

Cobbles Elementary PTA Meeting Minutes
September 23, 2021, 7:00pm
Cobbles Library and Microsoft Teams

Attendees In-person: Gina Geraci, Patience Prinzi, Ari Elliott, Kellie McNair, Rebecca Shaw, Fiona Stauffer, Heather Drews, Yonjong Choi, Lindsay Wilson, Susan Guffey, Mindy Staba, Alicia Wilkinson, Liz Zietner, Tammy Suits, Sarah Stymus

Attendees by Microsoft Teams: Jess Kreiser, Michaela Wall, Sarah Dowd, Kate Torok, Lori Morris, Natalie DuBois, Joslin Buhrman, Melissa Pletscher-Nizinsky, Aaron Kaler

Welcome and call to order by Gina – 7:02 start

Teacher's Report (Gina for Renee Yandow) – teachers thanked the PTA for supply money and extra money for amplifiers

Mrs. McNair discussed beginning of school, happy to have everyone in the building. Enrichment program will be beginning. Discussed social emotional learning in the classrooms – community building circles. Happy that the music program is 100% in person this year! 100 students signed up for chorus, 40 students for Suzuki lessons and ~150 in the strings program. Teachers have started professional learning. Clubs have restarted: Girls on the Run (run by PTA), teacher-lead running club and Lego League.

Lisa Benati-Chidsey did BOE report: 1st board meeting has been held. Capital project update, a second meeting will be held in November. COVID update: testing is opt-in only. There is not a certain % needed to test like last year. Homecoming was a great success. Parents can participate in BOE meetings in-person or by Penfield TV (link on Penfield homepage), YouTube. In order to speak at a meeting, this must be done in person and there is a sign up process – link on website.

Gina discussed what the PTA is/does and welcomed everyone back. Looking for volunteers. Will hold in person meeting with virtual option. Also gave PAB report. Discussed “pause” on parent volunteers – should be lifted soon! Just need to figure out logistics on having volunteers back in the building for COVID reasons. Reviewed COVID testing – sign up only. Reminded of dashboard to check # of active cases. Discussed being mindful of scheduling PTA events – be sure not held on religious holidays.

Ari gave the treasurer's report: we have \$50,000 in the bank, thus no fundraiser this year! Asked for assistant treasurer if anyone is interested, can help to learn to be treasurer for next school year. Discussed online check reimbursement form (link on PTA website). Discussed tax exempt form (also on website). Reminded of Amazon Smile program.

Ari discussed the audit report for the 20-21 school year – thanks to Patience and Yonjong for helping. The audit report found that the books are correct! There's a full report available for anyone to see – see Ari. Reviewed the need for a formal audit committee, likely 2-3 people. Need volunteers by March 2022. Calling all accountants!

Melissa gave a DEI update: plan to build more support for teachers and classrooms. Hispanic Heritage Month 9/15-10/15. Gave list of awareness events, will highlight one per month. Discussed fall-winter books. Next meeting will be held 10/6 via Zoom.

Lindsay discussed need for room parents for both Brewer and Dreschler's classes. We briefly discussed what a room parent does – let us know if can help.

Bylaws: reviewed that we need to update every 3 years and that Ari and Heather helped to review. We can't change much. Questions asked about nominating committee: yes, we need one. Will ask for volunteers by March 2022. Also questioned about 2 year committee chair term – we go beyond this because we need more volunteers! Bylaws were approved by majority in attendance.

Many helpful suggestions given on how to better promote PTA membership and suggested more paper coming home with students to advertise events and meetings. Suggested that we highlight what kinds of things the PTA is doing so people are more aware of what the PTA does!

Meeting was adjourned at 8:06pm.