

Slavens School PTA Meeting Minutes
September 17, 2019

The PTA meeting was called to order on Tuesday, September 17, 2019, from 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm in the library at Slavens School. In attendance were: Meghan Brown, Katie Ozimek, James Urbonas, Tracy Kozak, Colleen Domer, Breanna DiGiorgio, Niki Grahame, Liz Kerwin, Robin Berg, Megan Perkins, Bo Sager, Darcie Forde, Kurt Siebold, Erin Martin, Stephanie Slaybaugh, Rebecca Tsvetkov, Alaina Neale, Philip Accas, Emily Menkis, Cheryl Badger, Laura Edwards and Timi Biermann.

I. Approval of May Minutes/Notes: **Approved**

II. Principal's Report

- School choice:
 - Last year we met student attendance projections but this year we didn't; this year we had fewer students than the school could handle so we had to give some money back;
 - took some choice students so the budget shortfall would be less than otherwise
 - Kindergarten class has lower numbers; 4th grade has higher numbers
 - This is a balancing act: what support to we need and how to balance numbers; we don't want huge classes, but we also can't have very small classes
 - PTA helps offset paras but need to figure out what the right amount of support is for the classes; same discussion with GT teacher, school psychologist, ESL teacher, etc.
 - Take a few choice kids but want to do in way that is fair
 - Neighborhood is priority for enrollment;
 - Kids keep spot if move out of neighborhood;
 - 5th graders enrolled in school get priority for 6th grade, regardless of where you live
- Leader In Me:
 - Thinking about becoming "Lighthouse Status"
 - All staff is trained in 7 habits; if any parents want to go, we can send to training Sept. 25-26; if interested or know someone – let Kurt know

III. Treasurer's Report/Annual Budget Review and Approval

- Budget was **Approved**
- Moving forward, we want to finalize budget at May meeting in order to hit the ground running for next school year: **Approved**
- Specific points:
 - Middle School Parents Association:
 - Birthday club: Jeffra Frank brought up idea to decorate kids lockers so every kid has that happen; about 240 kids in middle; asked for \$400
 - School security: new budget item

- Money would go to adding card access to some doors (playground door, door near cafeteria, front door)
- \$7500 on budget but Kurt said realistic estimate is \$9k
- District changed security last year – single point of entry for parents; when school in session want school inaccessible to outsiders, but we want teachers to be able to access doors more easily
- If we want more swipe access doors than what district says is necessary, we need to fund ourselves
- Teacher support: suggesting extra \$100 per teacher for middle and elementary
 - Prefer teachers don't ask parents for extra money at beginning of year;
 - Want teachers to know PTA can cover costs if they have them
- Green team
 - Robin brought up idea of bolting bins to ground; will readdress this at later meeting if issues with bins arise
- Tech increase:
 - 6 new chrome book carts
 - Red Cat Amplification Systems: even if student doesn't have hearing impairment improves learning, helps with student engagement

IV. Welcome Committee

- Tours of school and handful of other things; easy way to get involved
- Katie and Meghan encourage people to reach out if want to join or help

V. Google Workshop on Internet Safety (Google grant)

- Thursday 9/26 from 6:00-7:30 pm in cafeteria;
- suggesting 8 years old and up; includes presentation and breakout discussions

VI. Green Team

- Focus on getting people involved; collaborative approach
- want to do some projects with kids from TJ and DU
- put together resource guide with info on with green team, contacts, etc.
- Thursday is first green team ambassador meeting; encourage kids to sign up

VII. Middle School Update

- Historically middle and elementary have felt very split; PTA has always provided funding for both; want middle and elementary to feel more cohesive
- Carnival: completely run by 8th grade; great event we should all support

VIII. Auction Chair: Rebecca Tsvetkov volunteered to be co-chair; Jen Urbonas possible co-chair

IX. Restaurant night: first one is Tuesday at Chipotle; must mention Slavens for dinner; give 33% of profits to Slavens so big opportunity to raise money