

Robbins Lane PTA Minutes - September 5, 2024

INCOMING OFFICERS and OFFICERS REMAINING IN SAME OR DIFFERENT POSITION:

Co-Presidents: Lori Vergos and Carla Mondelli

Vice Presidents: Nina Grieco, Lynette Birnbaum, Jen Hemdev, Jennifer Kombogiannis

Treasurer: Dayna Palumbo

Recording Secretary: Staci Rogove

Corresponding Secretary: Melissa Hendricks

Council Delegates: Rui Gao, Janine Odell, Allyson Shepard Zubli, Claire Simon, Lindsay Streitman, Maria Moshanas

Meeting called to order at 7:51pm

Introduction: Lori Vergos

Good evening and welcome to the first PTA meeting of the 2024-25 school year. Thank you for coming tonight and for your commitment to our school community. My name is Lori Vergos Bothos and my co-president this year is Carla Mondelli. I am so happy to welcome everyone back and would like to extend an extra special welcome to those of you who are new to Robbins Lane. I have found this school to be more than just a place where our children learn and grow -- it is also a community, where parents, teachers, and administrators come together to do great things for our children. For those of you who don't know me, I have two girls, Michaela in 8th grade at Southwoods and Gabriella in 4th grade here at Robbins Lane.

I would first like to take a minute to introduce this year's Executive Board, who have been hard at work all summer preparing for this school year. Our Vice Presidents, who each oversee a subset of our committees are Nina Grieco, Lynette Birnbaum, Jen Hemdev, and Jenny Kombogiannis. Our Treasurer, Dayna Palumbo, Corresponding Secretary, Melissa Hendricks and Recording Secretary, Staci Rogove, and our principal Mr Meyers. Our Council Delegates, who represent our school at the district level, are Allyson Shepard Zubli, Claire Simon, Lindsey Streitman, Janine Odell, Rui Gao, and

Maria Moshanas. Our dedicated committee Chairs also serve on the PTA executive board. Thank you to all of you who are serving this year. Our goal as the PTA Executive Board is to not only provide activities and events, but also to support our students, families, teachers, and staff in every way that we can.

A few of the school board members were introduced. Brian Greico spoke about the Oct 1 vote for the facilities referendum. He explained the vote was to approve the district borrowing money to do work on all 10 buildings. Proposition 1 includes things like security improvements, enrollment growth...If that passes, then proposition 2 includes future enrollment growth, gym, turf fields. Susan Falkove explained that the money borrowed is taken out over time. Robbins Lane specifically would be getting AC in the gymnasium, new playgrounds, security enhancements, a whole new gym addition with AC and the current gymnasium would become an all purpose room.

Lori continued....The PTA is an organization of volunteers that helps bring together many wonderful programs, events, and activities for both the students and their families. The events and activities that we put on are only a success because of the amazing parents and teachers who volunteer their time and efforts. If you are interested in becoming more involved and volunteering in some way we would love to have you! The more help the better. If you have questions or are interested, please come up to us after the meeting and we can help find the perfect fit for you. Speaking from experience, it is very rewarding. Seeing the children enjoy the events and assemblies we organize makes it all worth it.

We know some parents may feel they cannot participate in the PTA because of time constraints or maybe not being available during the day because of work – but please don't let that discourage you. Whether you have 30 minutes or a few hours, your time,

your ideas, your talents, and your voice are truly needed and appreciated. It's an amazing way to get involved in your child's school, but also a great way to meet new people.

As a reminder, please visit our website frequently to see upcoming PTA sponsored activities and links to many district resources. Also, remember to read your emails on Sunday and Wednesday nights. If you have questions you can always reach out to anyone up here at any time.

On behalf of the PTA and all of the volunteers, we wish everyone a very productive year ahead and look forward to your continued support. Together we will have an amazing year.

MINUTES: The minutes from the June meeting were posted online. Everyone had a chance to review them. There were no corrections, so minutes stand as approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Dayna Palumbo

As of September 3 rd 2024

Ending checking balance: \$35,227.51

Ending saving balance: \$1.00

Total Cash on hand: \$0.00

For the two months ending August 31, 2024:

Total revenue: \$1,820.83

Total expenses: \$2,522.95

Net loss: \$702.12

As of September 3 rd 2024

Outstanding Checks: \$5,058.20

All balances were reconciled to the bank statements. The books were reviewed and found to be in order by Su Hu, Thank you!

CORRESPONDENCE:

There were a ton of thank you letters from various teachers in the building for the end of year

gifts. Staci read a few thank you notes from staff members thanking the PTA for all the programs they continue to bring to the school for the children.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT: Mr. Meyers welcomed everyone and thanked the PTA for the breakfast and ice cream truck during super intendants conference day. He thanked the custodial staff for preparing our building for the school year. We will be getting new hallway painting. He reminded everyone to always reach out to the teacher if you have any concerns throughout the year. Back to school night is from 6-7:30pm in three ½ hour sessions on 9/17. He reminded everyone about Pick Up Patrol, the app they use to handle dismissal and any change in dismissal plans for the day. Safety is the most important, so please submit any changes in a timely manner. Everyone will be receiving emails about about the updated policy from NY State regarding drills in school...we will be notified in advance before any drills.

