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MINUTES

January 18, 2022 – Virtual Format

The December meeting of the Randolph Heights PTA was called to order at 7:00 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 Russell, vice-president
Katie Stromberg, treasurer
Autumn Hubbell, secretary
Tim Williams, principal
Beth Tierney, teacher, third grade

Announcements:

Read-a-Thon

The Read-a-Thon is scheduled for February. Ms. Tierney, Ms. Dochniak and Ms. Nelson are working on the details. This fundraiser is focused on raising money for books and other classroom supplies. It is focused on reading – the grades will compete in teams for minutes read, and the rewards are class based. We will be using GetMovin again for the Read-a-thon. The theme will be “games” and part of the money raised will go towards purchasing games (fun and educational). Guess Who is the overall theme. Because there won’t be an after-school celebration, there will be an in-school game day as the overall reward. Looking for good suggestions for games for K-1, 2-3 and 4-5 grades.

Bus Drivers Appreciation

Target gift cards were purchased for Randolph Heights bus drivers, and the school council wrote thank you notes, and those will be distributed next week.

Virtual Talent Show

Similar to last year, we will be hosting a virtual talent show. Likely, it will be a submittal of a video of performance (2 minutes or less). They will be collected and organized into a show. Last year’s can still be viewed on the PTA website.

Middle School Choice:

To help families feel more informed, especially with tours now virtual, PTA is holding parent forums or conversation panels. They will be hosted on zoom. The link is located on the website. It will be 30

minutes for each school. The content will be about personal experiences and impressions (versus facts and figures, which can be found online). Still working on finding parents to participate in panel for Capitol Hill and Highland Elementary. Sessions will be recorded for later viewing.

Parent Forums (on Zoom)

- Ramsey, GAP, OWL: Wed, Jan 19, 6:30-8pm
- Capitol Hill, Highland: TBD

Student Forums (on Zoom)

More to come on this, hoping to set up forums with students who are in middle school to get their perspectives.

Resources on at www.rhs-pta.org

Applications due by Friday, Feb. 25

Principal's Update:

Covid and Distance Learning Update

Principal Williams shared that covid has been a larger piece of their daily life, compared to pre-omicron. There were 2,130 positive cases district wide as of last Friday. Randolph Heights is in very good shape all things considered. Last week, there was a day where 4 teachers and support staff were absent, but that was the day with the highest number. Starting today, all absences are being reported to the district for tracking purposes. Randolph Heights was the only school in district with 100% attendance today.

There had been some rumblings that district might move to distance learning for 2 weeks. If the district does not, they have still implemented a three-step process for individual school closures. The first step is when 25% or more of classroom teachers are absent (for any) reason. The school will notify families to be prepared. If on the second day, 25% or more of staff absent, tier 2 substitution will be made a priority for that school. If on the third day, there are still 25% or more of staff absent, then that school will be transitioned to distance learning for 5 calendar days. The absences that are counted are classroom teachers only – not support staff.

Teachers are now required to quarantine for 5 days. Students who are positive are still quarantined for 10 days, but close contacts are only quarantined (unvaxxed) for 5 days. Last week there were a few days with 60-70 kids out. Now it is only about 20. Because of Randolph Heights support staff, we are in better shape. If district decides to go to distance learning, that would impact RH naturally. Even 70/450 absent is not incredibly high.

Distance learning would be different than in past years. Students would have option to come to school if families are working. ELL, special education would be encouraged to attend. It would be hybrid. All staff would be in person.

Parent questions

Why 25%?

District looked at trends and SPFE wanted 10%, District wanted 35%. Looked into other districts and lessons learned. In addition, because other districts have closed, there are more subs available for SPPS. Some schools have more than 25% out as of now.

Teacher preference?

95+% want in person. Teachers are very concerned about hybrid learning.

Teacher support?

Overall teachers are doing well. Principal Williams will ask teachers if there are any support measures that the PTA can provide. PTA will help organize coordinate some ways to stock the teachers' lounge.

Biggest thing is to send thanks!

Vaccination rates

Principal Williams will provide update in weekly email.

Other items

Waiting on marquee replacement update from facilities.

Meeting soon with Y staff regarding Camp St. Croix for 2 day (during day) experience (team building, environmental education, etc.) as a replacement for Eagle Bluff for the fifth graders.

Financial Update:

Katie Stromberg provided a financial update. Thanks to Amber Waldo for helping with end of year administration tasks and tax preparation.

We have a checking, savings, and separate savings for Ms. Hubbard in Library. So far, the biggest fundraiser was fun run in the fall. The other major fundraiser is the upcoming Read-a-thon. PTA dues, administration costs, teacher grants are some of the expenses. AR fee, playground gym mats as well. T-shirts, teacher appreciation, bus drivers' appreciation, Discovery Club staff appreciation gift cards, and second grade purchase of IXL.

Treasurer's report can be viewed online at www.rhs-pta.org.

Parent Questions and Comments:

Donations of games?

Gently used games would be appreciated. Check with your classroom teacher first.

K95 masks?

Can parents donate k95 masks for students? Principal Williams will check – they just received a large shipment of kn95 masks, likely adult. May be receiving more. Will follow up.

Test availability?

There are tests available if needed, call the school for more information (they do go home with sick kids). But if you have a need to test, the school will be able to provide.

School tours?

Tours will be given virtually 1 x week.

Wrap-up:

Kristin thanked members for attending and for their feedback and ideas. Next meeting will Tuesday, February 22 at 7pm in Zoom format.

Meeting adjourned at 7:58pm.