



Horsemen PTA

Executive Board Meeting Minutes

Friday, February 10, 2023 / 9:00 AM / Hybrid - in-person and Zoom

Attendees

- Sophia Rana
- Elissa Smith
- Fay Serafica
- Brianna Staudt
- Juliana Aloia
- Annie Cauthren
- Alison Hillhouse
- Jess Lake
- Camilia Markarian
- Lauren McBride
- Janin McQuillan
- Christina Papadopoulos
- Liza Price
- Akil Puckerin
- Liz Santillanes
- David Sherrin
- Mechtild Steinert
- Dana Tavano
- Daphne Uviller
- Andrea Williamson
- Liz Zammit
- Anna Povich de Mayor
- Brian Fried
- Diana Loja
- Jessica Kingsbury
- Felipe Orozco

Agenda

- General Greetings and hellos (2 min)
- NYS PTA Community Service Award (3-5 mins, Bri)
- Nominating Committee Volunteers Update/Vote (Fay, 3-5 min)
- Community Wardrobe Update/Vote (5 min, CW team)
- February Treasurer Report, budget surplus and cultural arts fund reminders, and multiple budget amendment votes (Bri, 10 min)
- Review points from monthly Borsari meeting (5-7 min Sophia/Elissa/Bri)
 - staff treats on superintendent conference days/staff appreciation lunch on May conference day instead of separate days??? Thoughts?
 - anti-bullying program (OLVAUS from a state grant for K-12)...(also potential joint funding by PTA/Foundation for a Sept. speaker)
 - fundraising/"shaming" raised at BOE mtg
- Calendar Committee Update (Sophia/Daphne, 2 min)
- JP Scholastic Book Fair (Bri/Sarah, 3 min)
- Photo Day/Lifetouch Update (Elissa, 2 min)

- Committee & School Updates: JP / Morse / WI / MS / HS / DEI / Heads Up / Rivertown Parents / SNC (15-20 min)

Notes

- NYS PTA Community Service Award (Bri)
 - To Diana Loja and Sophia Rana for Community Wardrobe
- Nominating Committee Volunteers Update/Vote (Fay)
 - Nominating committee voted in
 - Brenda Rodriguez
 - Sarah McMaster
 - Annie Cauthren
 - Liz Zammit
 - 1 non-board member still needed
 - Need to set by April 1
- Community Wardrobe Update/Vote (CW team)
 - New space - 222 N Washington
 - Fundraising to begin soon for CW to help cover rent and utilities
 - CW applying to grants to support space
 - Add more info to website to accept donations
 - VOTE - Does everyone agree to accept the lease for CW? - **YES** to move forward
 - Sophia has signed the lease
 - CW Under PTA insurance
 - Signed letter that says CW won't be held liable if CW cannot sustain paying the lease
 - PTA takes risk on damage to clothing and volunteers
 - CW would be run by the PTA Board
- February Treasurer Report, budget surplus and cultural arts fund reminders, and multiple budget amendment votes (Bri)
 - Budget Surplus
 - Field trip
 - Cultural Arts Fund Reminders
 - Cultural arts fund donated to each building
 - Budget Amendments
 - Washington DC trip - money in budget to cover
 - Need to lean heavily towards Elementary Schools with budget surplus
- VOTE (see FY23 Budget Amendment for details)-
 - Budget vote - **YES** towards budget Amendment #5

- Question from Brian - How can Eco-Club become more equitable?
- HS - PTA outreach
 - o Mini-grants more equitable than the scholarships last year
- Fundraising committee might be needed in the future to discuss equitable fundraising by the PTA and district

- Review points from monthly Borsari meeting (Sophia/Elissa/Bri)
 - Staff treats on superintendent conference days/staff appreciation lunch on May conference day instead of separate days
 - All buildings have the lunch on the same day, but in separate buildings
 - What would parents do with the kids? Will be difficult to find volunteers to help; child care is an issue.
 - Different days can help to not over burden parents
 - Anti-bullying program (OLVAUS from a state grant for K-12)...(also potential joint funding by PTA/Foundation for a Sept. speaker)
 - District applied to grant
 - Staff trained over the summer and implemented next year
 - Fundraising "shaming" raised at BOE mtg
 - Shaming over prizes from Boosterthon (happened in PE)
 - District is addressing bullying
 - Looking into an outside contractor to help train staff on how to address bullying and microaggressions
 - Biggest problem with bullying in MS
 - District led efforts but cannot take down social media that involves bullying

