

MINUTES

Horsemen PTA Minutes

April 2, 2020 | 7:30pm | Meeting called to order by Christina Grillo

In Attendance

Christina Grillo (President); Andrea Williamson (Secretary); Brianna Staudt (VP K & 1st Grade); Christina Papadopolous (K VP); Elissa Smith (Morse VP); Carla Garrido (VP 4th Grade); Daphne Uviller (MS VP); Kelly Usher (VP K); Dana Tavano (VP Volunteer Coordination); Maribel Correa (Treasurer); Andrea Harrison (VP SNC)

Role of the PTA

The meeting started with various board members providing anecdotal feedback regarding remote learning. Highlights included:

- Hearing teachers are overwhelmed with the sudden shift to remote learning; teaching is a challenge, can't grade work, and many students are not engaging at all.
- Mrs. Barnett reached out to the JP VP's; hearing a variety of feedback, including that teachers are requesting too much work, not enough work, too much computer work, too much reading, etc. This was mirrored in the experience of various board members, where some parents shared their students were getting very little work, while other parents felt that there was enough (or too much) work.
- Brianna shared with the board a working resource list the JP VP's are compiling to provide parents. The list has various web links to fun, educational resources.
- Brianna had asked Mr. Walley if it would be helpful to have a Tech Support group to assist parents with technical questions, alleviating that burden from the teaching staff. Mr. Walley had asked to think about it.
- All VP's have been in touch with their respective principals, but little asks or requests to-date; sensing that principals are very busy working with the district and their teachers to develop appropriate remote learning protocols and programs
- Discussed the use of Google Hangout for online teaching, or teacher touch-base sessions, which the District has not largely used to date. Various pro's and con's were shared on this learning approach.

Christina asked the board for thoughts on the PTA's role during this remote learning time. She referenced the board's decision to invest \$500 in the Foundation's fundraising efforts to help the district provide hot spots to ensure all students have internet connections to enable remote learning. Many PTA's are on-hold until schools re-open. Christina suggested a Facebook campaign to celebrate our teachers, including students creating Thank You cards for their teachers to be posted on the site. The board agreed this was a great idea to show support to our teachers during this difficult time. It was suggested that the class parent coordinators should be contacted, to ask the class parents to check in with teachers to see where help is needed. This information should be funneled back through the class parent coordinators. In the meantime, VP's should remain in contact with building principals. For the Middle School, who doesn't have class parents, the VP's should solicit feedback from other parents and teachers directly to augment the discussion for the Middle School.

Wrap-Up of PTA Events / Loose Ends

Christina also asked the board for input on events or offerings still pending for the year. Maribel noted from a financial perspective, that most of the larger fundraisers had been completed for the year, and only one mini-grant funding had been made (*modified on 4/3, after Maribel confirmed with Joy Myke in Administration: We have not yet processed any mini-grants funds. All payments are frozen until further notice, most likely until next year), so the PTA remained in a favorable financial position. Various members of the Board felt that it would be inappropriate to continue with remaining fundraisers for the year given the economic realities in our community as a result of the Coronavirus, and wanting to avoid any unnecessary burden on teachers.

The Board then discussed each pending 2019/2020 PTA initiative, summarized below:

Spirit Wear: Orders for Spirit Wear were placed in early February. The PTA was able to change the delivery location to a PTA member's house so that they didn't get trapped in the schools while they remain closed. There was discussion amongst the board on whether to attempt to distribute the ~100 orders, which are all individually packaged but do not have contact details. It was decided, in the spirit of social distancing and limiting interaction to essential services, that order delivery will wait until the schools can be re-opened. Christina will send a message from the PTA's Facebook site to communicate this decision to parents.

School Supply Fundraiser: This fundraiser is essentially ready to go, with supply lists already provided from teachers, and no immediate action needed from parents. The Board thought this fundraiser made sense to proceed with, given the timing and ability to launch without any requirement of or impact on teachers. Orders to have a deliver-to-home option only. VP's will confirm with each building principal first before proceeding.

Earth Day: Has been cancelled for April 18th. It was noted the PTA now won't be able to earn the Disney tickets for next years' raffle as a result.

WI Yearbook: Amada is continuing efforts to complete the WI Yearbook. Leah offered to help Amada if needed, given her past experience. The board thought it was important to ensure the graduating Grade 5 class still had this important memento of their final year in Elementary School.

Staff Appreciation Lunches: The board decided to hold off on making any decisions regarding staff appreciation lunches. This is an area where we can leverage ideas other PTA's come up with to thank teachers if schools are still closed.

2020/2021 PTA Board Positions: Christina noted we need to be thinking about positions for next year. She asked each VP to consider coming back next year. Allison Scherich will not be able to return next year as she will be attending Nursing School. Christina was thanked by the Board for being a strong, stable leader throughout the year.

Next Steps

The Board agreed to maintain a meeting schedule, to stay coordinated and identify areas the PTA can help as events unfold. Christina will look for a next meeting date in roughly two weeks. For the next meeting, the Class Parent Coordinators will be invited to provide the feedback from Class Parents.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:33 pm.

Next Meeting

Christina to propose a date in roughly two weeks.