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MINUTES

May 10, 2022 – Virtual Format

The May meeting of the Randolph Heights PTA was called to order at 7:01 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 and Updates:

Teacher Appreciation Week

Last week was teacher appreciation week. Meals were provided by families through a sign-up genius. Teachers received \$10 gift cards, and Discovery Club staff as well. There were donations received. Teachers and staff sent their thanks. Thanks to Lesley Lavery and Michelle Trotter-Mathison for coordination of teacher appreciation week.

Year End Fun:

All School Picnic

Wednesday, June 1st, time TBD, but likely 5-7pm. Families can bring their own food to picnic with or there will be a food truck. PTA will provide treats. Families can walk through the building to see their children's art. There will be an egg drop.

Talent Show

This will be virtual. There are auditions – students can submit a 30 second audition in Flipgrid, as well as a completed google form. Flyers went home last week. Also listed on RH PTA website. Auditions need to be in by Friday, May 13th. Pets can be included this year. There are opportunities to help put the talent show video together (screen graphics and caption creation). Email the PTA if you are interested.

Camp St. Croix

Communication has gone out for this experience. Fifth graders will have a two day (day only – no overnight) in lieu of the past Eagle Bluff ELC trip.

5th Grade Celebration

Possibly at Edgcumbe, more to come regarding this.

Grade Activities

Teachers will be in contact regarding specific grade celebrations.

Spring Social

This will be an opportunity for parents to meet up and socialize on Friday, May 27th at 6pm. The Iron Ranger has invited us to use their space. It isn't a private space. Indoors and outdoors. It isn't a fundraiser. Just a social gathering. Details are on the PTA website. Please RSVP if possible so that the Iron Ranger can prepare.

Beer Party Fundraiser

Another opportunity to gather this spring is at the Beer Party fundraiser. This event used to be an event that parents could sign up for as part of the spring social and the silent auction. A group of families sponsored the event. This year it is open to all, scheduled for Friday, June 3rd at 6:30pm and is \$25 to attend. Live music, beer tastings, at the home of Melanie and Tim Ronneberg. Ticket sales will go right to Randolph Heights PTA. Please RSVP on the RH PTA website.

Standing Rules:

In 2018, the MN PTA, of which RH PTA is a chapter, moved their organization to universal bylaws. In the past, each local chapter had their own set of bylaws. Because of this, local chapters were required to have a set of standing rules that outlined the unique set of rules that their chapter operated under (as long as they were also in compliance with the universal bylaws). The executive board updated RH PTA's standing rules to be in better alignment with the retired set of RH PTA bylaws. The major areas that were updated were:

- To include a teacher and principal (or representative) as part of the executive board
- To include a vice-president (which is not one of the required officer positions for MN PTA)
- Removal of specific standing committees
- Lowering of the quorum needed to vote on items (from 11 to 7)
- Allowing vice-president OR president to sign checks with treasurer (2 signatures are required)

If approved, the secretary will submit the updated standing rules to the MN PTA. These rules do not need to be updated or voted on every year. If there are no changes, then the standing rules stand from year to year.

Motion to approve the standing rules. Motion seconded. Motion carries.

Financial Update:

The treasurer's report can be found online. Updates to note since our last PTA meeting: Read-a-thon fundraiser donations are in and final. The funds go back into the classrooms. We utilized Get Movin – which made the fundraising and online donation part efficient and easy. We received \$1300 in donations for teacher appreciation funds which went into gift cards and other appreciation efforts. We will be using any leftover teacher appreciation funds to subsidize treats for spring picnic.

Parent Question: What is the history on the library specific budget included within the PTA budget.

Years ago, an endowment was started by parent to bring the library up to speed. This endowment was supplemented with funds raised by the Scholastic Book Fair. PTA took administrative responsibility of the processing of the funds, but it is generally the Library's funds to spend. Funding does come from school district, but the endowment allows us the flexibility to order book club or advanced reader books. The Scholastic Book fair hasn't happened in the past two years due to the pandemic. Is there a need for additional funding (since we've only been spending down the balance). Katie will do research and bring this back to the PTA at a future time.

