

PTA Meeting Minutes

March 24, 2022

Present: Gina Geraci, Robyn O'Grady, Laurie Pincus, Jenny Bradley, Lindsay Wilson, Michaela Wall, Melissa Pletscher-Nizinsky, Liz Zeitner, Ashley Lieber, Yonjong Choi, Mindy Staba, Aubrey DiNorma, Sue Vadakin, Jennifer Luisi, Renee Yandow, Emily Belcer

Meeting called to order at 7:02pm

Approval of January minutes (Laurie, Robyn)

BOE Report (Emily Belcer):

Covid tests will be sent home every Thursday so that families can easily test at home.

The Equity in Action committee will meet on 5/25 @ PHS. An email will be sent with the time.

There will be a PARA community event on 4/9.

On 4/26 there will be a virtual meeting for the community to meet the candidates running for the Board of Education this year. If anyone is interested in running, there is a meeting this weekend at the DoubleTree or you can pick up information at the district office.

Arts In Education (Sue Vadakin):

Square1 art was sent home today. Order forms are due on 4/8 and the products should arrive back by 5/5, in time for Mother's Day. This fundraising event usually brings in \$6-7,000 in sales, which generates \$2500 in PTA funds. Email Sue if anyone is missing an order form.

The fifth grade tile mural will be happening again this year.

The Arts In Education event will be back this year on Wednesday, June 1st. Still waiting on guidelines for the amounts of people that can be at Cobbles – potentially will have to split the school in half and do two sessions. All kids will have a piece of artwork on display, there will be a pottery demonstration, scavenger hunt and musical performances.

This committee doesn't need its PTA funding (\$2500) this year because they have enough district & state funding. They will be using it to bring a performer in. The money will be reallocated this year but will be available again next year.

Teacher's Report (Renee Yandow):

There was a request submitted from a 2nd grade teacher for a bin of sensory items to help kids destress and decompress. PTA is happy to fund this request.

There are only two open spots for teachers who have volunteered to be bingo callers at bingo night.

Principal's Report (Kellie McNair via Gina Geraci):

Next week grades 3-5 have NYS testing. If you would like to opt out, please follow the instructions sent in the recent email.

Classrooms are celebrating Women's History Month by reading stories about female history makers. The PTA is sponsoring a mural project and a special thank you goes to Mrs. Vadakin and the DEI committee members helping make this happen.

Mrs. Jane Cszasz started in the Administrative Assistant position on February 20th and is settling in well. She worked at Cobbles previously as a TA and is happy to be back.

Request for PTA funding (Jenny Bradley – TA in 1st grade):

Jenny presented a request for more sensory friendly items and potentially even a space in Cobbles that could be designated for a room for kids to re-regulate and calm down. Jenny is a TA in the 12/1/1 1st grade class and other districts she has worked in have spaces and equipment like this. The needs for kids across all grades and classrooms is increasing, especially since Covid. Kids are more frequently in fight or flight mode and could use a space/equipment to help them regroup. She will put together a list of requested items that all kids at Cobbles would have access to.

This will be looked at as a new budget line item as it is likely going to need yearly funding. Everyone voted in favor of this.

Staff Appreciation (Molly Menge Maguire):

This event hasn't happened for the past two years because of Covid, so Molly put together a staff survey to make sure that the teachers and staff liked the way the event was done. Her results so far show that the teachers love the raffle and catered lunch along with time for them to socialize on the day after the last day of school. The event allows for each staff member to win one raffle item (around \$20 value each). Raffle items are usually donated by Cobbles family members. This year she will likely need more than in previous years because she will have to purchase plastic cutlery (had leftovers before) and the cost of catering has gone up. All voted in favor to increase this budget item to \$2000.

Moving Up Ceremony (Lindsay Wilson):

The style of this event will be changing this year. In previous years it has been a slightly formal event held at PHS. This year it is changing to a more informal ceremony at a special breakfast at Cobbles. This way teachers & staff at Cobbles can be involved.

This might have to be live streamed for parents to watch. There will be a 5th grade parade and a t-shirt collaboration with all four elementary schools. T-shirts can be purchased by the PTA again this year and that can be voted on officially at our next meeting.

A volunteer is needed to put a slideshow together, and Lindsay has emailed all 5th grade parents asking for volunteers.

DEI (Melissa Pletscher-Nizinsky):

This committee is organizing a Women's History Month mural that the kids can color during recess and is looking for volunteers to help.

May is AAPI History Month and a zoom panel discussion with the district will be held. 260 kids fall into this category in Penfield.

Screen Smart Week (Yonjong Choi):

This will be held from 5/2-5/6 this year. 232 students, teachers, and staff participated last year. She is looking for three volunteers to help this year, and someone to take over chairing this event for next year. Usually the winning class for each grade gets a pizza party and we will find out if this is OK for a prize again this year.

Treasurer's Notes (Art Elliot):

\$1500 has been spent so far in the Staff appreciation lunch. This will be increased for this year.

Miscellaneous Updates

Bingo Night will be on 4/13 from 6:30pm to 8pm in the cafeteria. We can have up to 200 people attend so families have to reserve their spots so that we don't exceed that number. Kathryn Donald volunteered to chair this event.

Cobbles Night at RedWings will be on Saturday 5/21 at 7pm. Tickets are \$10 with a \$2 processing fee.

Spirit Wear information will go out on Monday. Orders will be filled by June. There will be Cobbles gear and more generic Penfield gear. This sale is not a fundraiser.

School supplies boxes will be offered for next year. The pricing of the kids is comparable to what you'd pay at Target. Orders have to be placed by 7/1. The PTA will purchase extra kits for each grade level to help with families to struggle to afford supplies.

Robyn is continuing to work on the end of the year bash. This event is on 6/17. She has food and ice cream trucks reserved. The PTA will be able to pay for these. Renee asked for a list of volunteers needed for the games, etc. that she can post for teachers. Ideas like games, dunk tank, using Bach 2 Rock for a DJ, and getting the PHS robotics club were gathered.

President's Notes (Gina & Robyn):

Covid test kids will be sent weekly. A question was raised to see if we could decline these and Emily will find out for us. Some families have plenty of them.

UPK lottery winners will find out on 4/1.

The transportation staff appreciation will happen again this year.

Inclusion week got missed this year. Moving forward, a specific week will be chosen and used yearly to avoid this happening again.

This is the 125th anniversary of the PTA. They plan to do a service project to honor that anniversary.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm.