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MINUTES

September 19, 2022

The September meeting of the Randolph Heights PTA was called to order at 6:13pm 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
Beth Tierney, teacher, third grade

PTA Guiding Goals for 2022-23

The PTA's executive board has been focusing on the following goals heading into the school year. We are looking forward to hearing more from the broader membership on their priorities as well.

- Community Building
- Teacher Appreciation
- Investing in School Space

Fall Activities Update

To that end, we started the school year with the following fall events, focusing on community building and teacher appreciation.

Events to-date

A great start to the year with the:

- Open House
- Boo Hoo Breakfast
- Playground Playdates
- Coffee truck

Coming up

Coming up:

- 9/30: Outdoor Movie (Space Jam)

- 10/14: Dragon Dash Fun Run
- 10/27: Fall Festival

Volunteer Opportunities

Current volunteer opportunities for sign up:

- Dragon Dash
- Fall Festival
- Garden/Front area – It needs love! And investment! Volunteer (if you are interested and have a green thumb).
 - In addition, the Big Woods – 25 years ago, RH planted the trees surrounding school, including shade trees on playground, the trees on north side and landscaping. Ms Dochniak has historical information about the original planting plan and map of trees. It would be great to create signage about the plants and trees.

Principal's Update:

- Great start to the year. Numbers are looking good.
- Two teachers are currently on leave (Ms. Eisele and Ms. Gooden).
- Gaga Pit is coming – waiting on final approval from district facilities on location.
- Recertified as an Apple Distinguished School.

Question: Is EDL returning? EDL (extended day learning) is coming back, likely on Tuesday/Thursdays (but with no transportation) and ending at 3:45pm. Only available for 4th and 5th grades. Provides more choice in learning. Starts October 24th. More information to follow.

Financial Update:

Updated monthly on website. The current balance is \$91,194.21

Why is the balance so high? Partly due to covid (we couldn't spend money on typical costs).

We are looking to spend the money down this year.

Anticipated fundraising around \$48,000

Anticipated expenditures around \$104,000

We would finish then with around \$35,000.

Details can be found in the full report.

Some of the ways we are looking to spend the money down:

PTA expenses so far this year have included:

- Classroom rugs
- Teacher grants
- ST Math (curriculum used by RHS teachers)

Planned:

- Gaga Ball Pit
- School spirit t-shirts
- Projector screen
- Community events
- Return of field trips (and other planned events on hold since covid)

Goal is transparency (it is your money!) and making sure the membership is heard in how it is spent.

Questions:

How much has been typically carried over year to year?

\$45-50,000 carried over in the past (pre-covid).

Goal was to have a year of expenses in the bank.

Fun run became a bigger fundraiser after we cut ties with APEX.

What are the other special initiatives?

- 17K for a screen with projector
- t-shirts
- teacher thank-you baskets

Read-a-thon info: Money raised through read-a-thon goes straight to teacher classrooms. Ear marked already for classrooms (can't be spend elsewhere).

Field Trips

Every grade level is gifted a bus and up to \$1000 for fees at field trip. We've been banking the last few years due to pandemic. And bussing is now more expensive than it used to be.

Eagle Bluff

Is back on this year! Fifth graders will go for a 2 day overnight. PTA does support.

Long Range Goals

Start seed money for larger goals (e.g. electronic sign, outdoor classroom)

Library Budget

SPPS provides \$1000 for each school for its library budget. We are able to provide \$14-15,000 so this is a great investment in the school library (PTA manages for Ms Hubbard).

Contractor Discounts and Donations

Could we get cheaper deals, sponsored cuts, from businesses? We must go through district approved vendors.

Focused Fundraising

Could we focus on specific or focused fundraising (also in summer months?). Bringing in community? We've talked about maintaining a certain number of fundraisers (to not nickel and dime participants). Fun Run, Read-a-thon, and Direct Donations are current fundraisers.

