**Roosevelt PTO Meeting**

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

**Friday November 3, 2023 8:30am**

**Present:**  Sarah Donoho, Dr. Ed Condon, Larry Garski, Carrie Ryan, Michele Taylor, Erin Llanes, Naomi Lesar, Katie Avalos, Jennifer Jerardi, Ashley Reed, Michele Taylor, Rene Sichlau, Gen Jones

*Meeting called to order at 8:32am. Amy Prestes moved to approve the minutes from September 2023; they were seconded by Carrie Ryan; minutes approved.*

**Treasurer Report** – Carrie Ryan/Michele Taylor/Amy Hansmann

Penny wars came out twice as much as expected. School supplies came out well too. Right now ahead of where we intended.

Please send all receipts to [bulldogsptotreasur@gmail.com](mailto:bulldogsptotreasur@gmail.com) for reimbursements. Thinking about making a google form as well. They are also looking into an audit process at the end of the year as a best practice for each year.

**Superintendent Report** – Dr. Ed Condon

Congratulations on recent events and all the great things going on at RMS. District is working on school safety initiative which is really important. Last time they did one of these reviews was 2018 so it’s time. They have great cooperation with RF police, fire department and park district. Partnering with a group called West 40 which is a group that has access to expertise that we may not have access too specifically a safety and security team. Focus on three areas: infrastructure facilities, procedures and protocols and mental heal safety and wellness.

Changed the date for the literacy forum and it’s now in December. Goal is for it to be an engaging format with family and staff.

District received state report cards on Monday, and he wanted to thank our facility, staff and students for the success of our schools. There are great things happening here but there are always things we can do better. They are digging into the data more deeply. The reality of pandemic recovery is a real thing. Students furthest from opportunity before the pandemic is even greater now. Roosevelt middle school while technically commendable, the way the data is set up it makes it very challenging for middle schools to receive a exemplary report. The growth and achievement with reading, math and science was amazing. We were 3.5 points away from being exemplary which is great.

Principal search – sending information for the facility, staff, and parents about the information they will us. Reached out for partnership with RFEA and RFPA as well as the PTO around having participants from all groups of our school community in the interview process. The application process has officially closed. Interview process is slated December through January. As early as late January there could be a recommendation to the board.

**Principal Report** – Larry Gartski

Student Achievement and Illinois Rating

Band/orchestra concert last night was truly an amazing selection of music and we are right up there with the best middle schools in Illinois. We have so many opportunities for kids in the arts and stem programs to help our kids walk out of here very well rounded.

Halloween social was a lovely event. Everyone was very appropriate and great to have just one grade there and to focus on them.

Advisory program is still going strong this year. Well-designed lesson for those weekly meetings. New series will be called “speak up at school” starting November 21st. Really focus on intolerant language. School has seen an uptick in name calling and trying to put a lid on that and educate kids on what word can be used that are hurtful and how deep name calling can cut.

Please dress kids warm because they will be going outside even with cold temps. Also using the large gym during lunch time as opposed to just small classrooms for indoor recess.

Conferences coming up next week. There aren’t as many slots as we have students and teachers so if you don’t see every teacher, it’s ok. If you need to see a teacher please don’t hesitate to reach out to your kids teachers.

100th year celebrations still ongoing. A few things coming up in the spring with a committee that will also include parents so be on the look out for communication about that soon.

**Co-President Report** – Sarah Donoho

Bookfair is this coming Monday-Wednesday.

PTO by-law amendments are being reviewed to update and cleaned up a bit with language used throughout the document. All will be given notice with a chance to review before completed. Aiming for a goal of being done by the end of year.

Yoga with Mrs. Zinger is back again! Be on the lookout for dates.

8th grade dance – Questions about location: gym or 19th century club? Overwhelming discussion at the meeting was to bring it back to the gym.

Working on coordinating the calendar of all the appreciation events throughout the year.

Focus on organizing spring fest now.

**Committee Reports** –

7th Grade Coordinators – Social was October 27th and as we heard it went really well.

Spelling Bees – There were 31 signed up with 22 participating. 6 finalist and they went 14 rounds. Elliot is the champion and will compete in March in sectionals.

Penny Wars – Made around $4,000 and was very successful and fun. Highly competitive 5th and 6th grade battle.

Green for Good – An idea: a tie in with compostable lunch and penny wars next year.

Pumpkin smash is scheduled for Tomorrow 11/4 at Roosevelt. Please come out and drop your pumpkins.

Collaborating with Eco-Warriors for a soil collection (native garden and soil) to send to University of Wisconsin to tell us how much carbon is in the soil. Also doing a seed collection from the native gardens and the plants will be gown over the winter and a plant sale in the spring. Still working on a date for that.

Dr. Condon gave a very important shout our to Rene and the longevity and leadership she’s provided to Green for Good is exceptional.

PIMA – New rep. One workshop already and the concert last night. Starting to work through kinks of the extra fun lunch to support PIMA. Lou Malnati’s dinner set up for 11/27. We will make sure communication chair has their contact so their events get published out to the school community.

6th Grade Coordinators – Charities they are collecting for are Animal Care League and Magnificent Mutts. Looking into possible animal visitors to Roosevelt. No parents’ night out due to time constraints.

5th Grade Coordinators – nothing going on until winter holidays.

Social and Hospitality – Planning dinner for teachers Wednesday night (tacos) during conferences. Talking about trying to get the appreciation days all lined up and help overseeing this.

Fun Lunch – No reports today. Much better year with the flow of the delivery and packaging. Amy has a check to deliver to PTO from Marla’s.

**PING** – Organization that provides instruments for the next generation. Mission is to help provide equitable access to the music programs at D90, D97 and OPRF. Lucky to have lessons provides through school but also help with private lessons and future travel for high school programs. There are a lot of pathways into PING for families. From time-to-time PTO’s also help support. They will also take instrument donations when families are done with instruments. They do need a new D90 board liaison so shared this with Dr. Condon. They also have a mentor program for instructors to volunteer time to help with the private lesson options. [www.pingoprf.org](http://www.pingoprf.org)

**Old Business** - none

**New Business** - none

**Adjourn** – at 9:23 am

Next Meeting is December 8, 2023 at 8:30am at Sarah Donoho’s home for a holiday event.