



90 Houston Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15237

www.RossPTO.net

MINUTES

September 5, 2018

General Membership Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 pm.

President Courtney Rohaly introduced herself to the General Membership and then introduced the 2018-2019 PTO Board who were in attendance: Erin Sekerak (President Elect); Catherine Regan (Treasurer); Sabrina Korbel (Secretary); Jocelyn McCarty (Member-at-Large); Rachel Baron-Horn (Member-at-Large); Sue Milligan (Member-at-Large); Jamie Seelman (Member-at-Large).

TREASURER'S REPORT: Catherine Regan reviewed the PTO Budget (a copy of which was provided to those in attendance). She highlighted the following items.

- a. The PTO will be selling Pura Vida bracelets this year instead of smencils. These string bracelets will come in three colors (red, white and black). The bracelets will be sold for \$5.00 each and the proceeds from the sale of these bracelets will support the PTO's fundraising efforts for this year.
- b. The PTO will be expanding the use of the Ross Elementary School Directory and will begin selling North Hills spirit wear via the Directory. Erin Sekerak will work to set up the online system through the Directory and sales should begin sometime in late September or early October.
- c. Authors Day will be held again this year and arrangements have been made through our Ross Elementary Librarian to select an author and book.
- d. The PTO purchased three new carts full of recess equipment that included many playground balls and other items that could be used on the field during recess. Originally the PTO budgeted \$500.00 for this purchase but agreed to increase the budgeted amount to \$1000.00. There has been a lot of great feedback from teachers and students about this equipment.
- e. The PTO hosted a teacher appreciation luncheon on the first day of school and bagel breakfast on the day after Curriculum Night. Also, each teacher received a \$50 gift card from the PTO to begin the year with a bit of help to cover the cost of extra classroom expenses.

Brianne Hunt motioned to approve the budget; Lisa Weaver seconded the motion and all approved.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT: Principal Beall spoke to the Membership. He said the year has gotten off to a great start. He has really enjoyed seeing the children everyday and they seem very positive and excited to be back to school despite the heat. He encouraged

everyone to continue to check the e-link and to reach out to him if there was anything that he could do to better support the students at Ross Elementary.

FUNDRAISING: Courtney Rohaly announced that Brianne Hunt would continue to serve as the Chair of Fundraising. She confirmed that the Fun Run would again be school wide this year (it was previously only limited to the Sixth Grade but this year K-Fifth Grade will be able to participate). The Fun Run has the potential to be the best fundraiser for the PTO and if everyone participates, the PTO could meet its total fundraising goal and no additional fundraisers would be necessary. Folks were reminded that if they were not interested in fundraising, they were welcome and encouraged to send in a check made payable directly to the Ross PTO. The PTO is looking to raise about \$50,000 this year which breaks down to about \$75.00 per student. The PTO will be getting the Fun Run Pledge Sheets out to teachers in their mailboxes soon for distribution to the students. These Pledge Sheets will have the due dates listed.

Brianne announced that there is a restaurant night scheduled for every month in the beginning half of the year and that there would also definitely be Butterbraids and Easter Candy sold again. The scheduled locations are listed below:

1. Jason Deli – September 6, 2018
2. Chipotle - October
3. IHOP in November
4. Five Below in December

Also, Brianne would like to set up something with California Pizza Kitchen, Five Guys Burgers and Sincerely Yogart. Brianne stated that these fundraisers don't bring in a large amount money, but it's easy money to raise and she encouraged everyone to consider spending the night out if they could. Also, Brianne stated that we would continue our relationship with Giant Eagle and Amazon Smiles as the PTO receives small checks from these businesses that helps with fundraising. Per the suggestion of those in attendance, the PTO would also look into the Office Depot for a possible fundraiser. Many asked about how things work at the Giant Eagle, and the group was advised that Giant Eagle Advantage Card members could go to customer service to link their card to the North Hills for fundraising.

DIRECTORY: The cost of the online Directory is an annual fee of \$7.00 per family. The Directory is great for birthday invitations (which you are not permitted to send in to class, play dates, etc). The proceeds from the Directory go to assist the PTO with paying for things like buses for field trips, playground equipment, etc. The Directory is online and every family received paperwork from the School District during the first few weeks of school that offered an opportunity to opt out of being listed in the Directory. Once the School District receives that information back from families, they will provide the PTO only with the names of those families who did not opt out. That information will be uploaded into the Directory and the PTO will send out an e-mail to every family asking them to confirm that the information in the Directory is correct (this link will also be provided on the PTO Facebook page and website as well as in Principal Beall's e-link) The Directory is open for use from September through August 1st each year. As a result of this discussion, a PTO member suggested that everyone who has "liked" the PTO Facebook page go in and adjust their personal settings so that all PTO Facebook announcements show up in their news feed and not just select one.

