

Slavens School PTA Meeting Minutes

Tuesday March 19, 2019

The monthly PTA meeting was called to order on Tuesday, March 19, 2019 from 5:30 pm-6:30 pm in the library at Slavens School. In attendance were: Colleen Domer, Angie Hendricks, Laura Edwards, Kurt Siebold, Zuben Bastani, Stephanie Minior, Timi Biermann, Cheryl Badger, Heather Witsoe, Marko Wilson, Meghan Brown, Philip Accas, Katie Ozimek, John Ordelheide and Alaina Neale.

Approval of January and February Minutes

John Ordelheide/Marko Wilson

January and February minutes were approved.

Principal's Report

Kurt Siebold

Kurt reviewed many exciting student activities that are going on at Slavens. The DI regional tournament was held this past Saturday. 14 teams involving 84 students from Slavens participated with 8 first place finishes! The 2nd grade show-off night is going on tonight. 1st grade coffee house poetry will be this week. Pi day events in middle school are happening this week. 8th grade will be participating in a hate crime mock trial this week. 3rd grade and some middle school students will participate in the Shakespeare festival at the end of April. Kurt expressed appreciation for all the teacher and parent support required for these activities to take place and be successful for our students.

Kurt has addressed some hate speech related incidents with middle school boys via awareness conversations.

Kurt shared that a former Slavens student, who is graduating from South HS, has received a Boettcher Scholarship which is a merit-based scholarship for Colorado High School seniors that will pay for a full-ride to any four-year institution in Colorado.

The playground construction has been delayed by weather issues but the work is anticipated to be completed the week after Spring break if the weather is cooperative. An Eagle Scout has volunteered to rebuild the BBQ pit used by 1st grade for Thanksgiving celebrations.

Treasurer's Report

Colleen Domer

Current Balances: **Savings:** \$192,596.30 **Checking/Operating:** \$266,838.81 **8th grade/CIMI:** \$67,848.75

Colleen summarized the income and expenses for the year to date as reflected on the budget.

Heather Witsoe discussed the potential need for Slavens DI teams to raise money to attend Globals, which will be held in Kansas City in May. Heather volunteered to help coordinate fundraising efforts as a group for all Slavens DI teams that qualify.

A motion was made to approve additional funds of \$1100 to cover the cost of the Leader In Me yearly registration fee. Kurt reported that the budget for this was reduced to \$4000 from \$6000 this year. The yearly registration fee is \$5100. The PTA will address increasing this budget to cover the Leader In Me registration for the future. All voted and approved this motion.

A motion was made to approve a request to pay for the deposit for next year's golf tournament fundraiser. All voted and approved this motion.

A PTA member expressed a concern regarding the budget for the 8th grade continuation party, which is currently set at \$16K. This budget primarily covers the party following continuation which traditionally is held at the Wellshire Event Center and includes a dinner and dance for students and families. The concern was that this budget felt excessive. Carnival sales and continuation ticket prices help offset the cost of the continuation celebration but the PTA continues to contribute several thousand toward the event. No changes will be made to the continuation budget for this year. The PTA will continue to discuss this issue with more MSPA representation for future continuation budgets.

Budgeting

John Ordelheide

John and Colleen shared that frequent requests for money or checks are being made to the treasurer for expenses for committee activities that exceed their budgets. The treasurer does not have the ability to approve any expenses that exceed the approved budget but rather the expense needs to be put forth to the PTA for a vote. Expenses for the following school year are not supposed to be paid from this school year's budget. John will encourage all committee heads to attend the PTA meetings to keep everyone apprised of their budget needs. It was suggested that the April meeting would be a mandatory meeting for all committee heads to present their budget and planning needs for the following school year as some Fall events require significant advanced planning. The committee also discussed that Colorado PTA bylaws require PTA presidents or executive members to sign any contract that the PTA enters into which would include contracts securing police for the fun run, djs for events, etc. Committee heads that are not executive PTA members are not supposed to sign these contracts.

Slavens PTA By-Laws

Meghan Brown

Meghan presented the updated Slavens PTA by-laws. The PTA voted in October to approve an amendment that would discount the amount teachers/staff pay to be PTA members. Meghan also reported that the by-laws were amended to include MSPA as a PTA committee. A motion was made to approve the amended by-laws. All present voted and unanimously approved the motion.

DPS Pre-Strike Professional Development/Conferences Decision for Teachers

Lauren Dunn

Lauren Dunn is the Chief of Staff at DPS and works closely with the superintendent and board of education. She discussed the district's decision to prohibit teachers from attending any off-campus activities, including professional development conferences/workshops, in the days leading up to the teacher strike. Slavens PTA paid for teachers to attend a two-day CCIRA conference and they were only able to attend one day due to school being cancelled for a snow day. Lauren acknowledged the numerous complaints DPS received from Slavens parents/teachers as well as from other schools in the district regarding their decision. She stated the district's decision was an effort to maximize instructional time for students in light of the imminent strike. She reported that DPS collaborated with other districts around the country who had experience with strikes in making their decision. Lauren reported that DPS will reimburse Slavens PTA for the conference fees that were paid but unattended. John is currently compiling receipts to submit to the district for reimbursement. Lauren also reported that the district is working to provide workshops and/or training equivalent to the professional development that teachers had planned to attend but were unable to do so for schools that have requested it.

Mission Statement

Angie Hendricks

Angie shared the edited and final version of the Slavens PTA Mission Statement.

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 mission of Slavens teachers and administrators:

to provide a rich academic experience while nurturing students to become compassionate, ethical and productive global citizens.

A motion was made to approve the mission statement. All present voted and the motion was approved. The mission statement should be updated on the Slavens PTA website and may be included on PTA literature.

Google Internet Safety Workshop

Meghan Brown

Slavens was selected as a school to receive an internet safety workshop hosted by Google. The workshop will be held on 04/10 at 6:00pm in the library for approximately 90 minutes. Meghan is working to get someone from DPD to present at the beginning of the workshop on issues related to cybercrime. The workshop is recommended for students ages 8+ and parents. Volunteers are needed to assist with the workshop (nametags, break out into small groups, etc). Volunteers as well as attendees will be eligible to win door prizes. Dinner will be provided. Meghan will get the word out about the workshop to the Slavens community ASAP.

Current Needs/Updates

John Ordelheide/Marko Wilson

The auction chairs are working hard to organize a successful auction. Please buy your auction tickets!

Thank you to Laura Edwards in working hard to get DPS to reimburse the PTA for CCIRA conference fees!

Alaina Neale nominated Tracy Kozak to fill the position of PTA secretary starting the 2019-2020 school year. Tracy plans to attend the May PTA meeting to accept this nomination. Alaina Neale will provide guidance in this transition.

The position of PTA Vice-President(s) needs to be filled for the 2019-2020 school year.

Notes taken by Alaina Neale