

**Romona Elementary School PTA
General Board Meeting Minutes
November 15, 2017
Romona Elementary School, Wilmette, IL**

Present: Principal Cindy Anderson, President-Elect Shannon Zock, Secretary Kimberly Newman, 1st VP Asst. D39 Communications & Legislation Jacki Krashin, 2nd VP Volunteer & Support Sharon Gertz, 3rd VP Enrichment Linnea Johnson, 3rd VP Asst. Tania Bouwman, 4th VP Fundraising Trina Platt, Parents Lydia Ballenger, Morgan Estabrook, Sara Lapidus, Carlos Salazar, Heather Salazar, Jacob Shorr, Larissa Wozney

1. Call meeting to order - Shannon Zock

- a. The meeting was called to order at 7:36pm by Shannon Zock.

2. Principal's Report - Cindy Anderson

- a. The Blue Ribbon Award activities were fun!
 - i. Going to Washington D.C. to receive the award
 - ii. Presenting the award to school at assembly with HMS Dance Team and Orchestra
 - iii. Watch for links on website for related articles
 - iv. Thank you to the PTA for organizing the food for teachers during parent/teacher conferences. It was all yummy and sustained the teachers especially through the marathon 12-hour first day of conferences!
- b. Author Candice Fleming's school visit was awesome, thank you to iGNITE for funding.
- c. Book Week has been going well; kids are having fun and enjoying the Book Fair.
- d. Recess has more options this year, not just outdoors:
 - i. Mileage Club (aka "Mustang Mile") sponsored by the PTA
 - ii. Reading in the Gazebo
 - iii. Open Learning Commons time for individual reading and STEM activities

- iv. Originality Rocks project was successful. Kids from Early Childhood through 4th grade painted rocks based on the story “Only One You” by Linda Krantz. Rocks were placed in front of school around the landscaping. It’s a wonderful artistic example of the school coming together.

3. President-Elect - Shannon Zock

- a. Dine Out for Romona will be Thursday, 12/7 @ California Pizza Kitchen at Old Orchard Mall 5:00-9:00pm. Support our school by either dining in or taking out.
- b. PTA Executive Board decorated the teacher’s lounge to celebrate winning The Blue Ribbon Award. Cindy said teachers were very appreciative.

4. 1st VP Asst, D39 Communications & Legislation - Jacki Krashin

- a. Civics & Safety
 - i. Julie Hanahan is putting together a petition to get a crossing guard on Locust in front of the junior high.
 - ii. Crosswalk plan includes a flashing light sign but is dependent on federal funding and construction has been delayed until 2019 or 2020.
- b. SAC - Student Council
 - i. Spirit Days for 2017-2018 have been decided and will be added to the PTA website so parents will have time to plan.
 - ii. School store “Mustang Mart” looking for [SAC] parent volunteers to help staff on Fridays. Sign up on PTA website for any full Friday beginning in December.
- c. D39 Educational Foundation
 - i. Support downtown Wilmette by shopping at the Holiday Open House Thursday, 11/14 7:00-9:00pm. A portion of the proceeds will go to the

D39 Educational Foundation, which in turn provides Gripp Grants that help pay for things like our Gazebo, Breakout Boxes, part of the Learning Commons, etc.

- d. CRC - Community Review Committee
 - i. Still working on identifying the difference between differentiated learning and personalized learning. Next meeting Monday, 12/4 7:00pm. CRC is a think group for that drives “next” or future thinking. It is comprised of educators, parents, administrators.
- e. D39 PASS 39 - next meeting Tuesday, 11/28, 7:00-8:30pm
- f. FAN Upcoming Events
 - i. Thursday, 11/16 7:00pm NSCD: Bringing Mindset, Brain Science & Creativity to Mathematics Teaching/Learning
 - ii. Tuesday, 11/28 7:00pm ETHS: Overcoming Childhood Adversity

5. 2nd VP, Volunteer & Support - Sharon Gertz

- a. Thank you to all who donated food during the “Stock The Lounge” event during parent/teacher conferences.
- b. The hard copies of the AtoZ directories were distributed.
- c. PTA Memberships are up year-to-date. There are 260 member households (out of 405) = 65%.
- d. Order your yearbooks now and save money! Cost is currently \$23 and will go up to \$30 after 2/2/18.