PTO WEBSITE: The PTO website is down for a few days while updates are being made. The website with the new updates should go live this Friday, September 7, 2018. Both RossPTO.com and RossPTO.net will send everyone to the same website. A huge thank you was extended to Will Rodina who made these changes and updates possible.

SCHOOL PICTURES: Picture day this year will be Friday, October 5, 2018 and the makeup day will be Thursday, October 18, 2018. Pictures are taken by Jim Scott Studios. Flyers will be going home about a week before the scheduled date so they aren't overlooked. Families will not be able to order online; instead they will need to fill out the picture form and send it back in with the student. There is no requirement to order pictures. However, every student will have his or her picture taken so they are included in the yearbook even if pictures are not orders. Pictures will be from the waist up and every effort will be made to make sure pictures are taken before gym class if it is a gym day for your student. If families are not satisfied with the picture from the first date, they can return them for a re-take on the second date. If families do not like either picture, arrangements can be made with the photographer to come to the studio for a third try.

DANCE AND CLUBS: There will be three clubs offered again this year: Lego, Chess and LabRatz. Robyn Boyd Jenkins has been very helpful with setting up Clubs over the last school year and she will begin to set the dates for these Clubs over the next few weeks. Folks will be notified via PeachJar of Club details and registration. Dance registration was conducted online this year. It was very successful. Special thanks to Lynn Suto and Erin Sekerak for setting up the online registration. Invoices for maintenance fees have already been sent out via e-mail for some students. The remainder will be sent out in the next week as classes are finalized. Payments for this fee will be made online through paypal; payments for the cost of each dance class will still be made directly to teachers as has been done in the past. Dance registration is officially closed; classes will begin the week of September 17, 2018.

CLASS PARTIES: There will be three class parties this year: Halloween (October 31, 2018); Winter Holiday (December 21, 2018); and Valentine's Day (TBD). If you are interested in volunteering for a class party, you will need to make sure that your clearances are turned in via the School District procedures by October 1st. All clearances are good for five years from the date you received them. If you previously entered your clearances into the North Hill's online system, they should still be in the system. However, it is encouraged that you contact the office to double check. The PTO has set a goal to have one homeroom parent and three parent volunteers for each class. If you are a kindergarten parent, you will receive paper instructions explaining how to sign up, all other parents will be notified by e-link. The deadline for signing up as a volunteer for class parties will be September 26th. When filling out the volunteer form, the PTO asks that you please make sure to use your legal name that is listed on your driver's license so it corresponds to the tag printed by the school. If there are multiple volunteers for the head homeroom parent, the PTO will pick names out of a hat.

VOLUNTEER SIGNUP: Rachel Baron-Horn oversees PTO volunteers. Moving forward, all volunteer signups will be through PeachJar. Volunteers will need to fill out the Volunteer Form again this year, even if they have done so in the past. Once Rachel receives all of the volunteer forms, they will be uploaded into a master list and given to the chair of each committee. Volunteers will then be contacted directly by that committee chair. Also, from time to time, Rachel will send out a Signup Genius when specific PTO volunteer needs arise. There will be a box in the main office. When volunteers leave the school, they are asked to put their nametag on an index card (located near the box) and insert the card into the box. There will be a monthly drawing for gift cards for all volunteers who have entered his or her name. Additionally, Lisa Weaver reported that she is creating a committee for Scholastic Book Fair and asked that if you are interested in volunteering for the book fair committee, to please contact her directly. Finally, the PTO asked for a volunteer to be in charge of Family Movie Night (this is a free event put on by the PTO each year during the winter months – usually a Friday night in January or February). Chairing the event would include picking up the donated popcorn from the local movie theater, selecting the movie to show that night and organizing a few raffles that take place in the cafeteria that night. If interested, please contact the PTO.

TALENT SHOW: The PTO will be sponsoring a Talent Show at Ross Elementary for the first time this year. Brianne Hunt will be organizing this event. Auditions will be held during the week of December 5th and the Talent Show will be held on a Friday night in January. The PTO will be charging admission to this event with the proceeds to go toward a new playground.

ROSS ELEMENTARY PLAYGROUND: The PTO is still in the early stages of developing the playground idea. The School District does not contribute toward the cost of playgrounds so the PTO would need to raise approximately \$50,000.00 for the playground (which would include the cost of equipment and rubber mulch). The goal is to get the playground in before next school year. This has not been formally announced to the students as things have just started. There will be more detailed information coming out about the playground in the next few weeks.

The meeting adjourned at 7:17 p.m.