

Cobbles PTA Meeting Minutes

May 18, 2023

Present: Mindy Staba, Gina Geraci, Cara Acker, Robyn O'Grady, Ashley Lieber, Lisa Tripodi, Yonjong Choi, Patience Prinzi, Renee Yandow, Nicole Whitehead, Michaela Wall, Molly Menge Maguire, Krista Kahn, Lisa Tripodi, Natalie Dubois, Joslyn Burhman

Approve Meeting Minutes from April: Approved by Mindy Staba and Gina Geraci

Meeting called to order at 7:02pm

Board of Education Report (Krista Khan)

- No board meeting because of elections.
- Presentation by new AP ELA teacher (Mr. Mack). They review books they want to add to the curriculum (12th grade). They pull students in to read books, have discussions, give opinions
 - o Team chose:
 - *Candy House* by Jennifer Egan
 - *Station 11* by Emily St. John Mandel
 - *There There* by Tommy Orange
- Penfield has an oratorical competition (speeches). Students select a topic and speak for 4 minutes.
- Penfield voted best community for musical education.
- Assistant Principals are approved!!
- Acknowledged food service folks. There was a vegetarian child wrote a note to the food service staff and BoE folks to thank them for having choices for him.
- Board of Ed has toured all building with George English. It was pointed out what is happening in each building, where the money is coming from, etc. Cobbles front reception area has been changed so it is more secure (two buzz-in system in vestibule). Other schools are being worked on.
- 5th, 8th and 12th grade graduations coming up
- Reminder: all meetings are recorded and minutes are published
- Question to PTA: What do we need from the BoE? (biggest asks: getting a principal and assistant principal)

Principal Report (Nicole Whitehead)

- Met with Erin R regarding getting a drama club set up and possible funding from the PTA.
- Room Parents conversation
 - o Mindy Staba: created an electronic/google form to collect data easier. We recognized that we need to be more inclusive for this coming year. Some classrooms were missed last year and we had many opening. This may be a result of COVID.
 - o Lower grade levels are often more challenging (reaching out to new families)

- Google form will be added into presentation for K orientation (along with ways to connect, way to be involved, and info to join the PTA)
 - Presentation will be on the website!
- PTA invited to K orientation
- Yonjong suggested a video recording
- Teachers have been saying they wish we had a school tshirt (for staff)
 - Can we do this for upcoming years? Ashley will try to find room in the budget. All teachers would wear the same tshirt on first day of school each year and on other specified days.
 - Future idea: Teacher Appreciation Week – add tshirt as gift to teachers for upcoming year

Teacher Report (Renee Yandow)

- TAs were overwhelmed with flowers of TA Appreciation Day.
- Teach Appreciation Week was amazing. Teachers extended a big thank you. Everyone enjoyed and looked forward to every day. Anna Bell did an excellent job at organizing.
- 5th grade yearbook signing day will be split between two days. One teacher concerned with traffic flow and getting through curriculum. If rooms don't want to be interrupted, a proposed idea is to hang a sign on their door to come back for signing.
- Ice cream social signs are up, email blast going out soon.
- Renee is leaving at the end of the year (Bay Trail, House B). She will pass on her PTA Folder to Nicole with all sign up sheets, announcements, etc for whomever will take over. Nicole to figure out if there is a process that needs to be followed to select replacement teacher representative.

Committee Updates

- Room Parents (Mindy Staba): sending PDF form to Nicole to include in K Orientation, link to google form, and in weekly blast
 - K should get a handout, 1-5 electronic version, with ability to print out
 - Robyn to print for K orientation
 - Joslin – add to website (Mindy will email her)
- Screen Smart (Yonjong Choi): 202 submitted out of 549 (37%)
 - Big success! 18 less students than last year. Pizza parties and gift card winners were shared over announcements.
 - Thank you to Joslin for posting to the website, sending out blasts and reminders for the form to upload. Electronic data collection was really time saving.
 - Allison Trawinski is taking this over going forward. Yonjong will be involved to ensure there is a smooth transition
 - Cara Acker is taking care of ordering pizza for classrooms (6 classes), including gluten free pizza option. Renee suggested to ask for \$19.99 sheet pizza deal at Mark's. They only offer this to schools.

