

Strandwood PTA General Association Meeting

November 5, 2020

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

(Quorum min: 16) Virtually attended by: Maggie Castle, Jody Lawson, Shannon Veltri, Kandice Caceido, Jennifer Roche, Amber McCaffrey, Ashley Gustafson, Cheri Scriptor, Heidi Sansone, Jenifer Osterholt, Lindsey Dohlman, Liz Mallon, Madeleine Holt, Marissa Shannon, Renee Schumacher, Steph Markowitz, Tracie Watanabe, Steph Taheri, Eva Yee, Angela Estrada Dennis, Mitchi Watatsu, Anne Swanson, Jill Russell

Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes:

Motion to approve the October 1, 2020 General Association meeting minutes by Veltri, seconded by Mallon and approved

Principal's Comments (Scripter)

- New teacher - Dara Duane was transferred - now Jessica Howe in Magnet benchmark program, will pair with professor from St Mary's; and new speech therapist
- Superintendent meeting this morning about new hybrid plan - all kids keep their teachers, all get some distant learning in the morning, afternoon would have hybrid per parent discretion; plan will be published tomorrow; still details to figure out
- Thank you Lindsey Dohlman - starting the Gates of Gratitude - place a shape with something you are grateful for on the front gate monthly; please participate
- EDI committee - first meeting just prior to this; discussed Strandwood demographics; also discussed norms for the committee; 3 actionable ideas - speaker in December maybe; the following month an audit to set benchmarks; bringing back cultural assemblies; will meet again next month just before PTA meeting

Teacher's Report (Caicedo)

- TK/K sight words, letters, blending; count to 30; Halloween - science and social studies
- 2nd parts of speech; place value and word problems; Italian American Heritage, role of President
- 3rd - finished science with Ms. Kolbeck - forces and motion, novel study - theme and main ideas; foundation for multiplication and division; project based on Balloons Over Broadway
- 4th - Native California Indians; novel study; scientific text; multiples and divisibility
- 5th - Native Americans and explorers
- Visits from music teacher
- Finished conferences and assessments; working on report cards

Financial Reports (Roche)

- Review of financial reports presented by Roche

- Motion to ratify checks #7214-7227 by Roche, seconded by Veltri and approved
- Checks written to pay teacher reimbursements and for trivia night
- Few more donations for teachers and matching donations
- Working on tax return by Nov 15

VP Reports

VP Communication (Watanabe)

- Finished the virtual halloween parade and notified winners - Jody and Lindsey distributed prizes
- No reports from other PTA committees
- Castle - Konstella allowing transformation of the Road Runner to highlight new aspects of Strandwood
- Moving to Parent Square from School Messenger (Lindsey Dohman)

VP Programs (Schumacher)

- Should programs consider looking at bringing in any afterschool programs if we return this winter/spring? Scriptor advises waiting until spring/we know more about what we will be allowed to do per district guidelines.

VP Ways & Means (Holt)

- Wrapped up the fall fundraiser with product pick up at school. The few items remaining were distributed from the office.
- Book fair is coming up, starting on the 9th. They will check to see if wish lists will be available to set up for teachers as well as books recommended for EDI.
- See's Candy fundraiser will also be starting this month on the 16th.
- Castle also noted that we have a Trivia Night coming up on the 14th. So far we only have three teams registered. Should we delay this until the spring? Maybe this isn't the best time?
 - Likely will postpone based upon feedback from this meeting
 - Will do a smaller Bidding for Good Auction for items that will expire before then; can also post photos of the kids that were taken and not purchased
 - Look for link coming out in the Roadrunner tomorrow, November 6th

VP Hospitality (Taheri)

- Most room parents have sent out their letter and consent form to their classes and are following up with them if questions arise

Historian (Veltri)

- Normally we compile a list of volunteer hours using a log at school, however we have moved online with that process this year. Please fill out your hours for helping with any PTA programs, room parent involvement, assisting teachers in other capacities, etc!

Unfinished Business

- None

New Business/Recommendations of the Executive Board

- Bylaws Update – how the process will work (Schofield)
 - Tabled
- EDI Meeting update (Holt)
 - See Principal's comments for most info
 - Looking also to do cultural assemblies for arts/dance where the PTA could help with the cost
- How to address mental health at Strandwood. What can the PTA do?
 - What can be done both during distance learning and once back in the classroom? Scriptor and Castle have discussed raising funds for a counselor for our site as MDUSD currently is not providing one for us
 - District has reduced hours due to budget cuts at our site for PE, extra teacher, art, counselor due to “need” but not sure who determined that (Dohlman)
 - Social and emotional needs becoming more than academic needs with our current situation (Castle)
 - Parents should let the superintendent/board know that Pleasant Hill schools do need counselors; maybe we'd get them back! If we fund a counselor position, we would also be obligated to pay for their benefits as well if they are over 19 hours per week which could happen with the way employees are placed by the district now. We can also look at contracting someone to avoid the benefits situation. (Scripter/Lawson)
 - Think it would be best to really push the district for answers for now. Strongly encourage parents to email Dr. Clark regarding this! (Castle/Caicedo)
 - Also working on getting student counselors in training from JFK's internship program, though there is a lot of turnover as students move through the program (Dohlman)
- Partner Families Program (Watanabe/Taheri/Markowitz)
 - Trying to partner veteran families with our new families to help connect and answer any questions they may have as they navigate through the year.
 - Will gather info from those interested and create matches. Would be great if we could find families possibly in the same classrooms to help orient those looking for answers and connections!
 - Maybe match 2-4 new families with a veteran family to help try and make smaller cohorts
 - Office is willing to help set up groups if needed
 - Maybe also do a welcome back picnic with families involved
- Motion to approve Events Calendar as presented below by Lawson, seconded by Mallon and approved

Open Discussion

- None

Announcements

- Scholastic Book Fair (Online only) * – Nov. 9-22
- Veteran's Day - Wed., Nov. 11 NO SCHOOL
- DDA Online Trivia Night – Sat., Nov 14 (postponed)
- Mt. Diablo PTA Council Filing Due: Tax filings due: 990, 199, RRF1 (Nov. 15)
- See's Candies Sale (Online Only) * – Nov 16-27
- PTA E-Board Meeting – Nov. 17 @7pm (via Zoom)
- Thanksgiving Recess – Nov. 23-27 NO SCHOOL
- PTA General Assoc. Meeting – Dec. 3 @7pm (via Zoom)
- PTA E-Board Holiday Party– Dec 15
- Winter Recess – Dec 21–Jan 4 NO SCHOOL (Classes resume 1/5/2021)
- Staff Appreciation Week – March 8-12, 2021

*Fundraising events were approved (without specific dates) by the Association at the September 3rd Meeting and the E-Board has now selected these dates.

Meeting adjourned at 8:26 pm