

## Rodgers Forge Elementary School PTA Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, September 14, 2021

6:00pm

Called to order at 6:02pm

1. Welcome
2. Approval of minutes (from last meeting) - Nicole Dobbs, Secretary
3. President's report - Jenni Mumford, President
  - a. Norms/Goals for the meeting were shared/ established. It was discussed that Robert's Rules will be followed.
4. Treasurer's report, Budget presentation, Vote to approve - Huong Hill, Treasurer
  - a. Bank account has decreased from approximately \$25k down to \$11k. This was partially impacted by Covid and the inability to have in person fundraisers
  - b. The Budget for this year was presented with the caveat that it needs to be adjusted. Currently, the budget stands at projecting \$42k for revenue and \$47k in expenses. To start off with an expected deficit has been normal for many years, but given the current state of the bank account, we need to look at it closely to see where we can trim the budget.
  - c. It was proposed to, and agreed upon, to make some adjustments now and revisit the budget in the Nov/Dec/Jan timeframe as we will have a better idea with regards to Direct Donations.
  - d. A pie chart was shared demonstrating the breakdown of where the PTA receives its funds and where those funds are used.
  - e. It was agreed upon to reduce the budget for Generations Day as it will be virtual
  - f. It was agreed upon to reduce the budget for field trips to \$750 per class as there will not be any for the first semester, and there will definitely not be any out of state (ie. 5th grade to Philadelphia).
  - g. It was discussed that the budget for Balt Co Council Dues could be reduced to \$5 for the year.
  - h. It is questionable at this time if the School Store will be allowed to function. Ms. Fanshaw is awaiting guidance from the district. The use of a rolling cart was proposed as an alternative. Some parents expressed concern that this could still create a close contact situation.
  - i. It was discussed that the Chorus Club has targeted to take place for 24 3rd graders.
  - j. Teachers confirm that "Time for Kids" continues to be a valuable instructional resource; however, the budget for it can be reduced by \$300.
  - k. Ms. Fanshaw confirmed that in-person assemblies would likely not be happening. Virtual assemblies/ speakers will still be encouraged. A suggestion was made that Parks and Recs could come to the school for outdoor field trips. Ms. Fanshaw will consider this idea if it is related to curriculum. Additionally the Diversity/Equity/Inclusion (DEI) committee is going to attempt to find virtual speakers that would align to the virtue of the month. This can reduce the budget for DEI. The budget for

Assemblies/Guest Speakers was reduced to \$1000.

- I. Ms. Bylkas asked how the outdoor classroom is being used. Ms. Fanshaw shared that due to vandalism and a number of other factors, the outdoor space has not been greatly used, although ideally it would be used more. It was suggested that it be in a location in closer proximity to the building (for ease of teacher's bringing out materials, student access to bathrooms in the building etc), but Ms. Fanshaw/Rowland explained that the placement was made according to district approval/ regulations. With the current regulations due to Covid, only 1 child would be able to sit at each picnic table, so unfortunately it is not a very usable space at this time.
- m. Ms. Hill moved to approve the budget. It was seconded by Tracey Dieter. The proposed budget was approved 17-2.

#### 5. Principal's report - Missy Fanshaw, Principal

- Thanked teachers for participating tonight (Ms. Osgood, Ms. Siuta, Ms. Lee)
  - Ms. Siuta (Instructional Leadership Committee) shared that the committee meets monthly with administration to discuss curriculum. Parent workshops will be held virtually with 3 rotations on Oct 5th. (Topics- Digital Tools, Math, Character Education, Reading, Organization, Spanish). She thanked the PTA.
  - Ms. Osgood (Climate) shared that her committee oversees the Peacemaker Program. They are in charge of quarterly winners and swag shop. Pinwheels for Peace will be held on Sept 24th, with the ceremony to be held during Special Area classes. The virtue of the month Respect/Responsibility for Peacemaker house parties. She thanked the PTA.
  - Ms. Lee shared that Generations Day will be held virtually on Oct 14th. Teachers will be signing up for session times that hopefully do not overlap. Invitations will go out with their times. Topics are still being discussed. The Spooky Story contest will be launched at the beginning of October, with one winner for every grade level. She thanked the PTA.
- Michelle Rowland- Thanked the PTA for the 5th grade t-shirts, as well as the new laminator and poster maker.
- Ms. Fanshaw-
  - Yearbooks have arrived and look amazing. The 6th grade yearbook signing will be held on September 21st outside in the bus loop/ grassy area.
  - National Education Week will be held virtually.
  - Volunteers - Will be allowed to start coming back in the building. She shared that the Raptor system had been dismantled due to Ransomware and will be available again in the upcoming weeks. All volunteers will need to take a virtual volunteer training and Covid practices training. When in the building, volunteers must be masked and follow mitigation guidelines, including following the vaccination mandates by being either vaccinated or tested weekly.
  - The after school Catch Up Club will occur again this year for students who need extra support in certain areas. Ms. Fanshaw will share this information when it is available.

#### 6. New Business / Submitted Questions

- Use of Outdoor space for best practices instruction/ as a Covid safety measure
  - Ms. Bylkas stressed the importance of outdoor instruction to help mitigate Covid exposure, but also as a Social Emotional Learning benefit. She would be willing to facilitate volunteers to help monitor outside students, support teachers with materials, and help with students going back and forth to the bathroom. Ms. Fanshaw shared that the point is well taken

- and will continue to promote outdoor learning as much as possible.
- It was asked to what degree the PTA could support more outdoor learning. Ms. Mumford shared that the PTA could assist by listening to/ facilitating ideas as well, by facilitating volunteers. However, there is not room in the budget at this time to contribute financially.
  - In the Comments section, recommendations for "Family Night" recommendations were solicited.

7. Announcements (including date and time of the next October 12th 6pm)

Meeting adjourned by Jenni Mumford at 7:10pm

### **Attendance**

**Michele Rowland**

**Missy Fanshaw**

**Tracey Dieter**

**Huong Hill**

**Jenni Mumford**

**Kelly Seidel**

**Nicole Dobbs**

**Sara Lee**

**Beth Siuta**

**Melinda Osgood**

**Kate Goldstein**

**Courtney Cook**

**Erin Reilly (or Erin Goley)**

**Hailey Harvey**

**Laura Burgoyne**

**Rebecca Kysiak**

**Stephanie Bylka-Moore**

**Marie Noual**

**Elizabeth Provoneau**

**Keith Murphy**

**Shannon Robinson**

**Therese Ku**

**Casey Kilpatrick**

**Curtis Thompson**

**Abby (or Brian) Dunnigan**

**Brittany Pedersen**

**Sarah (or Lenn) Roberts**

**Marik and Gregg Wilhelm**