

Slavens School PTA Meeting Minutes

February 23, 2021

The PTA meeting was called to order on Tuesday, February 23, 2021, from 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm via Zoom. In attendance were Katie Ozimek, Meghan Brown, James Urbonas, Tracy Kozak, Kurt Siebold, Amanda Fedje, Brita Destefano, Darcie Forde, Jesse Feldman, Liz Doris, Maria Sadkhi, Melissa Hatchett, Todd Domer, Angie Hendricks, Kathleen Steinmetz, Molly Berger, Heather Fortna, Robin Haller, Diane Young, Mychael Jones, Tammy Alvarado, Jessica Richendifer, Annie Burke

- I. Approval of January Minutes/Notes (Katie Ozimek/Meghan Brown)
 - **Approved**
- II. Slavens Community Week Discussion (Katie)
 - Instead of the auction this year, we will have a week-long “We Are Slavens” Celebration to take place April 19-23. There will be an online marketplace but no live auction. Each day will have a theme such as “We Learn” day, “We Persevere” day and “We Celebrate” day. Everything will be online.
 - This will be a chance for families to support Slavens financially but on their own terms. The marketplace will have gift cards to local businesses and other ways for people to donate.
- III. Eighth Grade Continuation
 - Eighth grade Continuation will be Wednesday, May 26. We will have a community parade on May 23 (with rain date of May 27).
 - We are still not sure where the event will be held, but there is a strong potential it will be outside at Slavens. We are hoping for good weather, but we are also looking for anyone with connections for tents. We have a limited budget and so are putting this out to the community for help. Also, if anyone has food truck connections or food trucks they like, please let us know.
- IV. Treasurer’s Report (James Urbonas)
 - Budget is static
 - Kudos to Caroline Rippey who headed up the t-shirt sale, which did very well.
 - Handling teacher support requests for money to augment school materials for kids. Last month the teachers spent \$600. It is great to have money there for the teachers if they need it.
- V. Principal’s Report (Kurt Siebold)
 - We are working on having more in-person days for 8th graders by having the A and B groups alternate in-person every other Friday instead of all students being online on Fridays. If this works for 8th grade, we will try to do the same for 7th grade. We are making efforts where we can to get more kids in-person, but it is more complicated to do this with 7th (because of half-time teachers) and 6th grades (because of Spanish). There is also a benefit for teachers to have all students online on Fridays because it is the only time teachers are not having to teach both online and in-person kids at the

same time. We have not heard anything from the District about changing policies based on COVID numbers going down.

- As of now, the District is planning on moving forward with in-person school for the Fall, but we will need to wait and see what happens.
- Something to keep in mind going forward is that the average cost for faculty has gone up and funding from PTA and FOSS will likely need to go up if we want to keep the same staff numbers. We have a budget for next year based on numbers from this year. If we want to provide same opportunities, will need to revisit funding at some point.
- CMAS testing:
 - Letter went out from CSC about CMAS testing, but this should have only come from CSC parents because the staff cannot promote families opting out.
 - Around 70% of Slavens families have opted out so far and the deadline to opt out has been extended by one week;
 - 3-8 grades traditionally take CMAS tests
 - Students that have opted out will continue with regular instruction. Students that have not opted out will be pulled out for testing;
 - This situation is only for this year and we will return to normal testing next year.
- Teachers are getting vaccines now
- Melissa sent out request for comments on 8th grade going to Camp Cheley, but this is still tentative.

VI. PTA Needs/Updates

- Still looking for a VP for next year
- Fun Run: After 5 years Mychael Jones will be passing the Fun Run on to Megan Wilson and Emmie Langley
- Auction Chair(s) for next year
- Fundraising chair: this position is not a lot of work and we're just looking for someone to be the point person

*Notes taken by Tracy Kozak