

Cobbles PTA Meeting

Thursday, October 28, 2021

Present: Gina Geraci, Robyn O'Grady, Ari Elliot, Laurie Pincus, Kellie McNair, Fiona Stauffer, Christin Harley, Lori Morris, Liz Zeitner, Molly Menge Maguire, Sabrina Renner, Mindy Staba, Rebecca Shaw, Robyn Lincoln, Lindsay Wilson, Heather Drews, Michaela Wall, Yon Jong.

Meeting called to order at 7:03pm.

The minutes from September were approved (Heather Drews, Molly Menge Maguire).

BOE Report - Christen Harley:

- They have had 2 meetings so far this year. They were updated on three reports from the audit committee and are generally at a good place financially.
- They are working hard to stay in line with all requirements to keep the government funding being received. Updates were given on the capital improvement projects happening at the different schools, and a new project will be up for another community vote in December.
- The board is continuing to move forward with its equity work with Dr. Maloney and are looking for district wide committee members.
- The board has also been working on getting PCR rapid tests in the schools. There were some who answered the email Dr. Putnam sent out looking for medically trained community members to help with administering the tests because the school nurses are overloaded. It will be at least a few weeks before this is set up in the schools.
- Updates are also happening with communication systems/technology advances for crisis situations.
- Sustainability committee meetings are happening at the high school. Focusing on waste management and recycling. A question was raised about Styrofoam lunch trays – do they have to be phased out by January? Mrs. McNair will find out what the status of this is for us.

Teacher's Report - Renee Yandow

- Teachers are busy getting ready for conferences. They are thankful for PTA support again this year for the voice amplifiers. Office staff is asking for at least a day's notice for any requests for assistance due to being backed up.
- We had a lot of staff/teacher sign ups for PTA this year – thank you to them!
- Renee has asked teachers to collect/send pictures for the yearbook.

Principal's Report - Mrs. McNair

- Everyone is getting ready for conference and report cards, which will be available on Infinite Campus on November 3rd.
- Conferences are being offered both in person and on Zoom. Teachers and support staff are also getting ready for data day to look at student performance, making sure all kids are getting what they need. Teachers are collaborating on those days to share ideas with each other.

- A question was raised on what data is being used for this year because of last year's issues. How are they benchmarking/grouping students for services? Mrs. McNair said they are using district wide assessments for math (done today) and reading. Teachers also use their first unit assessments to see where kids are struggling and where kids are showing their strengths, potentially needing enrichment. Qualifying for extra support or enrichment is not only data driven. There is teacher input for all kids. Mrs. Yandow said they are pulling kids immediately when they see a problem, not waiting for data day as in years' past. Parents can reach out to teachers or service providers with questions.
- Everyone is so glad parents can come back into the building to volunteer, many coming tomorrow to help with Halloween. She is looking for volunteers for their backpack program, a partnership with Foodlink. Please let her or school social worker know if you want to help.
- Cobbles is looking for TAs, lunch monitors, substitute teachers and bus drivers – let Mrs. Woolaver or Kellie McNair know if you're interested.
- Tuesday, Nov 2 is picture make up day.
- There is a parent volunteer form that can be found on the Cobbles website. Once it is filled out, it covers a parent for the rest of the school year.

Committee Overviews:

HOTM (Laurie Pincus, chair): This is a fun and easy committee to volunteer for. Since Covid hit it hasn't been running, but hopefully it will be able to soon. The cafeteria is too short staffed to take it on right now. When it is able to run, Harvest of the Month is a day once a month where the cafeteria cooks a locally grown vegetable side dish and parent volunteers pass it out to kids during lunch. Two volunteers are needed per lunch period, and all you do is pass out the veggies and stickers to those kids who want to try it. It's a fun and easy way to volunteer and see your kids during the day.

Fundraising (Patience Prinzi & Gina Geraci, co-chairs): They have been chairing this committee for 2-3 years and started the Booster-thon Fun Run. It was a big job for two people, and was a lot of work, but it was really fun. The kids loved it. Kids got pledges from family, friends & neighbors for running around the outdoor track. It was very successful, and they were able to do it again last year as a virtual dance-a-thon with continued success. The past two years raised enough money that no major fundraiser was needed this year. Gina is hopeful we can do it again next year, but they are looking for a lot more volunteers for next time. Hoping for some new people to join the committee this year.

This committee has also done smaller fundraisers during the year, including the book fair, which we aren't doing this year. That has been turned over to SEPTA to host this year. The book fair will be held on Saturday, December 4th at Penfield United Methodist Church. SEPTA is always looking for volunteers, both for yearly work and for the book fair. There's a link to SEPTA directly from the Cobbles PTA site. Ari noted we had accrued funds in our book fair account that had to be used on books through Scholastic. We were able to purchase 6-7 books per classroom related to diversity, equity and inclusion in some way. Mrs. Kalweit was a huge help finding a list of titles and helping teachers get the books they wanted.

Spirit Wear (Gina Geraci, chair) This is another committee that needs a new chair. It's an easy one to run. You just have to coordinate a sale in the fall and spring. Because fundraising was done with the Fun Run, Spirit Wear hasn't been running as a fundraiser lately (just add \$2-\$4/item to make it a fundraiser). The

company we work with sets it all up, the chair just has to get the word out to people. This committee has a low commitment level.

Please let Gina or Robyn know if you're interested in taking over a committee. These are all supposed to be two-year terms for chairing but have been longer due to lack of new volunteers.

An idea was raised by Ari to lump Spirit Wear into the larger Fundraising Committee to consolidate.

Presidents' Notes – Gina Geraci & Robyn O'Grady

- Make a Difference Day was hugely successful. Patience brought a big trunk load of food collected at Cobbles over to the food shelf last Saturday. As a district, Penfield collected a lot of food for them.
- Spirit Wear sale went well even though it was a quick one. The company had to move quickly because of supplies and shipping issues, making sure we had orders in before holidays. All items are sent to school and they are distributed to students.
- We are open to any new ideas that anyone has. Looking for help getting events set up for the spring, especially need a Community Builders chair.

PAB Meeting Updates – Gina Geraci & Robyn O'Grady

- The PAB (Parent Advisory Board) is a monthly meeting of the PTA Presidents and Vice-Presidents from each school with Superintendent Dr. Putnam.
- The PAB meeting included updates about budget/capitol improvement projects and what they are going to do w/ stimulus funds. They also discussed professional development for teachers and staff. They also spent time talking about DEI committees and how it'll be structured at the schools. Each school has a DEI committee. Then each PTA has their own DEI committee. Each of those committees meets separately, and brings info to PTA, which is then brought to PAB. Please reach out to Mrs. McNair if you want to be involved in the school DEI committee.

Treasurer's report – Ari Elliot

The Cobbles PTA continues to be in strong financial position, with its only problem being a need to spend funds. We tend to spend more later in the year, with spring events & programs. We are welcome to any ideas we can do/spend money on.

The PTA has \$40-45,000 in the bank and definitely have a way to go to spend enough to spend as much as we bring in.

Are about halfway to our PTA membership goal this year. We are a little behind past years, but way ahead of last year. Hard to know what is normal anymore, but trending in right direction.

Ari is looking for members of the audit committee – need 3 non officers to be on this committee. You don't need any financial expertise to be a part of this. It was noted that we will need a new treasurer next year, and it would be helpful to start transition before end of this year.

There is an Amazon tax exempt account for any committees that need to make purchases online. Ari can order for you or he can get anyone set up to order. Any merchants should honor our tax exempt status, please ask Ari for those forms if you need to do any purchasing for the PTA.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50pm. Next meeting is Thursday, November 18th.