**Roosevelt PTO Meeting**

**Meeting in person in Roosevelt Teachers’ Lounge**

**Friday March 10, 2023 at 8:30am**

**Present:** Melissa Lutz, Sarah Donoho, Ashley Reed, Sally Gregory, Amy Prestes, Larry Garski, Katie Bevan, Amy Hansmann, Renee Sichlau, Genevieve Jones, Beth Vlerick, Deja Von Ende, Rashida Dairyko & Michelle Taylor,

*Meeting called to order at 8:35 am. Katie Bevan moved to approve the minutes from February 10, 2023; they were seconded by Amy Prestes meeting approved.*

**Treasurer Report** – Amy Hansmann

Not much to report today. We are giving some gift cards to social workers for National Social Worker week. PTO is well funded so working on ideas for how to use our money. Divided into: fundraising, student development, teacher development and then organization funding into those activities. Committees don’t need to self-fund so please check with PTO before planning an event or if you have an idea for a future activity.

**Principal Report/Teacher Liaison report** – Larry Gartski

No update from teacher liaison but we can assume they would still like parents to reiterate the use of deodorant.

Already starting to look forward to next year. First communication just went out to incoming 5th grade parents. The teachers from 4th and 5th grade meet to talk about kids and the kids will also get the ability to come visit in the spring to see what middle school is about. Roosevelt readiness is also a great option for new 5th graders.

Board elections are coming up and Mr. Gartski met with a all of the candidates running this year. They are all great but not sure they really understood how complicated it is to run a school. Main topics they brought up were test scores and curriculum. The school does put student performance as a top priority with working directly with teachers as to what they need to best support students and help them excel. Academics is always happening at our school. Fine line between challenging kids and breaking their spirit. Roosevelt feels really good about helping kids problem solve in an interpersonal way. All but three teachers here have masters in education and they work diligently to ensure that each child is getting what they need out of the curriculum at Roosevelt.

Garski does read what kids put write on their IPADs and there are triggers with different language. He recently saw one child write some things regarding a hard time that she’s having and her friend responded asking if she has a trust adult to talk to her or her advisor. Great testament to what they get in their advisory program and how the school is really helping out children manage life as a middle schooler. Just has Sarah’s Inn here to talk to kids about healthy relationships as it pertains to social media, texting, peer to peer, etc.

Science program, they were piloting a program. They are keeping what they had with some updates based on how the pilot program went.

Noted that PTO is a neutral body and will not be endorsing candidates publicly. We will not be taking an endorsing position.

**Co-President Report** – Melissa Lutz/Sarah Donoho

We did support and promote a yoga night with Ms. Zinger. It was small but very relaxing with some yoga, meditation and an art activity. We are also working with Ms. Sterns who is up for teacher of the year so we are supporting her by paying for one of her nights of lodging at the weekend event. Started working with the art teacher to support the art program. We purchased 20 frames for her that allows her to change the art being displayed. Working with Kevin from the IT department for the district for a monitor and a program called Carousel to help add specific details to the monitors that would be district wide and allow up to 25 monitors. PTO will cover monitor costs and first year fees of Carousel product at $250 per month. Starting with two next year one in LLC and one in front doorway. Will also be funding the home track meet at Triton college April 14th.

Working with the school to set up a time for Devorah Heitner who is an author of a book called Growing up in Public. She will be doing a presentation to students and parents. This could be spring or next fall.

**Committee Reports** –

1. 8th Grade Graduation/Dance – if you have an 8th grader you received an email about caps and gowns, dates for dance etc. Graduation fee is to be paid by March 17th. Photographer booked and a portion of the proceeds go to Beyond Hunger. The dance will be off campus at the 19th century club and they will be asking for 7th grade parents to chaperone the dance so be on the look out. They will also be having the traditional parent sponsored pool party at the Oak Park County Club for 8th graders. This is not a PTO sponsored event as it is at a private club. In the past only member parents have paid for this but this year we will be asking parents to help cover the cost of this.
2. Hospitality Update – They served Gringo and Blonde again during conferences and again a hit. Plus they added to-go containers so teachers could take food home. We have a birth announcement the MTSS coordinator had a baby boy on 2/21/23. They will look into getting a gift. Mrs. Parker is also expecting and due the last week of school. Staff appreciation week coming up in April so working on that.
3. Spring Fun Fest – Friday May 5th. Met with concession coordinator and all food confirmed + how many tickets each food item will cost. Gathering all committee chairs to go through what needs to happen, volunteers needed and timelines. Holding regular status meetings to keep everyone on track. Daily drawing will be 2 weeks and start April 24th. They are looking for more donations for raffle prizes. Grand prize will be moved to Monday May 8th. They assessed PTO supplies to see what is still needed to order for supplies. (That space could use a cleanout and Green for good is willing to help.)
4. Fun Lunch – Please show up on time for your volunteer spot. We will share that times should be updated on signup genius. Tuesdays are a little later because of advisory. Biggest complaint from kids is food is always cold. Homerun Inn reached out about doing lunches for Roosevelt. Will re-sent signup again for volunteer spots. Committee could always use people to join.
5. PIMA – Spring music concert: A Little Night Music is April 21st and planning in full swing. Jazz band concert is on March 16th.
6. School Supplies – School Kidz was acquired by School Specialty but we are in now and can see lists. Contact is ongoing with teachers about supplies needed and we will include what teachers request. We will be looking at supply lists and decrease quantities of things like post-its, glue, pens etc to review where there is excess. Base cost did go up about $8-10 on wholesale price. Recommendation that PTO help cover that increased cost. We are going to take stylus out of supply kit as it comes with iPad now in 5th grade. If there is a need the PTO can help fund the stylus pens. PTO will buy 4 scholarship boxes for grade and will send to school for supplies.
7. Inclusion committee – Please reach out if anyone needs their assistance because they have people on their committee with a bunch of knowledge.
8. Green for Good – Helping with waste sorting in the lunch rooms and teachers feel like its very helpful on fun lunch days. Will get a report to fun lunch people on waste.
9. Sixth grade service project – Recommend to next year that you have something kids are actively engaged in as they really enjoyed it. The organization was very impressed with the students. Organize earlier in the fall to make sure you have enough time.

**Old/New Business** –

PTO is in need of members for next year. Looking for people to help recruit people who would be great to get involved. Please reach out to Melissa or Sarah.

*Meeting Adjourned at 10:05am and the next meeting is April 14, 2023 at 8:30am.*