

Slavens School PTA Meeting Minutes

Tuesday February 19, 2019

The monthly PTA meeting was called to order on Tuesday, February 19, 2019 from 5:35 pm-6:30 pm in Room 116 at Slavens School. In attendance were: Laura Edwards, Kurt Siebold, Timothea Biermann, Cheryl Badger, Robin Berg, Katie Ozimek, Stephanie Slaybaugh, Colleen Domer, Marko Wilson, Angie Hendricks, Melissa Hatchett, Judy Leuteneker, Randy Moyer, John Ordelheide, Philip Accas and Alaina Neale.

Principal's Report

Kurt Siebold

Kurt reported that Slavens remained open and safe during the DCTA teacher strike which occurred last week for three days. Kurt acknowledged the support from paras and district staff to supervise students. Gratitude was also expressed to the many parents who were supportive in the school as well as supportive of the teachers during the strike. A tentative agreement was met by DPS and DCTA.

Melissa Hatchett is currently drafting a schedule for CMAS and PARCC testing for 3rd-8th grade students. Testing will occur during the last week in March and in April.

Kurt shared with the PTA feedback that the CSC has solicited from neighbors surrounding Slavens regarding their concerns. A primary concern is that driveways are being blocked when parents drop off/pick up students and/or attend events at the school. Information regarding this concern will be sent to the school wide community. The PTA discussed suggestions for how to inform parents of this issue including signage posted at driveways and a note that can be put on cars that are parked in driveways. Other concerns are trash created by students, skateboarders after school hours, and cars making u-turns on Clayton during drop off/pick up.

The completion of the playground has been delayed due to weather. Weather permitting, the installation should resume this Thursday 02/21 when the dirt will be leveled, and woodchips will be blown in. Parents expressed a concern about how high the play equipment appears to be from the ground. The installation is following specifications for playground clearance for 5-12 year olds. Kurt mentioned that the PTA may consider adding another play structure to the playground as there will be space.

Last week, there was some vandalism on school property including a tree being uprooted and a sign being stolen. There is no information on who caused the damage.

Treasurer's Report

Colleen Domer

Current Balances: **Savings:** \$192,537.36 **Checking/Operating:** \$266,996.11 **8th grade/CIMI:** \$67,843.73

Colleen summarized the income and expenses for the month of January as reflected on the budget.

Auction Update

Judy Leuteneker/Randy Moyer

An informational flyer was handed out to the PTA regarding tickets, dates and information about the auction. This flyer will go home this week in green folders. Planning is going well. There are currently at

least 68 parents volunteering on various auction committees. Spread the word to buy your tickets early and attend the auction. The auction is the PTA's largest fundraiser for the school but also the largest community event for parents. Rudy and Judy have a goal to increase attendance at this year's auction. Attendance has hovered around 400 in recent years. Suggestions to increase attendance were to inform/recruit parents in younger grades and make personal connections with other parents. The Slavens auction will again be at Infinity Park this year and at least through 2020 due to signing a multiyear contract.

PTA Mission Statement

Angie Hendricks

Angie shared a first draft of a mission statement for the Slavens PTA. The mission statement should provide a focus for all PTA decision making. Please submit any feedback to Angie Hendricks.

Mission Statement:

The Slavens PTA exists as a liaison between Slavens School and the parent-student community.

Vision:

It is our aim to facilitate parental involvement in student education while supporting the vision of Slavens teachers and administrators to provide a rich academic experience while nurturing students to become compassionate, ethical and productive global citizens.

Enrichment

Stephanie Slaybaugh

Stephanie currently organizes all the enrichment programs which involves gathering information from enrichment teachers, maintaining rosters and collecting needed information. This process can be time consuming. Stephanie recently was approached by a software company called joinhomeroom.com designed to streamline registration and payment for afterschool enrichment programs. It is a free service and would allow parents to pay online via Stripe/credit card. Stephanie and her future replacement would act as a liaison between enrichment teachers and the program. Stephanie and the teachers would be able to access student information easily and send communication to parents in a more streamlined manner. Slavens would still be able to add a fee per student to bring in funds for the PTA. Some questions raised were: will the site monetize parent information and will the site restrict parents from accidentally signing up for classes when their child does not meet the class criteria. Stephanie will look into these concerns further. Otherwise, there was general approval for the use of joinhomeroom.com.

EduKit

Katie Ozimek

Katie researched alternative school supply companies other than Edukit and found EPI as a better option. EPI is a long standing and large company who can provide quality supplies at a lower cost than Edukit. She did a price comparison with Slavens supply lists between Edukit and EPI and found significant savings. They also replace any faulty items that might be received. EPI will provide a company representative who would communicate with the school, parents and teachers. The PTA liaison would continue to coordinate with the EPI representative. Slavens can continue to add any amount per kit to maintain it as a fundraiser for the school. Laura Edwards and Meredith Jones have volunteered to take over the Edukit/EPI liaison role moving forward. Katie will assist with this transition.

Green Team/Recycling/Composting

Robin Berg

Robin provided the following update on the Green Team happenings:

- Logo stickers are printed and starting to be distributed
- Classroom lists are prepped to track participation in Green Team/5 minute hero acts and all participants will receive a sticker and get their name added to the Wall of Fame
- Thanks to John for cement blocks for bottom of bins which are finally out
- Had to reschedule cafeteria/kitchen trash audit due to strike. It will give us more info if we participate in the We Don't Waste pilot program (to gather unused but safe/edible food to repurpose/redistribute to local food banks). Waiting on go ahead from Eric P via Enterprise Management re: food re-entering the kitchen/fridge.
- Still will do educational trash audit demo 3/1 outside of cafeteria in courtyard
- Del Bolinske, an Eagle scout, wants to earn his Eagle badge but helping with some green projects (thanks Megan Brown!). Hoping to mulch new flower beds next to middle playground, replant new tree that was uprooted, weeding and rebuilding the 1st grade "group circle"
- Reviewing books to purchase and add to Green Team Activity Bin for kids to use to read to younger grades

Letter from Mrs. Lucera/Current Needs

John Ordelleide/Marko Wilson

The PTA Secretary position currently held by Alaina Neale will be vacated at the end of this school year. The position needs to be filled for the 2019-2020 school year.

John shared a thank you letter to the PTA from Mrs. Lucera for the PTA's support and funding registration for the CCIRA conference.

Notes taken by Alaina Neale