

Robbins Lane PTA Minutes: September 10, 2020

Meeting called to order at 7:50pm.

Introduction: Welcome to the first PTA meeting of the 2020-21 school year. My name is Nina Grieco and my co-president this year is Sharmin Panjvani. I would like to introduce this year's Executive Board, who have been hard at work all summer preparing for the school year. VP's Aliza Ellenwood, Melissa Capie, Susan Falkove, and Lynette Birnbaum. We also have our Treasurer, Theresa Resnick, Corresponding Secretary, Staci Rogove, and Recording Secretary, Cristie Sarath, and our principal Ms. Pallos. Our Council Delegates are Brian Grieco, Brenda Wilensky, Bonnie Casazza, Jen Chao, Randi Fagen, and Liane Rubel.

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. This year our PTA events will look a little different since we will have no in-person events for the time being. We are up for the challenge and our Executive Board and Committee Chairs have been working on ideas. We will be having virtual events and fundraisers, and even some streamed-in Arts & Ed assemblies in the coming months. We know that this will be a very different year for the students, faculty, staff, and parents. Please bear with us, as we all adjust to this new school year. You should always know that you can reach out to us with questions and concerns. We will do our best to answer them or point you in the right direction.

We hope you have all signed up to be a PTA member. Paid members of the PTA have access to our Directory App. We strive for 100% membership so that we can continue to provide our kids with the excellent programming they have grown to love and expect. The funds raised from our events and membership dues go directly back to the children.

Please visit our website frequently to see upcoming PTA sponsored activities, and remember to read your emails on Sunday nights.

MINUTES: The minutes from the June meeting were posted online and were emailed for review. There were no corrections so the minutes stand approved as read.

TREASURER'S REPORT: The proposed budget was emailed for review. There were no questions, so the motion to accept the budget was approved.

The audit committee consisting of Melissa Capie and Meredith Lukin met on August 31, 2020 to review the books from the 2019-2020 school year and found everything to be in order. The Treasurer's report will be filed for future audit.

RECONCILIATION REPORT: The books have been reconciled by Nina Greico and the balance as of September 8, 2020 is \$168,874.06

CORRESPONDENCE:

Staci read a thank you letter from the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (Pennies for Patients)

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT: Ms Pallos welcomed everyone. Discussed to joy of seeing the children back in the building. A video was shared showing everyone what the building looks like this school year given all the changes. The audio wasn't working but will be posted on the website for all to view. She discussed that with all the changes, there are many constants, such as the quality of education and the way the students are being taught. Meet the Teacher night is scheduled for Sept 21st virtually. More details to come. Discussed safety precautions for books being used in the classroom, they will be sanitized and not put back for use again till after 1 week. Discussed arrival and dismissal...Over flow classrooms will be further explained at meet the teacher. Discussed changes to arrival and dismissal by car. All is addressed in a letter. Ms. Pallos also answered a few previously submitted parent questions. Air conditioning should be in all RL classes by end of next week, all outdoor spaces are allowed and encouraged to be utilized by teachers.

Members of the school board addressed the different look of the school year, but expressed excitement for a fabulous year. Encouraged everyone to ask questions when needed and keep communication open. Reminded everyone the next board meeting is Monday night.

Mr. Cardillo spoke about the changes and the extraordinary amount of work the building staff all did this summer to prepare for the school year. Praised the work done by the custodian for all the work done. Discussed the tremendous sense of pride in the community. Theresa Curry spoke about the teachers and staff being prepared to tackle this unique school year and the joy and excitement for learning will still be present in

every classroom.

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.

We are currently looking for a few more people to help chair some of our events and fundraisers, like our new catalog sale, a Halloween event, Box Tops, and PARP (also known as Pick a Reading Partner). If you are interested or have any questions, please email the PTA, me, or Sharmin. Thank you for your ongoing support.

1ST VP - Lynette Birnbaum

Speak:

- Discussed movie night and holiday sale and the attempts to plan something. Details to come

2ND VP - Melissa Capie

Speak:

- Fall Harvest Sale - Brenda and Randi discussed to possibility of doing it online.
- 5th Grade Committee - Ej and Danielle: Restaurant fundraisers, Chipotle and Panera. Many more ideas to come.
- Membership - Brooke Finkelstein: Join the PTA, discuss the many benefits, such as access to the directory spot app.
- School Store - Staci and Brian: We are planning on having school stoer once or twice a month in someone's driveway after school for an hour or so so that the kids can still buy some fun stuff and we can continue to raise money for the PTA. Details to come soon!!
- Health, nutrition and safety - Save the date 10/13 Erase Racism seminar. Will be virtual, more info to follow.

3RD VP - Susan Falkove

Speak:

- Ways and Means - Brenda Wilensky
- Stationary sales will be online and underway soon
- Arts and Ed is planning lots of virtual events

4TH VP - Eliza Ellenwood

Speak:

- **Community service: Michelle Monegro is our community service chair. We are hoping to have a drive soon to collect items for a local food pantry as our kick off event. Please stay tuned.**
- **Room reps: Karen Weiskopf is our room representative chair. Please stay tuned for sign up re: classroom room representatives.**
- **SEPTA -**
 1. **SEPTA is proud to serve and represent EVERY school in Syosset Central School District. Our membership is open to everyone. We focus our efforts on students who receive services from the District. These services can include: speech, OT, PT, resource room, instructional support, gifted programs, counseling, nursing services, self-contained/inclusion classes, audiological/vision assistance and early intervention.**
 2. **We encourage you to JOIN SEPTA! Membership is \$12 per person. You can join online. PTA membership dues provide scholarships for graduating Syosset High School seniors and help us bring in informative programming at our meetings.**
 3. **Our first meeting is on Wednesday, September 30, at 7:45 pm via Zoom. Please look out for the Zoom link which will be distributed a few days before our meeting. We hope to have some terrific speakers scheduled this year. These speakers/presentations are a valuable resource for all Syosset parents.**
 4. **Dr. LaMelza will be at the meeting discussing and answering questions about special ed services during COVID-19**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

The PTA purchased RL Lanyards for all the students masks. Going home in backpacks. I can not take credit for this, but I wanted to share it with you all:

Back to school this year is ideal for NO ONE.
Not for teachers.
Not for parents.
Hybrid is not ideal.
Virtual is not ideal.
Face-to-face in the midst of a pandemic is not ideal.

For every kid who is anxious to get back to the classroom there is another who has anxiety about returning.

For every parent who wonders,
“How am I going to manage this?”
There is a teacher wondering,
“How am I going to manage this?”
Often, a person wears both titles.

For every kindergarten parent who is sad that this is how their child will begin their education, there is a parent of a senior who is bummed that this is how their child will end theirs.

For every person angry about their child having to wear a mask, there is a person who is petrified their immune compromised family member will get ill.

Life has thrown us a huge curve ball.
A plot twist if you will.
It will not be easy.
We will be challenged.
We will get frustrated.

I hope we rise to the occasion.
I hope we help one another.
We will all need help.
I hope we treat each other with grace.
We will all need grace.
I hope we realize that at the end of the day, our kids need us to be the light.

Set the tone.
See the good.
Take a really unfortunate situation and do our best to make it okay.
For them.
For us.

Good luck to everyone!! Be positive!!! ♥

Thank you for joining us tonight and for your commitment to our school community!

OLD BUSINESS:

There was no old business

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. The executive board met over the summer and was able to elect 3 members. Those people elected were: EJ Axel, Sara Azizollahoff, and Shana Baher.

We still need to elect 2 people to the nominating committee who are from our general PTA membership. Lisa Fong and Claire Simon volunteered. If you have any questions, please let us know. We will take a vote in our next meeting for all nominations.

Does anyone have any final questions tonight?

IMPORTANT DATES: September & October

9/14	Board of Education Meeting 8pm
9/21	General Council Meeting 7:45 PM
9/28	School Closed
9/30	SEPTA Meeting 7:45 pm via zoom
10/1	RL PTA Meeting 10 AM Zoom
10/2	PRIDE day
10/12	No School
10/19	Board of Education Meeting 8pm

10/25	RL Chipotle Fundraiser 5pm- 9pm
10/26	SEPTA Meeting 7:45 pm
	**More info on upcoming PTA events coming soon!

Meeting is adjourned at 8:45pm.