

PTA Meeting Minutes

April 28, 2022

Present: Gina Geraci, Laurie Pincus, Lindsay Wilson, Michaela Wall, Melissa Pletscher-N
Zeitner, Yonjong Choi, Joslin Buhrman, Laurie Kennedy, Ari Eliot, Kellie McNair, Renee Y
Belcer

Meeting called to order at 7:05pm

Approval of January minutes (Laurie, Kellie)

Teacher's Report (Renee Yandow):

5th grade pictures are being taken for the yearbook. Year end prep and state tes
everyone at Cobbles busy.

Molly M. has been coming in to take pictures of the kids during recess for the y

She had one parent ask if the PTA was doing teacher appreciation gifts/events.
on the room parent for each class. However, the PTA does do something each day of th
teachers/staff. In years past, the PTA has requested kids bring in a flower from home fo
a certain day. Feedback is that the teachers like this, so Gina will do it again this year.

BOE Report (Emily Belcer):

Tuesday will be Meet the Candidates night.

May 3rd is the budget hearing

May 17th is the budget vote and BOE election

At their meeting, they learned that Assembly Member Jennifer Lynsford has gra
\$250,000 for an electric bus.

Principal's Report (Kellie McNair):

Today was the second day of testing for the NYS Math Assessment and the feedback we've gotten is that the test feels fair to the kids taking it.

Yesterday she sent a letter to parents about classroom placement for next year and how teacher requests can be made. The link to the survey is in the email she sent.

The retirements for this year are: Lisa Allen, Sharon Stockman, Mary Jacobi, Joy Kennedy, Laurie Kennedy, Julie Poelman, Carol Weidman and Tracey Merriman (long term leave).

The Cobbles Cares basketball game will be back this year on May 20th @ 6:30 a.m. 1st-5th graders vs. teachers.

Treasurer's Notes (Art Elliot):

We have spent about \$11,000 to date this year, and with the upcoming expenses we hopefully be about \$15,000 by year end.

Thank you to everyone who is helping create and get programming for the kids at school!

We have \$40,000 in the bank and are doing well at spending it down.

Budgeting for next year starts soon, so he will reach out to committee chairs to see what the expected needs are for the 2022-2023 budget. Next year's budget will be voted on at the next meeting.

The teacher appreciation budget line will be increased to \$5,000 for this year.

Lindsay Wilson will need more money for the current year's budget for the 5th Annual Teacher Appreciation Ceremony. She hopes \$2,500 will be enough and will soon know what to ask for for next year.

Proposed Schedule Changes (Joslin Buhrman and Laurie Kennedy):

She is here at this meeting to present the parent point of view from some parents who have created a group on Facebook. The proposed changes to the schedule for elementary schools will put all four schools on the same five day schedule (as opposed to the colors/numbers which differs at them all now), will put a 30-minute SEL block at the end of each day, will move Suzuki (band, chorus, orchestra) to before school – which would make having Suzuki before school a decrease recess time to 20 minutes (down from 25 currently, and 30 before Covid). The meeting is on Tuesday where parents can attend, and they can email administrators and let them know their voice their concerns and opinions. Laurie Kennedy was concerned at the impact these changes could have on the Suzuki program at Cobbles.

Kellie McNair responded to these concerns by saying that this was only a draft and that the feedback from parents and staff is being taken into consideration for the next year. The concerns that have been voiced are being addressed. The main goal of these schedule changes is to make the time spent on all subjects during the day equal at all PCSD elementary schools.

Emily Belcer responded to these concerns by confirming that what we all say was that a reworked version will be presented at the next BOE meeting. She said that BOE needs to be hearing what parents and teachers are upset about.

Moving Up Ceremony (Lindsay Wilson):

She is working on getting all information for celebrations out to parents. They have been talking to teachers about the 5th grade breakfast which will have extra fun food, donuts and a slideshow that will be livestreamed for parents. A teacher had an idea that there could be a 5th grade student picnic. At the end of the picnic, all of the other grades could do a big send off in the bus. Discussion was had about how parking/timing would work for this – have to make sure it doesn't interfere with the buses that start arriving around 3pm.

The t-shirts are consistent across all 4 elementary school. Yonjong set up a way for teachers and parents to add pictures to the slideshow. She will email that link to Renee Yandow to share it with teachers.

The fifth graders would like their gift to Cobbles to be some of the sensory friendly items that are being requested. She will connect with Renee Y. about this.

Screen Smart Week and DEI (Yonjong Choi):

This will be held from 5/2-5/6 this year. Bingo boards will go home with students and they have to send them back by 5/11. 232 people participated last year, she's hoping to increase the number by 50%. Everyone gets a pencil for participating and they are entered to win gifts. The winning class from each grade gets a bubble party at recess (no pizza because of Covid).

3 volunteers are needed to help score/count boards, and a chair is needed for the winner.

May is Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage month. To celebrate, on 5/10 there will be a (virtual) panel discussion with AAPI students and their friends about their diverse backgrounds along with current PHS students who attended Cobbles and HH. You can register on the Cobbles PTA website or using the link in the email Mrs. McNair sent yesterday.

On 5/31 there will be a presentation (virtual) from Dr. Lee, Chair of the Dept. of Psychiatry at the U of R School of Medicine & Dentistry, and the Chief of Psychiatry at Strong called "Growing Up: Parenting Asian Teenagers: Issues of Identity, Invisibility & Community".

Presidents' Notes (Gina Geraci)

Teacher Appreciation Week is next week. She'll let Renee know the plan tomorrow. She will also be looking for volunteers for the week. She will be looking for volunteers for the week.

teachers know what is going on for them for the week. She will send an email out about flowers for their teachers.

The deadline to purchase yearbooks is next Friday. About 270 have been sold so far.

May 21st is Cobbles Night at the Red Wings – almost 2 sections have been sold so far.

First Day of School supply kits are going to be available for purchase this year.

PTA is helping fund the TA appreciation event and the retirement party for the retiring teachers.

We still need a co-president to work with Robyn next year.

Inclusion week will be after Memorial Day this year.

Meeting adjourned at 8:18 pm.