COMMITTEES:

Although it is only the beginning of school for our children, many members of the PTA have been hard at work for weeks. We have had numerous meetings over the summer to prepare for this school year.

The VPs will ask their Committee Chairs to speak when they have upcoming events or announcements. If you are interested in volunteering to help on a committee, please let the chair know.

1st VP - Nina Grieco

Speak:

- Directory
- Arts in Ed - Eric Wilzig the Magician is coming tomorrow to kick off
- Welcome Back Picnic
- School Store - First Monday of every month during lunch
- Birthday Bins - monthly for \$30...one salty snack and one sweet for entire class and a goodie bag for the child. This is the only way allowed to celebrate a child's birthday.
- Catalog Sale

2nd VP - Lynette Birnbaum

Speak:

- Publicity- Len or Lynette
- 5th Grade- Danielle - Car Wash, bottles, 5th grade meeting after this, also on zoom.

Thank You:

- All of 5th grade committee for working over the summer to get 5th grade off to a great start
- Committee volunteers

3RD VP - Jen Hemdev

Speak:

- Spirit wear online store open until 22nd of September samples are available today and samples will be at open house on the 17th. Full zip hoodies and pullover hoodies as well as T-shirts for kids and adults.
- We also have a Stanley type cup and the proceeds from that cup go to 5th graders!

4TH VP - Jenny Kombogiannis

Speak:

- SEPTA- Sara Azizollahoff will be giving an introduction to SEPTA, discussing what SEPTA is and notifying people of their upcoming meeting.
- Fall Harvest Sale- Melissa Hendricks will be talking about the different items that will be available, Pre-order Sale & In-person school /after school sale.
- Fall Festival- Melissa Hendricks will be talking about Fall Festival, notifying people of the date, different activities that will be available to families and volunteer sign up sheets.

Presidents Message - Carla Mondelli:

I'd like to begin by extending a warm welcome to both the new families joining us at Robbins Lane and the returning ones coming back from what I hope was an amazing summer break. My name is Carla Mondelli, I have a 3rd grade son, Mario and 1st grade daughter, Emilia. When my son began kindergarten in 2021, I was eager to become more engaged with the school community. Joining the PTA was the perfect way for me

to contribute my time and energy. It has been a rewarding experience, not just in seeing the positive impact on our children and our school but also in the joy it brings me to see how proud my own children are when they see me volunteering. We are so glad you could join us tonight. Your dedication to our school community truly means a lot. As we look ahead to the new school year, we are thrilled about all the upcoming PTA events and activities. We cannot do all of the amazing things the PTA does without your help. As I am sure you know, we are an organization of volunteers, It's important to remember that the success of our events hinges on the incredible support from our volunteers—our parents and teachers. Whether you can spare an hour or more, we have a variety of opportunities for everyone to get involved. We look forward to your ideas, your time, and your voice.

We hope that you will all become active in the PTA. On that note, the first step is for you to become a member. In order to volunteer you do need to be a paid member of the PTA. Your membership will also give you access to our Directory, on the DirectorySpot app. Anyone who uses it will tell you it is a terrific resource. For those of you that are new to the school, the DirectorySpot app includes information for all students, including parent contact information, which is great for planning play dates, and also has class lists, which will be available once we get the go-ahead from school. If there are any changes or updates to your information in the directory please let us know.

If you want to contact us you can email the general Robbins Lane email address robbinslaneppta@gmail.com. You can also find a lot of helpful information on our website, robbinslaneppta.com. If you are not receiving the midweek and weekly PTA emails, see us at the end of the meeting and we will add you to our mailing list.

On behalf of the PTA and all of the volunteers, we wish everyone a very productive year ahead and look forward to your continued support.

OLD BUSINESS:

It has come to our attention that on our Savings Account at TD Bank with the \$1 balance, needs to be updated we are making a motion to remove all past presidents

and treasurers i.e Elyse Saltsburg and Randi Fagen and add the co-presidents: Lori Vergos and Carla Mondelli along with the incoming Treasurer Dayna Palumbo. Motion was approved.

NEW BUSINESS:

Nominating Committee:

Per our bylaws, a nominating committee consisting of 5 members, 3 of whom shall be elected by the executive board from its body with a quorum present.

We need to elect 3 people from the executive board, and 2 people from our general membership to the nominating committee.

The role of the nominating committee is vital to the future of the PTA. The members will meet in February to present their slate of carefully chosen delegates for next year's board. All unit members will be able to vote on this slate. If you are not a Chair of a Standing Committee, please consider nominating yourself. If you have any questions, please let us know. We will take a vote in our next meeting for all nominations.

There were no final questions asked.

IMPORTANT DATES: September & October

September

- 9/3 1st day of School
- 9/3 Newcomer's Tea
- 9/5 PTA Meeting (pm)
- 9/6 Welcome Back PTA Event
- 9/9 School Store Opened During Lunch

October

- 10/3-10/4 No School (Rosh Hashanah)
- 10/7 School Store Opened During Lunch
- 10/8 PTA Meeting (AM)

10/14 No School (Columbus Day)
10/17 Harvest Sale (Day)
10/25 Fall Festival (PM)

Meeting Adjourned at 8:29pm.