Budget Approval

Motion made to approve budget for 2022-23. Motion seconded. Motion to approve carries.

PTA Priorities:

What's important to you?

- Important to communicate fall dates early (kudos).
- Very helpful to send an email 2-3 times a year on opportunities.
- Newsletter at the beginning of the year to outline info regarding opportunities for new parents (opportunities like lego leagues, EDL, etc.).
- Target list doesn't have specialist supplies on list.
- Dragon Dash – each grade will run during specialist times (to be confirmed):
 - 8:55 for 4th

- 9:45 for 1st
- 11:25 for 2nd
- 12:15 for K
- 1:05 for 3rd

Will be at Edgcumbe

- Community events will be 5-7pm this year if there is food.

Breakout feedback:

Parents gathered in small groups and brainstormed their priorities for the PTA in the upcoming year.

- 1) Playground investment (in existing structure)
Library needs (are there topics/collections of which we need more?)
Ask teachers what they need.
- 2) Communication and in-person events (extra, over-communication would be helpful).
- 3) Teacher support
 - Classroom, comfy seats, reading nooks
 - Outdoor classroom space
- 4) Classroom comforts
Long-term: Fix playground, outdoor classroom
- 5) Increase music opportunities (specifically performing)
Subsidized Spanish (or other language)
- 6) Social events (class specific)
Increase music opportunities
- 7) Really good job on communication and community building so far
- 8) Community building events (loved the coffee truck, thank you!)
- 9) Include outer wood playscape structure repair in landscape clean up
- 10) Parent/school community social event
Try to formalize long term/capital goals
Communicate to all families re: PTA updates (for those of us that really want to know what's going on but cannot make the meetings.
Community give-back!!
- 11) Community building
Field trips
Supporting teachers
Gym equipment
- 12) Music offerings (Can we hire a music teacher for *more* time in the school (e.g. like Horace Mann just did!).
- 13) Library – more books
Offer more music classes to students (not sure in what capacity
Field trips
- 14) I love the community building happening!
Continuing to support teachers and staff
Snack donations for younger grades?
Continuing to add include books with diverse authors and subjects
- 15) Teacher appreciation
Any gym equipment needed?
Info on what online resources available (ST Math)?

- More even split options for teacher appreciation events
- Ways to engage parents in district decisions
- 16) Great event communication, thanks!
 - More parent social events – auction?
 - We are willing to host in our backyard – the Hallands.
- 17) Community Service Night/Events (capitol hill did these and they were wonderful)
 - Sponsor a Lego League
- 18) How can student voice be incorporated into PTA budget priorities?
 - How can/is the teacher voice in how money is spent? Giving teachers the say is critical.
- 19) Add PTA link in every Randy's News
 - Do we need more gym equipment?
- 20) Give money back to school for inside updates
 - Field trips
- 21) I wish the PTA could on 2-3 occasions a year hold a meeting or send a big email about what opportunities there are for kids and parents.
- 22) STE(A)M science, tech, engineering, art, math (robotics!)
 - DEI
 - Community/school veggie garden for science, math, culture!
- 23) Building community
 - Within the neighborhood
 - Within the district -> cross-school events with Expo or Horace Mann or Adams or others?

Teacher support -> what to they need to succeed? How we help fund/volunteer/advocate?

New family “buddies” -> pairing Kindergarten families or new district/school families with veteran families to learn the ropes and answer questions
- 24) Broadening horizons for students
 - Art/Music
 - Sharing our resources
- 25) Better Food options in cafeteria
 - Possible Greenhouse
 - Community events at school in summer for fundraising
 - Music from 2-5 instead 4-5

Wrap-up:

Katie thanked members for attending and for their feedback and ideas. Next meeting will Tuesday, October 17 at 6pm. Originally planned to rotate between virtual and in-person meetings. Will be communicated as soon as possible what format the October meeting will happen in.

Meeting adjourned at 7:10pm.