

Horseman PTA meeting
February 15, 2019
8:30 AM

Membership updates – discounts update

National PTA has more discounts available with membership - includes Hertz, tea, Lenovo, MetLife, etc. In addition, Apple will give 10% off to board members if you bring the district calendar with your name on it.

Septa

Has fallen off the radar as the parents in charge have moved on. Andrea Harrison is now the President and would like to open up the group again. Do we fold them under our PTA? 90% of the PTAs in the US are set up in this fashion. This way we can support each other and unite efforts.

Foundation collaboration

Angel met with the Foundation board and was able to learn what they do, their mission and how we can work together. The Foundation was created at the time when funding for the arts was cut about 20 years ago. With a full-time grant writer, they pull in about \$150K a year, and about \$70K at the dinner. <https://www.tarrytownschoolsfoundation.org/>

The five pillars are: STEM, art, wellness, early childhood literacy and career and college readiness. They work with the district at a high level to fill in the gaps in these areas that are not supported by the district.

Starting next year, they would like to have a PTA rep in each of those pillars. Meetings are 2-3 times a year. When they are going for grants in these areas, the PTA reps can then communicate this to the schools and parents. The PTA collaboration will help them be more effective in their work.

June 15 is Foundation Day at Kingsland Point Park. They want to make it a Foundation/PTA day. This is in place of the color run.

Fundraising

School Supplies

The Middle School wants to do the school supply fundraiser but have it delivered to the school so the kids don't have to lug it in, or they can deliver it to the home. The school wants to send the list to the supply company, have families order, and then it can be divvied up among the students. The PTA supports sending it to the school.

Angel will reach out to the other schools to see if they are interested in the same program.

Summer book reading fundraiser

A community book fair with Scholastic will be a buy-one-get-one-free. We won't make money on it but it gives Scholastic books to the schools if the "get one free" goes to the schools. We would need to do it in May and find a location (school) that could fit this for two days. Karen Kuhn will ask Christ Church if we could use the parish hall in exchange, make it a day where families can bring food for the food pantry.

The other is Barnes and Noble - they do cap what they give to you. There is a new owner at Pleasantville Books so we could approach her. Or, April could order books and do it.

Events to promote membership in the PTA - need volunteers

2/28 Math night at Morse

3/14 WI Musical

4/10 WI band concert

Family Fun Day at Patriot's Park

5/6 YMCA play

5/10 MS play

5/15 MS spring concert

5/16 JP parent meeting

Earth Day: There is a Disney Point of Light program where if teachers and parents are cleaning up together on Earth Day, you can qualify to win tickets. We could raffle them off, etc. We are approved for the program, but now need to write up the event and set it up. We will do a bake sale and membership sign up as well. We also need to figure out 1-2 locations to get people to sign up.

Angel will email people to sign up for the different events.

In the future, doing the parent-teacher conferences might be a great opportunity to talk to parents as well.

Next Year positions

Nominate people by May, vote in June

Andrea Williamson has volunteered for Secretary

Maribel Correa for Treasurer

Positions open are:

President

Volunteer Coordinator

Website

Membership

Rivertown Parents representatives

VP for each grade pre-K to 8th grade

Mini-grants

Angel will send out an email with what was approved.

There were some requests for flexible fun seating that Angel declined but wrapped into a district-wide initiative to bring to Chris Borsari/Board of Education. This needs to go into the school budget. If not, it's a good project for the Foundation.

Budget

Angel will send out an updated budget.

The only thing to note - if you don't sell over \$2,500 in books, they don't give you cash. We got \$366 scholastic dollars from the middle school sale. Angel will let Joshua Whitham know and he can coordinate their own order.

WI book fair kickoff supplies receipt were not submitted - check in with the chairs to see if they want to be reimbursed, Must be done by June 1.

Ice skating and photo day are missing from the budget.

Ice Skating

This was a massive success with other 200 people participating. In the future, it would be great to also invite teachers and their families. We could also look at some pre-sales options that include concessions, etc.

We need to get it on the district calendar for next year (1-2 sessions) and be careful not to overdo it.

Board of Education Report (Mimi Godwin)

Rotary Club of the Tarrytowns is celebrating their 100th anniversary and is looking to do a long-lasting gift to the communities. They are giving a significant contribution to pay for the press box at the high school field. Payments will be made over three years. The District will pick up the cost for the ADA steps and will have funding for that.

The main initiative right now is the budget. The budget preparation started in September and will not go to the board until the end of February. There are two meetings with the Board of Education - one is March 9 and then on March 16, every principal will come and explain how they are spending their funds. The meeting usually runs from 8:30-11:00 AM. This is a great opportunity to learn about what is going on in the schools and to give input into what is needed for our children.

The role of the Board is to ensure that the children are getting the right programs and the right staff. There are a number of retirements of long-standing teachers retiring from one school this

year (approximately 30 years of service for them). The district will start doing the hiring immediately as the end of February/beginning of March is the best time to recruit new talent.

She will check in on the process for parents who took the hiring committee training to be called up for participation on hiring committees. There are more trainings being scheduled as well.

She is available if anyone has concerns/thoughts and wants to email her.

Calendar Committee

Meeting on 2019-20 calendar now.

School Reports

WI

Had to reschedule meeting due to inclement weather.

Angel is going to meet with a representative from a climbing wall company to look at the wall in the playground to see if it needs to be fixed or needs to be completely replaced.

Rivertowns Parents

Introverts/Ambverts is happening. Jen Povman is taking the lead on the presentation. Working with a local expert/presenter on the program to tailor it for the needs of Rivertown Parents. Also looking to work with Ms. Hickey as a part of the panel of educators as well. Program will take place in April around the spring breaks.

Mercy College is doing a presentation for high school kids and parents of younger kids on sexual consent. The idea is to work on training/support in earlier years to model appropriate behaviors so that kids are better informed and prepared in college.

Discussed the issues of kids sharing nude photos on social media and it getting disseminated and how this should be addressed. The cybersecurity presentation a couple years ago helped, but this is still a concern. We would like to see this modernized in school curriculum as it is a concern that kids are being pressured.