

# MINUTES

## Horsemen PTA Minutes

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*May 13, 2020 | 8:30pm | Meeting called to order by Christina Grillo*

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### In Attendance

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Christina Grillo (President); Andrea Williamson (Secretary); Brianna Staudt (VP K & 1<sup>st</sup> Grade); Christina Papadopolous (K VP); Elissa Smith (Morse VP); Dana Tavano (VP Volunteer Coordination); Juliana Aloia (Grade 3 VP); Angel Rafter (Membership VP); Allie Scherich (Vice President); Amber DaSilva (Heads Up); Tara Scheller (MS VP); Carla Garrido (MS VP); Julie Last (VP Membership); Leah McVey (MS Grade VP); Alison Madrigal (WI VP); Brenda Rodriguez (MS VP); Maribel Correa (Treasurer)

### Board Vote

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Elissa led the board through a vote for the PTA 2020-2021 President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasury positions. The board voted unanimously to elect all candidates, as follows:

President: Christina Grillo

Vice Presidents: Alison Madrigal & Brenda Rodriguez

Secretary: Andrea Williamson

Treasurer: Maribel Correa

The positions were each approved by the board for the next school year. Elissa to send an email with the official results.

### Recap from Superintendent Update

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Christina and Lauren spoke with Mr. Borsari 5/12 via Google Meet. He spoke about planning for the next school year. At this time, he is not sure what school will look like. For example, kids may be split morning/afternoons, alternative days, rolling closures, etc. At this point, nothing has been decided.

In terms of PTA events, Mr. Borsari recommended proceeding as planned, with a "Plan B" in mind. For example, Booster-Thon is a two-week fundraiser ending October 9th with all Elementary students at WI at the same time. In a conversation with Boosterthon, our rep informed us that they are continuing to conduct fundraisers, modifying events to at-home experiences. We will stay in touch over the summer before determining how we should proceed with the event. Mr. Borsari suggested that the PTA push back events to later in the year, to have a better chance of taking place. With the Morse Book Fair moved back in the year, the significant early events are photo days. Christina spoke with Irving Simon, our Photo Day vendor, who noted they would work with schools depending on what is possible. The board discussed the option of trying to push back photo days, but decided to leave for now given all of the uncertainties and Irvin Simon's willingness to work with us and other districts to reschedule as needed.

Mr. Borsari also touched on Back-to-School nights, and noted that there may not be Back-to-School nights, or they may not look the same. There is a question as to whether and how parents may be able to enter schools next year.

The schools are preparing transition videos for incoming students for each building that will be distributed.

Mr. Borsari spent some time discussing the status of the budget vote. This year, all voting will be conducted by absentee ballot, mailed to 15,000 eligible voters. While in-person voting drives ~800 votes, the concern is a mail-in vote could drive thousands of responses, resulting in a greater risk to the budget passing. Typically if a budget fails, the board can re-work the budget and have a second vote, but given timelines and absentee ballot procedures, this will not be possible. The result would be the district would have to stay with last years' budget cap, (the "contingency budget"), which is lower by ~\$1.9MM compared to this years' proposed budget. Mr. Borsari asked for the support of the PTA in raising awareness and education of the budget process, and appeal to parents to submit their votes. Leah mentioned in past years, the PTA had access to district family contact information; Christina to ask the district if this can be shared to help with communications. Lauren to draft a communication to class parents. Maribel offered to help with Spanish translation.

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### Summer Packet Deadlines and Needs

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Given the uncertainty regarding back-to-school procedures, ensuring good communication early in the Summer Packets is even more important this year than usual. Christina has converted all documents into Google Docs formats, standardized the formatting, and updated the PTA Principal letter. Christina has asked each building VP's to review the list of events on the volunteer forms to ensure all events are included and to revert by Monday, May 18th to Christina. Thereafter, the forms will be translated.

Mr. Borsari suggested that the PTA could make the copies for the summer packets in the Admin Building. He noted the building is only lightly staffed with ~3 people, so thought printing as usual would be fine. Christina raised this to the board, asking if people felt comfortable with this arrangement, having to make childcare arrangements and being in the building. Brenda offered to make all of the copies at her place of work, as a donation from her office. Brenda to check with her employer on feasibility to print such a large number of copies from her office. VP's to also check with their school principals for their thoughts on whether their office staff could be of help.

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### PTA Email Addresses

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Christina sent an email to the board asking members to consider using their horsemen emails for PTA communications for next year, to maintain a uniform look and ease of contacting our members. This also would help drive the practice of using the Google Drive site for documentation creation and storage. For those that follow this suggestion, please update the contact information in the contact sheet distributed by Christina. Christina noted that what is updated in the online contact sheet will be used for the District Calendar. This information is due to the Administration by June 1.

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### Budget Update

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Maribel gave a financial update for the year-to-date. She summarized that PTA Income is \$35,182, which is ~\$1,300 below budget. Christina asked about progress on preparing next years' budget, and for Maribel's and the board's thoughts on how we think about fundraising and expectations. Maribel to send the board the latest

financials for this year, and to work on an early draft of next years' budget. Briana suggested we propose and vote on the budget earlier than we did this year, ideally before the start of the school year.

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## School Updates

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**JP:** The VP's are arranging a video call with Mrs. Barnett, who they haven't met with since March. Mrs. Barnett is scheduling a pick-up day where parents can come to pick up their child's belongings. Pre-K students will not be receiving grades.

**Morse:** There was concern raised by parents with the grading of specials, when they were initially communicated as optional. The guidelines from the state is that every subject needs to be graded. Mr. Walley noted that the teachers for specials will be generous in how they assign grades. Teacher conferences will not be taking place this year, which was a decision made by the Superintendent. Class placement for next year is to be based on children's performance prior to remote learning, since each child's home learning environment is so variable. Morse Grade 1 students would have received PTA bags during the Trip Around the Community event; they will instead be handed out when parents come to collect student belongings in late May.

**WI:** The VP's met recently with Mr. Holland. Student belonging pick-up will take place in early June, as WI is currently under asbestos abatement. The PTA has not yet been able to sell yearbooks as pricing has not yet been determined. Christina is in contact with Amada and Irvin Simon about the yearbook and is following the situation closely.

**MS:** Middle Schoolers have been placed and have their schedules for next year (this is the typical timeline). There is no information yet regarding student possession pick-up. Mr. Whitham hosts an open Google Hangout every day. Parent feedback to remote learning is mixed. With so many different teachers, remote learning is a different experience vs the elementary schools. MS recently sent a survey out to students, with questions such as "do you feel that you have enough work?".

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## School Supply Fundraiser

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Daphne has been in contact with the vendor for the school supply fundraiser. Briana mentioned that she thought a communication would be going out soon to parents. Christina is speaking with Daphne on 5/15 and will follow up with her then.

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## Next Meeting

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The board agreed to hold one last meeting before the end of the school year in June. Christina to schedule.