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MINUTES

December 14, 2021 – Virtual Format

The December meeting of the Randolph Heights PTA was called to order at 7:04 pm by the president.

Welcome and Introduction

President Kristin Fischer Rosel welcomed all attendees. The following members of the PTA executive board were present:

Kristin Fischer Rosel, president
Katie Stromberg, treasurer
Autumn Hubbell, secretary
Tim Williams, principal
Beth Tierney, teacher, third grade

Announcements:

RHS Spirit Wear

Order has shipped and will arrive at school or in homes by Friday, December 17th. This is the first time we've ordered with Custom Ink.

Square 1 Art Orders

The fundraiser coordinated by Ms. Bird has been very successful. The orders are at Randolph Heights and are being sent home in the next few days. An email will be sent to communicate pickup for more fragile items tomorrow.

Year End Giving and Employer Match

Just a note as the end of year is here – Randolph Heights will gladly accept end of year and employer matched gifts.

Student Council Food Drive

Food can be dropped off at school this week, or a cash gift can be given. Food will be donated to Hallie Q. Brown Center.

Discovery Club Thank You

Discovery Club will be available for the few days of added winter break, so as a thanks for the six full-time Randolph Heights DC staffers, the PTA purchased gift cards from Kowalskis to provide lunch.

RHS Family Directory

The directory has been updated and the link resent. It is an opt-in directory, and the link only shared with those that have opted in. Contact the PTA if you have questions.

Read-a-thon

The Read-a-thon fundraiser will be completed in February. The teachers, school and library benefit from this fundraiser.

Talent Show

There will be a virtual talent show this year, as was done last year.

Middle School Info Panels

The PTA is coordinating information sessions with former Randolph Heights parents about the middle school choice process. Currently pulling together panels of parents. These will likely be in a virtual panels.

Principal's Update:

Covid Update

There has been a bump in cases, likely due to Thanksgiving. Kids continue to be quarantined, thankfully not classes. We are now reaching the point where students are now able to avoid quarantine because of vaccination. 68% of Randolph Heights students have at least one shot. Nurse has access to MDH database. Some concern about another bump after the winter break. In November, 700 positive cases district wide, so changes were made in notification system. Before this, the covid team would call every close contact, positive case, and those who were just symptomatic (no positive or negative results yet). Now they are just contacting positive cases and leaving quarantining and close contact notifications to the school. Randolph Heights can pick up helping with communication. As of now, nothing has changed as far as protocols (e.g. masks, cohorts). January 22nd is district wide school fair – which was in person at River Centre. It may change closer to the date to be presented in virtual format.

Question about morale: Fortunate about subbing – hasn't had to ask teachers to give up prep. Behavior Interventionist has teachers license, so fortunate there. It's been a long year. Randolph Heights is in a better position than many schools across the country (or district).

Question about staff directory: Listing is on website.

Question about volunteering: Parents have to complete volunteer form and submit vaccination or testing status. Book club has restarted (2x a week versus 3x). Retirees and grandparents haven't come back to volunteer, but more parents are. Friday Folders are now available for volunteering. Parents are being kept out of classroom. Contact Sharon Hubbard in library or teacher for further information.

Picture Retake Day: Lifetouch has shortage earlier in year, so picture days were late this year. Picture day went well.

Camp St. Croix: Fifth graders won't be able to go to Eagle Bluff ELC this year. As an alternative, Camp St. Croix is tentatively on the schedule, for a two-day (only for school day – not overnight) field trip. Can choose similar activities (team building, some environmental education, and ropes course). Cost is very similar (St. Croix is more expensive). There is interest from St. Croix in making this a yearly event. There are some families who don't go to Eagle Bluff due to overnight or distance. The cost is prohibitive, but they might be able to make accommodations. First week of May.

Winter Break

Winter break starts early. Last day of school is Friday, December 17th. (Monday and Tuesday are PD days for staff and teachers).

Other Items

Three years ago, Principal Williams was asked to pursue a new marquee. It didn't go anywhere until this year. There seems to be alternatives, and research is being done on city ordinances. Will know more soon.

Financial Update:

Went into school year with \$70k, but with fundraising we have \$82,000. We do try and maintain a balance (versus running it down). We had additional donations for Give to the Max Day and direct donations. The bulk of fundraising is from the fun run. The \$39,000 is what was raised as part of fun run. Our net take home funds are \$32,000 (after fees for Get Movin'). There are also administrative fees (\$2-3k for the Get Movin' fee and for the prizes (\$2,700).

We renewed the AR fees. The money from the 2021 spring read-a-thon is being used now by teachers.

We received mats for Phy Ed. Other expenditures include t-shirts, kowalskis gift cards for DC staff. IXL was purchased for second grade. The PTA Board met and made the decision to increase grade level choice for \$600 to \$1000. Second grade teachers are choosing to use that line item to pay for IXL.

Fees for Get Movin were also covered by parents when they donated (who opted to pay processing fees). We did renew with Get Movin for next year. Net profit from fun run was \$32,000 which was over goal of \$20k.

Question about Gaga Pit: Can be purchased for \$2-10k. Right before COVID, Rob from DC thought it would be a great summer project for DC kids. The PTA could provide lumber, etc. Cost would be under \$1k. Prices have gone up, and quarantine, etc. However, Rob is still willing to build. DC will likely be at Expo moving forward. So, more to come.

Parent Questions and Comments:

Question about Spring Social: Interest in determining how to make it happen, if possible and if conditions improve. Potentially brainstorming for outdoor gathering.

Wrap-up:

Kristin thanked members for attending and for their feedback and ideas. Next meeting will Tuesday, January 18 at 7pm in Zoom format.

Meeting adjourned at 8:05pm.