An additional comment was made about putting funds towards and updated Thanksgiving collection (adding the stories of Indigenous communities).

Principal's Update:

Teacher Appreciation Week

Speaking for teachers, they were extremely grateful.

Covid and Masks

Covid numbers are creeping up (a couple of classes with 5-6 cases). Please don't send kids to school if they are ill. We have plenty of tests available. Please let the school know if you need one.

In Person Activities

Families can be in the building for the picnic. Most activities will be outside. But parents can come in to see the artwork. Schools are being advised to avoid large group assemblies in the building through the end of the school year.

Camp St. Croix

Almost all of the 5th graders are going (90-95%). There are a few students that have covid – but parents have been generous in supporting other kids. There might be a need for ten scholarships – PTA has offered to cover. Principal Williams could cover it, but PTA could pull it out of the school field trip funds (as we haven't used \$3600). We will allocate those funds accordingly.

Marquee

At the request of the PTA, Principal Williams talked with facilities at the district to get a quote for a new marquee. 40-60k for new marquee. 40 would get us what we have now (non-electronic). We have opted not to use funds for this purchase at this time.

2022-2023 Budget and Enrollment

Principal Williams provided background information that budgets were calculated differently this year (in terms of including ESSER and ARP funds), so although overall budget is higher, it is technically lower than in past years due to this difference. In addition, enrollment is down, due to the change in start time, but also due to overall decline in enrollment across district due partly to rising enrollment in charter, private and virtual schools.

A couple of additional pieces to note...there are positions related to the ESSER and ARP funding that can't be reallocated. Taking all of this into consideration, there may be the following impact on RH next year:

- The creation of a 2/3 split class. Second and third grades have the lowest numbers, and so there may be a need for a 2/3 split class. If numbers rebound by the fall, this need may disappear. For the interim, this means moving a third-grade teacher into the intervention specialist position vacated by a retirement.
- Additionally, the instructional materials budget is much lower, but Principal Williams is confident they leaner budget will work. In the past (in 2019-2020) RH also had a very tight instructional materials budget, and the PTA offered to support if needed once Principal

Williams' funds ran out. That year, this support wasn't needed, as the pandemic started, and funds remained unspent.

ESSER/ARP funded positions include the interventionist specialist positions, the field tech (tech support for schools, each school pays .25 of a position), the WINN position focused on k-2 literacy, TDAS, Makerspace, and Interventionist (similar to WINN position but focused 3-5) and Kindergarten TA. ESSER funds expire in 2023, and ARP funds expire in 2024.

Randy's Race

Randy's Races will be during class's prep hour, parents welcome to watch (weather permitting, they'll be outside).

2022-2023 PTA Officers:

PTA wrapping up for the year. Each year two officers are elected (in alternating years – secretary or treasurer and each year, the vice-president). Each serve for a two-year term, with the vice-president becoming the president after their first year. This year, we are electing a vice-president and treasurer. The incoming president, current vice-president, is Katie Russell. Autumn Hubbell will remain in secretary position.

Phil Wacker has been nominated for the treasurer position. Phil shared that he is a high school teacher (Math and Physics) and coach, with experience managing a high school sport budget. He has appreciated the transparency of the treasurer in sharing budgets this year. He noted that the RH PTA raises more than other schools in the district and is hoping the PTA can focus on social equity in the upcoming year.

Julie Orman, the president nominee, also hopes to focus on equity work in the next year.

Motion to elect nominees Julie Orman and Phil Wacker to vice-president and treasurer positions respectively for Randolph Heights PTA 2022-2023 executive board. Motion seconded. Motion carries.

Wrap-up:

Kristin thanked members for attending and for their feedback and ideas. Next meeting will be in a new school year!

Meeting adjourned.