6. 3rd VP, Enrichment - Linnea Johnson, Tania Bouwman

- a. Book Fair is going well! Part of profits will go to our sister school in Zion, IL and new books for the Romona Learning Commons.
- b. Field Trips for all grades have started.

- c. Lunch Clubs will begin in February and will be a 7-8 week session.
- d. Watch for some possible WELL Garden winter volunteer opportunities.
- e. Coat Drive produced 4-5 big boxes donated to Onward House in Chicago.
- f. Multicultural Potluck was a HUGE success. Largest turnout ever.

7. 4th VP, Fundraising - Trina Platt

- a. Square One Artwork orders must be placed by 11/15 to receive free shipping.
Keepsakes will arrive around 12/5.
- b. SleepUnder was successful - 125 kids. Next one in spring might need more volunteers.
 - i. Parent Morgan Estabrook asked if the event could be longer. PTA explained that it used to be longer but kids started to get antsy and there was time leftover. This resulted in making it just long enough to watch the movie and have a quick bite to eat.
 - ii. Morgan Estabrook also inquired about creating a designation for allergy kids: either by allowing them to bring their own food and/or EPI pens or by registering them as “allergic” and having a designated parent monitoring them. PTA will review for next SleepUnder.
- c. Dad’s Day Out will be rescheduled due to rainout.
- d. BoxTops are still being collected. The next big push will be in the spring.
Download the app to scan your receipt and earn more BoxTops.
- e. Romona Gala will be on Saturday, March 17 at the Wilmette Golf Club. Theme: “Red Gala Goes Green”
 - i. Parents Heather Salazar and Larissa Wozney expressed concerns for the date set. Concerns include low attendance because of St. Patrick’s Day and low participation since date is towards end of busy ‘benefit season’.

They also questioned if enough places had been considered for event location, etc.

1. PTA explained that there are limited amount of feasible Saturdays during Jan/Feb/March and the original date in February was changed based on a potential conflict. When the new date turned out to be problematic as well, it was agreed to not change date anymore to locations and/or dates that would incur costs.
2. When concerns were originally conveyed to PTA earlier in the month, PTA researched additional venues, reviewed sunk/opportunity costs of changing to a new date (and possibly venue) and determined by vote that it would be too great a cost in price/time/effort to switch.
3. PTA encouraged all individuals that have an interest in Gala details to volunteer to be on future Gala Benefit committees so that they can have a say in the in-depth researching and planning process. Input is valued and will be kept for next year in a binder.

8. Additional Business & Announcements

- a. Parent Morgan Estabrook raised questions about a Park District email that was sent out [to kindergarten parents] about busing:
 - i. Cindy Anderson explained that improving bus behavior is an ongoing challenge. There are still some issues with students not staying in their seats, using seat belts properly and typical little kid squirrelness.
 - ii. Management has been trained, positive reminders are happening and positive reinforcement techniques will be considered. Cindy to follow up.

1. Parent Sara Lapidus, a special education teacher at another school, offered up examples of the kind of positive reinforcement her district's bus drivers do: 'Good Job' notes, etc.

b. No School for Thanksgiving Holiday Monday-Friday 11/20-11/24

- c. Next Executive Board Meeting - Monday, 12/4 8:45am
- d. Parent Heather Salazar inquired if Executive Board Meetings were open to the public. PTA explained that only General Board Meetings were open to the public, Executive Board Meetings are closed meetings.
- e. D39 Parent Education Seminar: "How to Raise Resilient Children", Wednesday 12/6 7:00-8:30pm for grades EC-8 at Wilmette Junior High
 - i. Shannon reported that the Highcrest PTO is starting to open up Parent Education seminars to elementary school parents to share worthwhile information to a broader audience.
- f. Larissa Wozney announced that the next Romona Book Club meeting will be Tuesday, 12/5 at Keren Green's house. Look in the AtoZ Directory for address. The next book is "Mrs. Fletcher" by Tom Perrotta. Please come, even if you haven't read the book!
- g. Next General Board Meeting - Wednesday, 2/7/18**

9. Adjournment

- a. Shannon Zock adjourned the meeting at 8:27pm.