- Calendar Committee Update (Sophia/Daphne)
 - o Committee helped to choose superintendent days
 - o Easter Monday has been requested off for next year
 - o Can there be a day off on other cultural holidays that are now being recognized and represented?
 - Ramadan - time off for students who are fasting
 - School should also recognize how fasting impacts students (e.g. in athletic activities, they might be slower and not as focused)
 - Where can a student who is fasting stay during lunch time?
 - Passover - 2 days needed
 - Can an equity calendar be created for staff awareness and education?

- February break - to go away and be distributed to cover other cultural holidays
 - Has note been voted on by board yet
- State mandate - 180 days of school
- JP Scholastic Book Fair - March 6-10 (Bri)
 - Theme - Grow into a Reader!
 - Fun spring time theme, colorful place for the kids to come
 - Evening family event on Tuesday, March 7
 - Story time, milk & cookies, games, Flower themed photo booth
 - Lots of parents volunteered to chair
 - Maggie Natarelli doing decorations
 - Darlene Wise chairing the family event
 - 2 breakfasts in the morning, Tuesday & Wednesday
- Photo Day/Lifetouch Update (Elissa)
 - Prices for photos are going to go up
 - Money loss due to price point, not less orders
 - In negotiations with Lifetouch about price points
- Committee & School Updates:
 - JP
 - No rep available at meeting
 - Morse (Annie)
 - Starting search for book fair chair
 - BF is a month after Morse
 - One co-chair filled
 - Chess & Eco-Club continuing in spring
 - Looking for areas to put the Budget surplus to use
 - trying to get input from Mr. Walley and his team on what needs support
 - Valentine's Day - surprise treats for Morse staff on Monday, 2/13
 - WI (Christina P.)
 - Book club started - 190 kids
 - Lots of volunteers coming through to help
 - Chess club underway for 2nd session
 - Budget surplus - can it be used towards presentations, trips, author visits
 - Christine P. lobbying for local storyteller, David Neilsen (former PTA president) - 25 minute Legend of Sleepy Hollow retelling
 - Elementary Movie Night (all elementary grades) - Friday, March 3
 - Community give back event

- 5-6pm pizza with the principals
 - Partner with Sleepy Hollow Environmental Action Committee and the Climate Smart Task Force
 - Provide composting in person at WI cafeteria and then bring materials upstairs
 - Movie - *Minions Rise of Gru*
 - Solicit for baked goods, other items will get purchased with budget
 - Looking for volunteers
 - Likely to break even on event
 - \$2 slice of pizza, \$1 snacks and beverages
 - Flyers to go home with kids?
 - Monday, WI reps meeting, will ask if flyers (in English and Spanish) can go home with kids
- MS
 - Principal Meeting cut short by fire alarm
 - No rep available at today's meeting
- HS
 - Brainstorming with Ms. Brand on HS fundraising ideas
- DEI (Ana on behalf of Brenda)
 - Committee has not met in person in quite some time, but plenty of work still being done
 - Working on scheduling next meeting hopefully with Felipe and Jean
 - Prioritizing improving accessible communication in schools
 - Brenda and Jean have held 2 tech nights in Spanish
 - Brenda trying to coordinate with Jean a date for another tech night in person at Life Center
 - Brenda spoken with schools' sports administration - trying to host sports expo day in spring
 - Community wide event for all families to learn about each sport offered by the district, learn how it's played, what uniform and equipment is needed, and to speak to coaches and players about the sport
 - e.g. Lacrosse - exposing more Hispanic kids to the sport
 - Planning to being for Back to School Night en Espanol in September
 - District Equity Team - Ana to join on behalf of the PTA DEI Committee

- Many parents reached out to David because of kids receiving smart watches during the holidays as gifts and disrupting class with use
- Suggestion from Daphne U. - NYT article on 17 year old girl leading charge in school, belongs to a luddite club
 - Teen movement giving up social media
 - Can we reach out to this 17 year old to come speak to the kids instead of an adult?
- Rivertown Parents
 - No representative at meeting
- SNC
 - Just had a presentation
 - no representative at meeting