- 5th grade Seabreeze night (Michaela) –This is on 6/20 and is Penfield-wide, not just Cobbles and this is not PTA sponsored. A parent volunteer will be distributing tickets on 6/19 at community center 6-7:30. For anyone unable to make it, tickets can be dropped off. We need to sell at least 750 tickets across the fifth grades and their families. If we do not meet that minimum, it will then be opened up to other elementary students and their families. Coach Kyle is heading up Seabreeze night. A deadline to sign up is still being discussed and a signup link will be sent out soon.
- Ice Cream Social (Robyn): 5-7pm, asking \$10 per household. Families have to sign up in advance so we have a headcount. There will be NO TICKET SALES AT THEDOOR. Tickets can be used to get a dessert from Lugia's or Kona trucks. We will pay the vendors at the end of the night. Included in the ticket purchase price are games, popcorn and magician. There will also be one food truck (hot dog cart guy) which will be available for purchase. We should make this clear and that people should bring cash.
- Yearbook (Patience Prinzi): The yearbook is done. Estimated 367 yearbooks purchased and expected to arrive to Patience on June 1. Fifth graders will be them on June 15. Other grades will receive their's later in the afternoon. Renee, Robyn, and Gina have offered to help distribute.
- Teacher Appreciation Lunch/Retirement (Molly Menge Maguire, Lisa Tripodi)
 - o Day after school ends (6/22), Thursday (11:30-1 ish). Looking for additional help day of.
 - o Can Nicole send out in weekly blast as well and through room parents?
 - All collections will come through Molly.

Misc Comments/Sharing

- 2nd grade classrooms (Natalie DuBois)
 - o Natalie is wondering if there is a way to have more parent volunteers in the second grade classrooms.
 - o Nicole shared that having parent volunteers is up to the teachers at this point and optional at other schools as well.
 - Our 2nd grade teachers don't really have anything for volunteers to do and often times it is more work for the teachers to try to find something for volunteers to do
 - Option/Idea?: mystery reader, reading hour (while teachers are doing 1:1 with kids)
 - o Natalie inquired about why 2nd grade didn't recognize Mother's Day
 - Nicole shared that she currently is leaving this up to teachers individually. Within the second grade class, there are several students have lost a parent and we do not want to exclude any children from activities.
- PTA Communication Channel: it was suggested that for next year, perhaps we have a way to communicate with PTA members like in a group chat somehow.

- Constant Contact (Gina): Do we want to renew this for next school year? We know that at least one school is not going to be using it further, but will be using Parent Square. Should we remove this so we do not have too many forms for communication? Removing Constant Contact would force more use of the website, Facebook page, and Parent Square. Non-teachers cannot post in Parent Square, due to legality reasons.
- Title 1 (Krista)– Last meeting of the year, this will be discussed. Title 1 is granted when you are granted a certain amount of kids below the poverty line. This is a way to be granted more funding.
- Audit Committee (Ashley Lieber): Mindy Staba and Molly Menge Maguire, will meet over summer

President Report (Robyn)

- Cara Acker + Lisa Tripodi: Secretary and co-Treasurer, respectively (voting at next meeting)
- We still need two presidents

Treasurer Report

- Budget will be shared via MemberHub and voted on at next meeting. Ashley will bring copies as well. Right now, the proposal still needs a little rework to try to accommodate for drama club and tshirts for teachers at the beginning of the year.
- The Fun Run is our biggest fundraiser. Without the revenue from the Fun Run, there would be no PTA sponsored activities for the school year.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:50pm

Next Meeting is June 14 7pm