

Slavens School PTA Meeting Minutes

March 17, 2020

The PTA meeting was called to order on Tuesday, March 17, 2020, from 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm via Zoom. In attendance were Katie Ozimek, Meghan Brown, James Urbonas, Brita DeStefano, Amanda Fedje, Phillip Accas, Corey Wagner, Stephanie Minior, Laura Edwards, Alaina Neale, Kurt Siebold, Judy Leuteneker, Colleen Domer, Kathy Nemmers, Megan Perkins, Diane Young, Meredith Jones, Mindy Lucera, Maria Sadkhi, John Ordelheide, Jen Urbonas, Robin Berg, Melissa Hatchett, Molly Navetta, Traci Williams, Liz Kerwin, Annie Burke, Julien Chaillet, Todd Domer, Stevie B., Lizzo, May, Laurel, Megan Davenport (from Building Bridges)

I. Approval of February Minutes

- **Approved**

II. Auction Update

- The auction will be online this year and we will make the best of it!
- Tom Moore will be coming back with a proposal to move everything online. He recently did another online auction that was very successful.
- The vendors have been great overall in dealing with the situation: Bennett's will return money; Infinity Park is putting our money for this year toward 2021; all the other vendors have returned our money or will do so soon.
- John Ordelheide's committee is working on brainstorming ideas about what to do for the auction video. Typically, this week and next week are filming dates for the video.
- Katie Ozimek wants to remind the Slavens community that it is important to still donate items for the auction and wants to encourage paddle raising from home.

III. Principal's Report (Kurt Siebold)

- The Administrators are on call about what will happen if school cancellation continues beyond spring break.
- CMAS testing has been cancelled
- E-Learning
 - The teachers very much want to continue teaching, whether in classrooms or online but have been instructed not to. They can send supplemental exercises if they want but they are not required to do so.
 - People have asked why we are not doing e-learning, especially since other districts like Jeffco are. Jeffco is only doing e-learning for this week than have a two-week extended spring break. DPS district decided they did not want to rush and do something halfway throughout DPS so have chosen not to do e-learning at this point. This may change if the school cancellation is extended.
 - Denver schools will not have accrued the state required hours of instruction after this situation, but maybe the state will make an exception.
 - There are equity issues at play with this decision. Students with special needs have federal guidelines that must be met to get funding and schools do not want to jeopardize this funding. Another issue is some students do not have access to technology for e-learning.
 - Meghan Brown sent an email to the DPS board asking about getting e-learning in place. The Board responded saying it is a possibility if the situation persists and they are looking into how to accomplish this.

- DPS Board of Education and Superintendent are hosting a Facebook Live update every day at 10 am on the DPS Facebook page for anyone interested.
- IV. Treasurer’s Report (James Urbonas)
- We believe that we can still make money from the online auction, but the profits will likely be less than usual. This situation has highlighted the importance of the surplus we have in the PTA accounts to keep everything rolling. Even if the auction raises no money, we will be fine.
- V. Co-Vice President vote
- Brita DeStefano, Amanda Fedje have volunteered to be co-Vice Presidents for the rest of this year and next year. They will become co-Presidents for the 2021-2022 school year.
 - Formal vote nominating Brita DeStefano and Amanda Fedje to be co-Vice Presidents: **Approved**
- VI. Diversity Initiative
- Corey Wagner is seeking funding for diversity training for Slavens for next school year. Inequities exist at Slavens in terms of students of color and marginalized students. This current year, some Slavens teachers participated in equity training. Corey has done research around measuring critical awareness, which is the ability to see inequities. His work shows training can move ideologies and mindsets.
 - Megan Davenport (from Building Bridges: megan@buildingbridgeshift.org; 303-691-2393). Building Bridges (<https://buildingbridgeshift.org/>) is an organization with a goal of establishing “A more just and inclusive world, where engaged global citizens are fueled by the desire and the skills to come to deeply understand different perspectives, rather than to simply perpetuate their own.” Building Bridges has different packages they offer with varying levels of work. They strive to ensure everyone in the community is receiving the support they need to succeed. Training would consist of different ways of engaging with staff, students and parent/family community. Building Bridges uses an intersectional approach – that includes all aspect of identity. As an organization, Building Bridges centers race and racism as key factors to focus on. Megan will be keeping tabs on grant opportunities and Building Bridges is interested in co-applying for grants with Slavens. Proposed packages are 3-9 month cycles.
 - PTA will continue to discuss this topic since allocating funds would be hard at this time, but we feel strongly about creating equity in our community. We will need to make a decision by summer about whether to go forward with this.
- VII. Green Team update (Robin Berg)
- DU was planning to do an Earth Day event at Slavens but this has been cancelled.
 - Green Team is still planning to team up with CAT to do Locker clean out at the end of the year. We repurpose things from the locker clean out to donate to other schools (last year was Ellis Elementary). Middle school students who need community service hours can volunteer and carry the hours over to the following year.
 - Robin will be pulling back from Green Team a fair amount next year and is looking for people who want to jump in and help.
- VIII. Phillip Accas: Bike lane on Dartmouth is scheduled to move ahead but current situation with Covid-19 will probably delay work. The bike lane will impact parking

on Dartmouth. Kurt is asking Kendra Black's office to advocate on behalf of Slavens to ask for some parking on Dartmouth during school pickup/dropoff.

- IX. We had a great turnout at the PTA meeting tonight via Zoom. Going forward we will still hold PTA meetings in the Slavens library (situation permitting), but we will also have the Zoom option available so that more people can attend.