



PTO Executive Committee Board Meeting

October 6, 2021

Attendees: Beth Carmody (Principal), Nissa Cox (President), Anne Babick (Vice President), Anna Anderson (Treasurer), Amy Kay (Communications), Michelle Cullen (Assistant Communications), Elke Rehbock (Assistant Treasurer), Jessica Newell (Secretary), Sara Dahlstrom (2020/21 President), Gary Wendt (Teacher Representative)

Call to order at 9:02am.

President's Report – Nissa Cox

Nissa passed around an A-Z terms for new families. Continually working to be mindful of how we can help new families and keep them up to speed with our vernacular, helping them to feel included in our messaging.

Nissa attended the September school board meeting. There was discussion about the covid testing program. Denise Matthews, Director of Student Services Equity and Inclusion, has a 3-phase plan on coming on board. There was discussion on sexual health education and increasing communication in grades 5 and 7. D36 currently works with Lurie's on the existing program.

15 of 40 new families came to the school party. We discussed whether we do something else for them this fall and/or throughout the year. Thoughts on utilizing the buddy program throughout the year to help the families feel connected and in the know. Bike racks are not allowed near the kinder drop off - an email went out via Beth's messenger explaining where to park bikes.

District and village pushing for bike safety, community wide.

D36 is looking for crossing guards, \$30/hr.

November 12th - yoga in the park as the fall event this year (taking place of the fall luncheon). Will start at 9am, followed by coffee/muffins.

Teacher/Staff party - great turnout! Chairs had a great idea moving it to October so it could be outside.

Pizza Fun Lunch - new system, going well. They have the right amount of helpers and it's been streamlined.

Go to School Night - positive feedback from parents.

Picture Day - different ordering system this year. Deadline to order is 10/19 for free shipping. Use the Item to remind of deadlines.

World Travelers - country spotlight will be Colombia (hosted by Maria Shideler). She'll post a travelogue on Schoology and provide a Colombian recipe. Dance out Friday - Colombian music. We'll do Monday trivia (one winner per grade). No food/lunch. New this year (Liz Delzell's idea) - decorate the lobby in Colombian theme.

Important dates: Conferences (10/14-15), World Travelers (10/18-22), Fall Clean Up (10/23), Ghost Walk (10/29), Book Fair (11/15-18)

Secretary Report - Jessica Newell | Approval of 9/1/21 Meeting Minutes:

Minutes emailed ahead of the meeting for review. Elke motioned to approve. Anna Seconded. All in favor. Minutes are moved.

Spirit Wear - 125 orders, brought in \$1430 for the school. Discussion to remove the first spirit day from the school calendar for families that don't have SW yet and re-name that day as "school color day".

Jess will look into sensory friendly options and research a new vendor for such. Would be wonderful to be able to offer this in the spring as an additional item. Suggestion to check out a store in Highland Park called B Friends.

Principal's Report - Beth Carmody

Go to School Night - teachers were mixed on the split class schedule. Parents were also split. We will probably land on the 45 minute time for next year. The survey was used to get a consensus from the community and for planning next year's night.

General - we've fallen into a good rhythm. Communities are forming within classes. Kids seem happy and excited again. Things are calming down and everyone is settling in well.

Looking forward to conferences - 80% will be in person vs. zoom

Ghost Walk - taking place on 10/29. Will be outside, we just don't know the specifics to share yet. We need to be mindful of the numbers congregating and how to best manage the crowd safely. More details to come.

We are still getting a few new students - mostly 1st grade.

Please encourage people who are considering HW next fall, to register when registration opens, even if they aren't 100%. It is very helpful in planning for classes and teachers.

Shield testing starts tomorrow. Other schools have started and it seems to be going well.

Teacher Representative Report - Gary Wendt

Winter Sing - Date is December 16th. IDHP restrictions make a live performance tough.

We may move to a Winter "Showcase" - an immersive/interactive multi-art experience.

Thinking about a school walkthrough in small groups throughout the hallways. Will try to do a live singing event if possible - outdoors. Open house format for the day, with targeted visiting hours. The theme is "WELCOME".

We may need volunteers to help hang things. PTO can supply funds for more supplies, if needed.

Vice President's Report – Anne Babick

Room Parents - email should contain all pertinent info for October events. Holding off on sending reminders for November events since we have a lot going on this month.

Anne has volunteered to be in charge of the Fall Cleanup. Big picture is to improve the overall look and feel of the exterior of the school. She will send out a SignUp Genius for families to volunteer to help on 10/23. We got a bid for a professional cleanup for \$800. Considering one large, professional cleanup in the fall or spring. PTO will fund. There is concern about the condition of the fence on Burr/Chatfield corner. That falls under a Capital Improvement and needs to be addressed with D36.

Treasurer's Report – Ana Anderson & Elke Rehbock

Nothing to report.

Communications Report – Amy Kay & Michelle Cullen

Items are coming out on 10/17 and 11/2. Amy is working on updating the website. World Traveler's blast - date TBD, 10/18? Fall Cleanup Blast on 10/22.

Book Fair - signed up with ABC Fairs again. In person and on-line options again. Books dropped off on 11/15, the committee will set everything up. Fair starts on Wednesday, 11/17 from 2-8pm. We need to discuss timing and how many people we allow in at one time. We don't want the RC overcrowded. Should we move the checkout area to the hallway?

Next Meetings:

School board meeting on 10/19 - Anne will attend.

Exec meeting on 11/3 - Anna will host.

Meeting adjourned at 10:25am.