

# Cobbles PTA Meeting Minutes

September 22, 2022

Present: Ursula DiPasquale, Gina Geraci, Laurie Pincus, Renee Yandow, Molly Menge Maguire, Mindy Staba, Mark Elledge, Lisa Tripodi, Cara Acker, Allison Trawinski, Katie Donald, Ryan Stage

Meeting called to order at 7:04pm

Ursula introduced herself as the new co-president with Robyn. We went around the room and introduced ourselves. We are happy to have a few new kindergarten parent faces!

Approval of June minutes (Ursula, Mindy)

## **Teachers Report (Renee Yandow)**

The teachers all feel it is an exciting start to the year because of how normal everything feels. There are many new staff members around. We reviewed that teacher PTA dues (if they choose to join) are \$5 and they can sign up on the PTA website. Each classroom received \$100 from the PTA to use as each teacher sees fit. A question was asked about parents being able to come in and eat lunch with their kids this year – Renee will find out and let us know.

## **Principal's Report (Kellie McNair emailed to Renee):**

It has been a great start to the school year and she thanks everyone who came to Curriculum Night. They have been working on assessing the students to see who will need extra help and enrichment this year and those interventions have already begun. A focus has been on SEL and Cobbles is happy to announce a new staff member, Josette Campana who is our SEL specialist and works with students. We also have a new staff member, Laura Fitch, who is a Teacher on Special Assignment for SEL learning at Cobble part time this year and works directly with teachers.

Homecoming Spirit week has been in full swing this week and the game is on Friday night. Picture day is Tuesday, 27<sup>th</sup> and the makeup day will be 11/1.

## **Board of Education (Mark Elledge):**

There are two Board of Education meetings each month. Their first one in September was about facilities – smaller projects that they are able to fund from their yearly budget. Cobbles had several projects taken care of over the summer and the board works hard to keep all of the schools in the district up to date and not let anything get run down.

Their second meeting was reviewing and evaluating Penfield's summer programs for students. Attendance doubled in programs this summer and is successful in avoiding regression in students.

He noted that all board meetings are live streamed and are watchable on Penfield TV a few days after each meeting.

He asked everyone for feedback on the new required SEL block each morning for all students. Everyone gave positive feedback both from student and parent perspective.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### **Room Parent Coordinator (Mindy Staba)**

She is in good shape for room parents – every classroom, except two, have a room parent. She will send some emails to hopefully find these volunteers. She reminded us that because being a room parent is a PTA volunteer position, all room parents have to officially join the PTA. She gave us an overview of what a room parent does – organize and distribute friendship lists, relay occasional emailed information from the teacher and/or PTA, facilitate signups for holiday celebrations, and optional is organizing holiday and year end gifts for the teachers.

### **Fun Run (Gina Geraci)**

This is the only PTA fundraiser that our group does is the Fun Run, which we have had huge success with. The first year they did it, we raised \$32,000. Then we did a virtual dance a thon version during Covid and raised \$16-18,000. The goal for this year is \$20,000.

Gina gave a quick overview of how it works. Kids get sponsors for laps run (during recess on 10/20-21 – parents encouraged to attend!) or flat donations. They get incentives and small prizes along the way, and every kid gets a t-shirt. We have several corporate sponsors, mostly from Cobbles parents who own businesses. Kellie McNair has offered a very fun reward for the kids if they reach their goal.

We had a discussion about how to get more parents involved with the PTA. Ideas included having very clear and specific requests about what is needed and what roles need filling, a PTA open house at an off-site location (Jeremiah's? A happy hour would be more casual and enticing), and making it clear that we are a separate entity from the school trying to elevate the level of fun at the school all year. The PTA will also update the website's committee listings.

### **PAB (Parent Advisory Board) Meeting Update (Ursula DiPasquale)**

She was asked at the meeting if we had our committee set up yet for the 5<sup>th</sup> grade Moving Up celebrations – we do not.

She was asked to pass along info about the Community Conversations on the Penfield.edu website.

The different website/apps were clarified for usage:

Infinite Campus – student management (forms, report cards, etc)

Microsoft Teams – student/teacher communication mostly for Bay Trail and PHS

Parent Square – teacher/parent communication. Attendance and robo-calling will be added to this. PTA is not able to use this as a communication source because we are a separate entity from the school, but we can funnel announcements through Kellie as needed.

### **Treasurer's Report (Ashley Lieber via Gina)**

We are currently projected to spend more than we bring in this year, which means we will not be able to fund as many requests as we were able to last year when we were actively trying to spend down our resources. However, this is all dependent on how much money we raise in the Fun Run.

A question was asked about what types of requests the PTA funds and several examples were given – microphones for all teachers during Covid/masking times, extra supplies for all classrooms, sensory products/tools are all things the PTA has funded. We try our hardest to fund as many things as we can.

Meeting adjourned at 8:08pm

Next meeting will be Thursday, Oct. 20<sup>th</sup> at 7pm in the Cobbles Library