

Slavens School PTA Meeting Minutes

August 25, 2020

The PTA meeting was called to order on Tuesday, August 25, 2020, from 5:30 pm to 6:45 pm via Zoom. In attendance were Katie Ozimek, Meghan Brown, James Urbonas, Kurt Siebold, Amanda Fedje, Brita Destefano, Tracy Kozak, Melissa Hatchett, Carolyn Rippey, Annie Burke, Jessie Burch, Liz Kerwin, Alaina Neale, Annie Schildwachter, Diane Young, Erin Martin, Jen Urbonas, Liz Doris, Paul Soucek, Philip Accas, Rachel Brody, Robin Haller, Sarah Godley, Stacey Decker, Timi Biermann, Stephanie Minior, Lauren Weinberger, Mihira Rosazza, Todd Domer, Ben DeWitt, Ellen Boelke, Heather Fortna, Kate Trujillo, Laurel Reist, Tammy

- I. Approval of May Minutes/Notes (Katie Ozimek/Meghan Brown)
 - **Approved**
- II. Principal's Report (Kurt Siebold)
 - The District's expectation for online learning is 3 hours of live teaching for elementary, 3.5 hours for middle, along with asynchronous learning. This should amount to a normal 6.5 hour school day. When we return to in-person learning, the day will be shortened to the hours of 8:15 to 2:45. Also when we return, Slavens will not have bus service through DPS due to COVID.
 - The District is pushing to have ECE classes come back to in-person first and they are planning on September 8 as the first day. Slavens does not have ECE. The District has not indicated when Kindergarten will return to in-person.
 - October 16 is still the goal for in-person for everyone else.
 - We know online learning creates a long day for everyone. We are trying to balance district expectations and learning to make it work as best as possible.
- III. Treasurer's Report/Auction Report (James Urbonas)
 - Budget is as we approved it in May.
 - Diversity, Equity & Inclusivity programs is not a line item in our budget. Instead it is embedded in Staff Development.
 - Our budget is healthy, and we are ready for whatever hits us in September.
- IV. COVID Requests (Melissa Hatchett)
 - When we first started talking about the options for online/hybrid/in-person learning, we came up with a list of items for how to approach this safely. We have learned a lot since then so some of the items are obsolete now. The school has requested some items and PTA found places in the budget to cover some expenses.
 - Amplifiers are an example of something that would be nice to have. PTA provided some amplifiers last year so some teachers already use these. They help with hearing impairment but also benefit all kids because they help kids concentrate. If we go back to in-person, everyone will be wearing masks so these would be very helpful.
 - PTA committed to helping and providing funds for items we need. We will talk in greater detail about needs and bring to whole PTA when we have final numbers.
- V. Diversity, Equity & Inclusivity Committee (Stacy Decker & Liz Doris)

- DEI is the newest committee at Slavens. DEI will have its own organization because some topics are PTA-related, others are more related to the broader parent community and some are more CSC-oriented. PTA will help with some DEI items.
 - Liz and Stacy will be the communicators from DEI with PTA.
 - Over the summer, about 60 parents came together over Zoom to discuss how to make Slavens more inclusive. We used the comments from the meeting to form an agenda.
 - First item is implicit bias training with staff and the Building Bridges program. DEI also wants to form parent groups to go through the trainings as well.
 - Kurt: The District has emphasized CRE (culturally responsive education) over the past few years to address diversity. PTA is funding IDI, which is an assessment type tool that helps examine our cultural perspectives along a continuum. Some of Slavens staff has already taken IDI and the rest will soon. Every DPS school is developing a Black excellence plan to support students of color. DEI includes race but also covers more topics such as gender, religion, etc.
 - Building Bridges: Some teachers were slated to go to training in March but did not due to COVID. If we can get a group of 25-30 people, Building Bridges will do an online program.
- VI. Fun Run Update (Meghan Brown)
- Mychael Jones and Fun Run team have decided to do the run this year but it will look a little different. It will be on Sept. 20th from 9:00 am -11:00 am. Registration is \$20 and this includes a t-shirt. Registrants can run 1 mile, 5k, 10k or whatever they choose between those hours. We encourage people to wear Slavens gear and cheer people on even if you do not run.
 - Registration is currently live through Slavens website or the Flyer app
- VII. Carnival / Continuation (Anne Schildwachter & Carolyn Rippey: Co-chairs of Middle School Parents Assc.)
- The big MS fall event is the carnival which is not going to happen this fall due to COVID. We are still hopeful will be able to have it in the spring.
 - A committee is coming up with other fundraising projects that are online so the kids can raise money for continuation.
 - We are hopeful we can have the carnival in spring but are not relying on it. We have some money from last year left over but are still trying to raise as much as we can.
 - Leaving ticker on flyer app to collect MS funds so can contribute
 - If anyone is interested in helping with MS fundraising, we would love to have you!
- VIII. 8th Grade Trip
- We are working on the 8th grade trip but we are not sure what it will be yet. The 8th grade trip to Catalina Island has been officially cancelled.
 - Melissa has been looking for other options and found a place in Maine called Acadia Inst. of Oceanography (AIO). We would go in mid-May (likely May 9th and 16th) in two separate groups (because of housing limitations), one week per group. The price is comparable to the CA trip and flights are reasonable right now.
- IX. Golf Tournament Update (Mihira Rosazza)

- The Golf Tournament is happening on September 11.
- We have 86 people signed up so far, which will gross about \$11,000. We have asked Wellshire to reduce the per person cost. Some money is needed to cover food and drinks. We are hoping to net around \$5,000.
- The event will be a little different this year. We are not allowed to do a shotgun start and instead everyone will have a tee time. There is no after party.
- Mihira will check to see if we need to sign an indemnity waiver due to COVID.
- There are still available spots, so please sign up!

X. Welcome committee (Meghan Brown)

- We have been working on a welcome committee since last year to make families feel more welcome when starting at Slavens.
- We could not do a coffee cart welcome on the first day of school like we had planned, but we will be doing a Zoom welcome call to answer questions about Slavens. We will send an invite to all new families at Slavens once we have the list.
- If you are new or relatively new to Slavens, please attend the meeting.
- If you want to help with the committee or be a Slavens ambassador, please email SlavensPTA@gmail.com

XI. PTA Funds

- PTA dollars help in many areas:
 - Paraprofessionals and Spanish teacher
 - Staff Development, Classroom/Teacher Supplies, Teacher/Staff Appreciation, Technology, Teacher Support
 - Leader in Me, DEI, Enrichment, Community Action Team, Continuation/Dances
 - AC Units, Security, Greening, Furniture
- Some parents feel we should make it easier for families who want to contribute to PTA, especially during COVID. When families buy a PTA membership, they could have the option to make an additional donation. We could also send out links to donate for people who cannot attend our fundraisers. We could have an option for a recurring donation to contribute throughout the year.
- PTA is more than a fundraising entity. PTA's main goal is to build community, which is why we put on events to get people together. We want everyone to get involved and to meet people.
- We will table this idea for now but will continue offline conversation and figure out streamlined method that is financially responsible and equitable.

*Notes taken by Tracy Kozak