

PTA General Meeting
May 26, 2016

April, 2016 minutes: Approved.

ADMINISTRATION REPORT: Ms. Chory.

The kindergarten and 1st grade Field Day was this morning. Friday will be Field Day for grades 2 - 4. We will start at 8:45am due to heat. Last week was the IS Talent Show, which was amazing. Today was the 8th grade Rocking Horse Ranch trip. They had a great time. This morning I attended a budget webcast and learned that we were brought up to 87% fair student funding. This is up from 83.4%. We have a full June calendar. No school on June 9 and June 14. There will be no after school programs on June 14. June 3 is the kindergarten moving up ceremony. June 10 is Field Day for the IS. June 17 is the 4th grade moving up ceremony and the 8th grade drumming finale in the afternoon. June 22 is 8th grade graduation. The perfect attendance breakfast will be in June. All of these dates will be in the parent bulletin.

FACULTY REPORT: No formal report presented. Ms. Edmonds and Ms. O'Callaghan returned from Rocking Horse Ranch trip and thanked the parents for contributing the second bus. The parent support motivated the students to do more on their part. This year in particular, without parent support, not all of the students would have been able to attend.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Isabelle Elton
3rd Annual Film Festival.

Thank you to Michael Bridenstine and Steve Mallorca for a very successful film festival. We had wonderful, quality films and raised approximately \$1,400.

Funding First Cycle of After School Programs for 2016-2017 School Year.

PTA needs to vote on the first cycle of after school programs for next school year. Administration would like to have after school content for all grades, K-8. Additionally, we would like to introduce an IS Track Club. We will continue to have the traditional robotics, arts and crafts, science club, and a STEM program for the kindergarten. Administration requesting \$15K to cover extra-curricular activities.

Motion to fund first cycle of after school programming.
All in favor. No opposed. 1 abstention.
Motion Approved.

County Fair.

Administration has requested \$3,500 for supplies. These funds would go to a third party vendor who provides the slide, jumpy house and dunk tank at the County Fair. Money raised at the fair through attendance and concessions would be put toward supplies.

Discussion occurred surrounding lack of funds provided by the DOE for supplies, as well as evaluating the supplies lists provided to parents at beginning of school year.

Motion to fund activities at County Fair to raise money for supplies.
All in favor. No opposed. No abstentions.
Motion Approved.

Further discussions occurred surrounding the after school funding. Will a second cycle of \$15K be requested? We have a surplus this year that allows us to pay \$15K for next year's first cycle, and we are adding the IS track club. We have to maintain \$10K to remain solvent. We applied for a \$35K grant for after school programs so we can put more money into the second cycle. The programs are popular, some more than others. Administration will review to see what is working and what is not working. Robotics is popular, and Administration would like to introduce it in the IS as students moving up to the IS can continue to enjoy. We will ask Administration to consider starting the programs earlier in the fall.

Fall Fundraisers.

The PTA needs to acknowledge and vote on agreeing to our standard fall fundraisers. We can add fundraisers but need to agree to have the Dues Drive, School-A-Palooza, Picture Day, Cherrydale and Tree Sale.

Motion to start the year with events such as Dues Drive, School-A-Palooza, Picture Day, Cherrydale and Tree Sale.

All in favor. No opposed. No abstentions.
Motion Approved.

Meet the Candidates: Sue Seitner, Chair of Nominating Committee

On behalf of Committee members Laura Tietjen and Paulina Castro-Wolfe, I would like to acknowledge Ana Alfonso for the wonderful job chairing the committee these last few years. This year, we have candidates for the SLT and the PTA. The goal is to give each candidate a chance to speak. We have several candidates for two positions for the SLT. We will have an election for the SLT on June 13. For the PTA, we have one candidate for each position.

Each candidate introduced themselves and spoke for a few minutes. The following candidates were voted in to the PTA Executive Board for 2016-2017 school year. There will be no PTA election.

President: Isabelle Elton
Co-VP Elementary School: Gwendolyn Kingsberry and Jennifer Murphy
Co-VPs for the Intermediate School: Ana Alfonso and Adele Tedesco
Treasurer: Elizabeth Elam
Communications Secretary: Lorraine Marsh
Recording Secretary: Debra Klein Canning

For the SLT, we have more candidates than positions. There are two open positions, and I would like to acknowledge Lexi Higgins and Hope Traficanti for their work. There will be an election on June 13. The entire parent body can vote. Voting will be from 7:30am – 8:20am and again after school and early evening. The votes will be counted publicly by the nominating committee. This is an open election and one school representative will be present. The votes will be tabulated and the outcome announced at the meeting.

A few of the candidates were present and introduced themselves.

Candidates for the SLT are:
Robert Chelimsky, Johanna Garcia, Angela Garce, Leanne Gonzalez-Singer, and Gerry Goss

SCHOOL LEADERSHIP TEAM: Lori Uysal

Thank you to everyone for running for SLT and PTA. We sent out our communications survey. The feedback provides us information on what we can improve. Most notable was that 70% of responders did not know that teacher's contracts provide that teachers must be at school on Tuesday mornings and afternoons for parent conference time. We will emphasize this more. Additionally, a majority of the responders were from ES families. The SLT writes the comprehensive education plan each year. We have been working on the draft and will file it in June, and it will guide us for incoming year. This year we updated the by laws and wrote a new mission statement. Prior years we focused on student learning to cite textual evidence to support arguments. This year we are focusing curriculum on comprehension – Grades K-2 focusing on decoding; Grades 3-5 focusing on building vocabulary; Grades 6-8 focusing on using inferences. We will continue to roll out Lions Quest, a social emotional program paid for by parents, which our teachers are trained in. Goals for teachers is to create workshops for each other. By June 2017, teachers will be 100% focused on challenging all learners. We have to quantify to the DOE that we have done this. Communication is another goal. We have heard from parents that parents are not given enough notice regarding in-school events, like the science fair. We are going to ask all teachers to aim for 2 weeks notice. There are ways to support the teaching staff to keep these goals; such as using the function of the CPR. Teachers sit on SLT and will need to sign off on these goals.

Discussion occurred regarding the remind app, a texting app for teachers to be able to reach out to parents. This is an optional app and likely will remain optional.

Friends of 187: Debby Nebavian

Our SOS annual appeal will begin on June 1. We have a very supportive parent community and will begin tabling for this appeal. Anyone can take table in the morning. Sign up at the County Fair. We will be out before then too. All our programs are rolled out. We have one new 7th grade successful creative writing program. The students created an anthology. We may expand to another grade. We will meet with administration to get feedback from this year's programs. I would like to remind everyone that we all support this effort of funding school day programs and appreciate feedback from all parents too. There is always room for making things better. We would like to have broader conversations about our focuses.

Open Forum.

No comments.

Motion to adjourn meeting.

Motion seconded.

Motion approved.