

Strandwood PTA General Association Meeting

December 3, 2020

Welcome & Agenda: (minutes by Lawson): called to order at 7:04 pm by Castle using Zoom

(Quorum min: 16) Virtually attended by: Maggie Castle, Jody Lawson, Jill Russell, Shannon Veltri, Stephanie Taheri, Stephanie Markowitz, Eva Yee, Jenn Schofield, Jennifer Roche, Tracie Watanabe, Heidi Sansone, Christine Coassin, Marissa Shannon, Hannah Slade, Cheri Scriptor, Gillian Thomas, Tod Gomes, Kandice Caicedo, Madeleine Holt, Juliet Wales, Lindsey Dohman, Liz Mallon

Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes:

Motion to approve the November 5, 2020 General Association meeting minutes by Lawson, seconded and approved

Principal's Comments (Scripter)

- Distance learning continues! We are currently in the purple tier—schools are not allowed to return to in-person learning until COVID subsides. No new news.
- FYI, we're moving to a new platform for communication called ParentSquare. I've sent several emails already. I'll also be holding a Principal's Q & A before the holidays DL/Hybrid questions.
- We were notified on Monday that our HPG4 Chromebooks will most likely be shut down on 9/1/2021 because they will no longer be supported by Google. It is possible for Google to adjust this date. We could lose 158 devices and many schools are facing similar potential losses. We're waiting to hear from the district regarding financial assistance for technology.
- We're still working on an intern counselor through JFK. We hope to have someone in January.
- Our EDI committee met today and reviewed our collaboratively constructed norms:
 - Listen whole-heartedly.
 - Speak from the heart.
 - Assume best intentions.
 - Communicate with empathy.
 - Be present and mindful.
 - Ask questions.
 - Welcome challenging conversations.
 - Respect personal boundaries.
 - Validate each other's--and our own—feelings.
 - Agree to disagree.
 - It's OK to take a breath. It's also OK to make mistakes.
 - Step forward then step back. Give everyone a turn.

- Try to see things from different perspectives; especially the perspectives of marginalized groups.
- When we know better, we do better.
- We also enjoyed a presentation from Dr. Cri Campbell Schine. Next meeting is Thursday, Jan. 7th, at 6 PM.

Teacher's Report (Caicedo)

- Curriculum
 - TK- Gingerbread man/boy/girl/ etc. stories, letter of the week activities
 - K- Gingerbread man stories and variations, blending and phonemic awareness, community and jobs, Holidays Around the World. Letter, number, and sight word of the week.
 - 2nd:
 - Math: addition with regrouping, measurement
 - Social Studies: Holidays around the World
 - 3rd:
 - Math: mastering math facts and measurement unit
 - Reading: main idea and central message, similes and metaphors
 - Novel Studies: The One and Only Ivan, Wishtree
 - Writing: organization and sentence fluency, rules for capitalization, plural nouns
 - 4th: Multiplication facts and division; California missions; Patty Reed's Doll
 - Library: 2nd - 5th are focusing on library call numbers (easy readers, chapter books, nonfiction Dewey Decimal); 1st graders are being introduced to call numbers in general and how they apply in a library. Holiday books will be shared as well.

Financial Reports (Roche)

- Review of financial reports presented by Roche
- Motion to ratify checks #7228-7245 by Roche, seconded and approved
- Follow up on bill for CPA

VP Reports

VP Communication (Watanabe)

- Sutter's Fort reported that the program has been canceled for this year's 4th graders unfortunately. Hoping to revamp the program for the upcoming 3rd graders.

VP Programs (Schumacher)

- No report

VP Ways & Means (Holt/Schofield)

- Just wrapped up See's candies (profit of \$879) and Scholastic Book Fair (just over \$2000 in sales so far which would give us about \$550 in profit but more may roll in as things are shipped)

VP Hospitality (Taheri)

- Asked room parents to pass along info about Read & Dream distribution coming up next week

Parliamentarian (Schofield)

- No update for now

Unfinished Business

- Counselor Needs at Strandwood - Update (Castle)
 - Mixed response from posting on Parents for MDUSD Facebook page
 - Tova Moore responded to Maggie that we had been assigned a district employee to support us who is currently on maternity leave. Should have another contact though while she's out. Letter campaign to the district could be helpful though! (Lindsey Dohman provided Maggie with a great letter which Maggie will draft along with other info to possibly send out in the Roadrunner.)
 - Mary Dodds has been working with six schools but has very limited service options and her contract is also up in January. Superintendent also mentioned Strandwood and counselors during his meeting with admins. (Scripter)
- Partner Families Program - Update (Watanabe)
 - Sent out a preliminary survey on Konstella for grades 2nd and up. Read by about 200+; only 15 responded though and only 9 said they would be willing to partner.
 - Guessing that it might be better to try and start something like this at the beginning of the year to catch more families. Could be as small as a text exchange or go full fledged with meetups when we're able.
 - Also wait to see how Konstella group, Strandwood Parents FB page, and new ParentSquare from the district work out. Maybe add a button on the PTA page to click to ask a question or provide tips in the Roadrunner for new families for now.

New Business/Recommendations of the Executive Board

- EDI Committee Update— what support can PTA provide? (Holt)
 - Valhalla does have a director of equity
 - Possibly update the room binders to be more inclusive of other activities outside of "norms"
 - Check with the library to see if they are removing outdated materials
- Looking towards PTA elections in April. (Castle)
 - New positions opening up. Please consider an assistant VP role if you are new to the E-Board
 - Nominating Committee will form in January

- Motion to approve Events Calendar as presented below by Lawson, seconded and approved

Open Discussion

- None

Announcements

- Read & Dream Book Distribution- Dec. 9 (12-2:00 pm) and Dec. 11 (1-3:00 pm)
- PTA E-Board Holiday Party- Dec. 15 (postponed)
- Winter Recess- Dec. 21 thru Jan. 4: NO SCHOOL (Classes resume 1/5/2021)
- PTA Council Meeting- Jan. 6 (7:00pm – via Zoom)
- Martin Luther King Day- Jan. 18 NO SCHOOL
- Executive Board Meeting- Jan. 19 (7:00pm via Zoom)
- EDI Committee Meeting- Feb. 4 (6:00pm via Zoom)
- General Association Meeting- Feb. 4 (7:00pm via Zoom)
- School Recess- Feb 12 NO SCHOOL
- President's Day- Feb 15 NO SCHOOL
- Executive Board Meeting- Feb. 16 (7:00pm via Zoom)
- PTA Council Meeting- Mar. 3 (7:00pm via Zoom)
- General Association Meeting- Mar 4 (7:00pm via Zoom)
- Staff Appreciation Week – March 8-12, 2021

Meeting adjourned at 8:07 pm