Yes.

Q: What is PIMA? A: We help support the music program at the district schools. PIMA is Parent Instrumental Music Association.

Larry commented that there is a large amount of money that comes from the school as well to partner with PIMA and provide an excellent music program.

Gen commented that sticking with PIMA is great bc the number of students playing instruments really decreases in high school and you will really stand out.

5th Grade Coordinators, Caren Teclaw

5th grade adventure ed: Tshirts were ordered, class of 2025, the timing of delivery was tight – please order earlier next year. Sizes overall worked but recommended ordering some adult mediums or larges to provide more choices in shirt sizes to each student.

Adventure Ed went over well and Caren said kids had fun and enjoyed the experience and tshirts.

Q: Are students partnered with kids from other elementary school? A: Yes, but it was also random in some ways so some kids were with students that they knew. Larry stated that having a shared experience with all 5th graders is really the goal.

Q: Melissa asked for more information on drop off and pick up to be sent to the parents

Old/New Business

School picture day is on Rosh Hashanah. Unfortunately it was scheduled with the company. In addition to the company, scheduling was needed to have pictures available quickly for covid mitigation. There will be makeups schedule

Meeting adjourned at 1037. Next meeting will October 1st.