

Cobbles PTA Meeting Minutes

May 26, 2022

Present: Gina Geraci, Laurie Pincus, Michaela Wall, Melissa Pletscher-Nizinsky, Yonjong Choi, Kellie McNair, Renee Yandow, Barb Babiarz, Ursula DiPasquale, Mindy Staba, Molly Menge Maguire

Meeting called to order at 7:00pm

Approval of January minutes (Maguire, Staba)

Teacher's Report (Renee Yandow):

Teachers were appreciative of the teacher appreciation week that was put together for them and are beginning to wrap up for the end of the year. Field Fun day is returning on 6/21 for students. The teachers were grateful that the district listened to their concerns about the adjustments to schedule times that were proposed to keep in place the quality of services that have been offered in Penfield.

Principal's Report (Kellie McNair):

Teachers and staff met to discuss school safety. Many great ideas were shared. No school doors will be propped open, especially at lunch time. All visitors must sign in and out and show their ID for scanning. If teachers are expecting volunteers, they are being asked to alert the front desk ahead of time.

The police presence at Cobbles was increased this week because of the Texas school shooting, but there is periodic presence during the year.

Parents have asked if the glass is bulletproof at the school. Kellie thinks it is around the front area and in the new classrooms, but not the other classrooms. Hallway doors are safety doors that can be closed and auto locked during an emergency.

Teachers were asked questions by their students about the shooting but they tried to be careful about what they said and to keep answers brief so that families could make their own choices about what to tell their children.

She received many emails from parents wanting to know what was being done at Cobbles to keep our kids safe. Many emails also asked for advice on how to talk to kids about what happened in Texas. The email she sent today included links to sites with information and advice on how to talk to kids in an age-appropriate way. There was information about safety measures at Cobbles, one of which is making sure that all doors are closed and locked at all times.

A discussion was had about safety at the crosswalk on Five Mile Line Road where a kindergarten student was hit by a car (he is OK) this week. A traffic light is not likely but a suggestion was made that the PTA could start a petition for a crossing guard or flashing light like the one at Liberty Street just up the road. The PTA will get this started.

The Cobbles Cares basketball game was lots of fun and collected a van full of food for the Penfield Ecumenical Food Shelf.

Things feel like they are getting a bit back to normal:

Flag Day will be celebrated on June 14th.

Mrs. Osgood's Poetry Slam is June 15th

5th grade Moving Up Ceremony and celebrations are June 17th

Field Day for all students is June 21st

The NYS Science testing for 4th graders was today – it's a hands on/lab style test and many students thought it was fun. Kindergarteners are showing tremendous progress by this point in the year.

Board of Education (Barb Babiarz):

Their meeting included reestablishing district emergency manual and National Honor Society inductions.

PHS Robotics team was able to get 11/8 named state-wide STEAM day. They worked really hard with state legislatures to get this accomplished

The board purchased books for the district relating to DEI initiatives.

Next Tuesday is the virtual presentation for AAPI Heritage month about growing up and parenting Asian children.

Another draft of the schedule, including music changes, was made DO WE LIKE IT??

A thank you from the Board of Education for voting yes and passing the budget this year.

PCSD made the national NPR news because of the electric bus we were given a grant for.

She is stepping down from the board after this year – Thank you from the Cobbles PTA!

Molly Menge Maguire – Teacher Luncheon & Raffle

She sent a paper letter and a follow up email asking for donations and many families volunteered to donate.

Venmo has been wonderful – she has \$550 plus 31 confirmed gifts.

She's hoping for a \$20 gift for all teachers and staff.

Last year not many people drank soda, but they went for water and sparkling waters. She asked to borrow large water dispensers that you can flavor water in for this year. Many offered to loan theirs.

Let her know if you can help with the event on the day after the last day of school.

Screen Smart Week and DEI (Yonjong Choi):

She had 220 participants this year. 3 kids per grade (plus 2 extra) and 1 teacher won \$10 Target gift cards for participating. The top participating classes from each grade won a bubble party at recess. Everyone who handed in a board got a Screen Smart Week pencil.

A chair is still needed for next year's Screen Smart Week.

The panel on 5/10 with AAPI Penfield students and their friends about their diverse racial backgrounds was a success.

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 Asian & Parenting Asian Teenagers: Issues of Identity, Invisibility & Community".

Year End Bash/Ice Cream Social (Robyn O'Grady)

We are asking people to register for this ahead of time. Those who register will get one food ticket and one ice cream ticket per person in their family – all paid for by the PTA. Anyone who doesn't register ahead of time is welcome to attend, they will just have to pay for their own food.

Food trucks are: Wraps on Wheels (have gluten & dairy free options), Tuscan Wood Fire pizza, and Netsins Ice Cream.

There are many fun activities planned – games, face painting, magician, dunk tank, PHS Robotics team, etc.

Michaela Wall has offered to organize the volunteers – we need many!

Budget is currently at \$3000 and we are asking for an increase to \$10,000 for this year to make it as special as possible while we have this money available. This was approved unanimously when voted on.

Renee Yandow will email teachers to ask for dunk tank volunteers.

Budget (Gina Geraci)

The executive committee reviewed the current year's budget in a meeting last night. We do need to continue to spend down. There is another Fun Run scheduled for next year and if it is like the first time it was done, it raises around \$30,000.

Sensory items purchasing line item needs to be added to the budget for next year.

Renee Yandow will ask teachers if anyone needs anything – now's the time to ask!

At our next and last meeting for this school year, we will vote on the budget and our new slate of board members.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15pm