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MINUTES

October 17, 2022

The October meeting of the Randolph Heights PTA was called to order at 6:15pm by the president.

Welcome and Introduction

President Katie Russell welcomed all attendees. The following members of the PTA executive board were present:

Katie Russell, president
Julie Orman, vice-president
Phil Wacker, treasurer
Autumn Hubbell, secretary
Tim Williams, principal
Beth Tierney, teacher, third grade

Parent Input

At the first PTA meeting of the year, parents provided feedback as to the priorities for the PTA board this year. The word cloud is attached.

Reviewing the parent feedback:

- Music was a strong priority. RH is excited that the grade musicals will be back this year. And the PTA is excited to welcome Stephanie Bowron (RH music educator) to speak about the music integrated into the arts program at RH.
- Community gathering. The PTA has been working on community gathering opportunities this fall, and that will transition a bit to the school events as we move into winter.
- Teacher appreciation. We welcomed back the teachers with coffee truck, and ongoing treats. Moving forward, they'll be opportunities for parents to volunteer as the treat fairy.

Music at Randolph Heights

The PTA welcomed Stephanie Bowron to speak.

Stephanie's background is in English and Journalism. Her children went to Randolph Heights (they are in college now) and as a parent volunteer, she began doing music activities. Over time, she became the musical accompanist for the school's musicals (17th year!). Seven years ago, Randolph Heights lost their music teacher, and Stephanie stepped in. She also works at Horace Mann, alternating the days she works at each school.

She works with Ms. Bird to supplement the music she provides as part of the Integrated Arts program. The curriculum is tied to standards, and Stephanie focuses on the four key areas:

- Create – improvise, compose, revise
- Perform – rehearse, share (with live audience)
- Respond – learning music vocabulary (technical and feelings), compare
- Connect – learning to talk about feelings, and how it connects to culture, history

In addition, the curriculum focuses on movement in music with dancing.

She visits every classroom 10 times per year. Better equips students for music in the future and lays a foundation for life.

Principal's Update:

- Following up on Ms. Bowron's presentation, Principal Williams shared that Randolph Heights had been looking to add time with Ms. Bowron (adding more time that the students would have with her). With covid, came funding, and Randolph Heights added the teachers and specialist time for the maker space and TDAS. Currently, it would be hard to fit in extra time with specialists (away from their classroom teachers). Once we understand the future of those covid funded positions, would be looking to add time with Stephanie.
- Dragon Dash will be on Wednesday. The fundraiser is currently at \$30,000, meeting the school goal. The students have done a great job. The weather should cooperate Wednesday (at least warmer, and not raining or snowing). And holding it the day before MEA is nice as well.
- Ms. Gooden will be returning on 10/24. Looking forward to returning. The PTA is coordinating a card, available to sign here: <https://www.groupgreeting.com/sign/285ef7b71e07c8f>
- Randolph Heights sent a survey about conferences (the district also sent out a survey today about the SPPS calendar). Hoping to understand preferences for parents' interest in having virtual or in person conferences. Will likely be 2 in person days, one virtual (waiting for survey results). Please respond. Conferences will be from 3-7pm (earlier due to start time change). May be beneficial for families' evening activities.
- Fall festival is coming up. Please sign up to volunteer. No flu shot clinic this year (district may be approaching vaccinations differently – you can sign up through district for flu shot at central location).
- EDL (extended day learning) will start a week behind (finding teachers has been difficult), and a large portion of the students that attend EDL do so for band (around 80%). The district has found a band teacher, and EDL will be starting the week of October 31st. There is no transportation this year and EDL is only available for 4th and 5th graders. The schedule will be Monday and Wednesday. Students can attend DC after EDL. There are other classes (other than band). Games, homework help. Registration is going home tomorrow in folders.

Financial Update:

- Numbers are accurate on website (though date on document is wrong).
- The account balance is at \$59,000. The major expenditures since the September meeting have been:
 - Spent \$5000 (but will bump up after paying platform Get Movin' to closer to 7-8k)
 - Spent \$6000 on grants for teachers for the year
 - Spent \$1000 for teacher appreciation efforts
 - Down payment has been placed (\$5000) for the Gaga Pit
 - Accelerated reader licensing fee (\$8000)

Upcoming Events:

Dragon Dash

We could use volunteers! Volunteer at the same time as your child (or stay all day). We particularly need volunteers for 2nd and 5th grades. QR code below.



Fall Festival

The return of the Fall Festival We also need volunteers for this event. Shifts have been staggered so you can also enjoy the event with your family. We'd like teachers to enjoy event. Most volunteer opportunities are helping with games and managing lines.

We also need books donated (gently used to share with other families) as part of book walk. Basket will be setup in front hallway near office.

Costumes are welcomed (weapons left at home). No masks (costume masks).

Volunteer sign up is not for the whole night. Sign up for a shift! We charge for tickets to play games. Pumpkin bowling, pumpkin hockey, painting, haunted house in gym. Please sign up (that way staff can enjoy themselves, and not have to work the event. QR code below.



Wrap-up:

Katie thanked members for attending. Next meeting will Tuesday, December 5th at 6pm. Originally planned to rotate between virtual and in-person meetings, or a hybrid. December's meeting will be an in-person family potluck.

Meeting adjourned at 7:10pm.

