

# MINUTES

## Horsemen PTA Minutes

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June 15, 2020 | 8:30pm | *Meeting called to order by* Christina Grillo

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### In Attendance

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**2019 / 2020 Board Members in Attendance (2019/2020 positions):** Christina Grillo (President); Andrea Williamson (Secretary); Brianna Staudt (VP K & 1<sup>st</sup> Grade); Christina Papadopolous (K VP); Elissa Smith (Morse VP); Lauren McBride (VP Fundraising, VP Grade 3 & Grade); Dana Tavano (VP Volunteer Coordination); Juliana Aloia (Grade 3 VP); Tara Scheller (MS VP); Carla Garrido (WI VP); Maribel Correa (Treasurer); Mitch SB (Rivertown Parents); Brenda Rodriguez (VP MS); Kat (Spanish Liaison)

**2020 / 2021 Board Members in Attendance (2020/2021 positions):** Leslie Rosario (MS VP); Christine Grady (K VP); Beth Provencher (VP Spirit Wear); Sophia Rana (VP Grade 5); Amanda (Would like to be more involved); Jess Lake (Membership Coordinator); Anne Marie Cellante (VP SNC); Krista Barron

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### General Hello's and Introductions

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Christina greeted attendees as they joined, introducing some of our new board members attending this evenings' call. Before the school updates, Christina led an around-the-call introduction of all attendees, discussing their positions for this and next year.

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### Recent Activity

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**School Toolbox:** We launched this week via Facebook and email. The plan is to start advertising now, continuing over the summer, with orders not expected until later in the summer. Thanks to Daphne, Brianna, and Lauren. Christina has already received positive feedback!

**WI Yearbook:** Sales are complete, and all information has been handed to Amada to process orders, manage distribution, and handle inquiries. Next years' yearbook discussion will be tabled until we know if we'll be back in the classrooms next year, before worrying about finding a yearbook leader for next year.

**2020/2021 Booster-Thon:** Christina and Lauren met with the Booster-Thon rep. Not much has changed from earlier discussions. This is planned as a 10-day fundraiser focused on school spirit and physical education, culminating in a fun run for all 3 elementary schools together at WI. After speaking with Mr. Borsari, we'll plan on the event as-is, and if we end up with distant learning, there is an online digital option that we can employ. This online version worked well for other schools, according to the Booster-Thon Rep.

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### Summer Packets

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Summer Packets in process now. Kat is working on the Spanish versions by the end of June. Once final, Christina will let the group know, and "veteran" PTA VP's will help to make all of the copies.

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## NPTA Covid-19 Relief Grant

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NPTA got a large donation of monies from Tic Tok to distribute to local units in amounts of up to \$5,000. Applications are due by mid-July, and payments are made by August 5th. Brianna is working on the application now. There are 4 potential focus areas; food and security; social and emotional well-being; distance learning; and internet and device access / equity. Bri spoke with Jean O'Brien, and asked for her input. \$5,000 would deliver 14 chromebooks together with internet access for 10 months. The application must be presented to the board. Andrea suggested connecting with Effie Phillips-Staley from the Foundation, who has led similar efforts for the Foundation who may be able to help with the grant writing effort.

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## Diversity and Inclusion Chair and/or Committee

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Bri advised the group that the Horsemen PTA is looking to add a role to the PTA to focus specifically on diversity. Mitch noted that most PTA's have this role, and that she can help by connecting with other PTA's on the details of the role.

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## Potential Mask Fundraiser

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Andrea Harrison had an idea to either sell or donate face masks for Tarrytown Schools students. Dana has been researching the source provided by Andrea. The cost would be \$4/mask, with a minimum order of 600 masks per fabric and logo. Delivery would take 2-4 weeks. We can select the logo (i.e. horsemen), look, and colour. Shipment is to one location. There is no deposit required, and with the tax exempt number, we would not be charged tax. It was suggested to touch base with the district in advance, and wait for further guidance from the State on re-opening requirements before proceeding. A question was also raised if there would be demand for 600 masks. Christina suggested that we first touch base with the district once the guidelines are available.

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## Open Chair Positions for 2020 / 2021

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The PTA is moving forward assuming all events will take place, and working to fill event chairs.

JP in particular has many open event positions, as most are filled at Information Night which was not held this year. Booster-Thon is a significant open role. Christina asked each VP group to review the chart for their particular school, and let Christina know if any advertising is needed to help find candidates.

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## Transition Updates

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Outgoing VP's for certain schools will connect with incoming VP's to give an overview of responsibilities, current events and issues, and other key learnings. Bri noted these didn't happen at the end of last year, which impacted the ramp-up in her experience in the fall. Bri proposed that each school VP's plan this transition meeting with the new VP's before the fall. Christina left planning to each school VP's to determine what is needed and makes sense depending on school VP continuity.

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## School Updates

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**JP:** Mrs. Barnett asked this morning if we can add a pencil box to JP's School Toolbox account. The only way to make the change is to include as an add-on item. Bri requested that anyone who asks about why there is an

ad-on, to explain to parents. Christina also suggested that Mrs. Barnett includes this note in her Remind messages. Bri also noted that Mrs. Barnett has at the forefront of her mind the social-emotional wellness of these youngest learners for next year, with either distant learning or in the classroom with several restrictions. The JP teacher parade was a huge success.

**Morse:** Morse is now doing a teacher parade on June 16th, on the tails of the popular JP parade. Mr. Walley asked that if anyone felt that their teacher did a good job, particularly in light of this current environment, he asked that parents please let the board know, since most of the feedback the board is hearing tends to be negative. The VP's also asked Mr. Walley to be informed on decisions or any other communications, so that we can organize around these updates as they take place. Dana asked if the Police had been asked to help with tomorrow's parade; she noted they were involved with all the other parades. Lauren is following up with Mr. Walley, and Dana will also try to get a police escort. It was noted that the JP parade lasted over two hours, and Morse has more teachers.

**WI:** VP's have been in touch with the Administration on various topics, but no significant updates to share. Lauren noted that Google Classroom will remain open all summer long for students to access assignments.

**MS:** No update of any significant topics.

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### Meeting Adjourned

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Christina ended the meeting by thanking the board for their commitment and support. She wished all a great summer, and noted that she looks forward to a great year ahead in 2020/2021.