

**Romona Elementary School PTA  
General Board Meeting Minutes  
October 26, 2018  
Romona Elementary School, Wilmette, IL**

Present: Principal Cindy Anderson, President Shannon Zock, President-Elect Kimberly Newman, Secretary Christine Mackris, Treasurer Kristine Heitner 1st VP D39 Communications & Legislation Sanaa Imad, 2nd VP Volunteer & Support Sharon Gertz, 3rd VP Asst. Tania Bouwman, 4th VP Fundraising Lauren Litchfield, 3rd grade teacher Karen Pampush, Civics & Safety/Junior Great Books/Lunch Clubs Chair Julie Hanahan, Parents Heather Salazar, Jim and Sopheap Mathers, Mike Mand, Jacob Shorr, Frank Wang, Sara Menna, Caroline Ma, Ruth Chieng, Morgan Estabrook, Christina Ballester, Aurora T. Cazaves

**1. Call meeting to order - Shannon Zock**

- a. The meeting was called to order at 7:02pm by Shannon Zock.

**2. Principal's Report - Cindy Anderson**

- a. Beginning of school year benchmarking and assessments (reading, writing, math) were recently completed.
- b. Curriculum night was successful
- c. Rocking Romona was a lovely event including celebrating Romona's 60th Birthday.
- d. Thank you to the PTA for the new garden path and the brick honoring teacher Bev Taylor for all her work in the garden.
- e. Picture day seems to have gone more smoothly this year with Stuart Rogers.
- f. The new Learning Commons space is so popular and being used so frequently that some helpful modifications, like the addition of more tables and chairs, will be made.
- g. Halloween is around the corner and everyone is excited. Please remember to make appropriate costume choices.

- h. Ms. Karen Pampush is the new teacher representative that will be attending PTA meetings.
- i. Romona will officially begin offering kindergarten enrichment in 2020.

### **3. President - Shannon Zock**

- a. PTA is hosting a "Friendraiser" on 10/20 to raise money as well as create an opportunity for parents to socialize with other parents.
- b. Crossing guard - it is confirmed that there will be a permanent crossing guard located at the Locust crosswalk near WJHS through 2020.
- c. IGNITE Fund - the goal is to educate parents about IGNITE and to significantly increase donation participation. Participation is up 5% so far this year.
- d. Please note the date changes to the November and February General Board meetings: November 28th and February 13th.
- e. CRC (Community Review Committee) is in need of a representative for Romona.
  - i. CRC's 2018 agenda includes reviewing/researching the need for more technology and best practices in our schools.
  - ii. In May, the CRC will make a recommendation, based on their findings, to the administration.
- f. DI (Destination Imagination) is looking to find a parent coordinator here at Romona.
- g. Mustang Mileage Club - a fun lunch time running activity will continue this year.
- h. Thank you to Preeti Varshney for her time and effort in updating our PTA website.

### **4. President-Elect - Kimberly Newman**

- a. The Romona Benefit is the PTA's largest fundraiser. Last year's money raised went to creating the garden path. The money raised this year will go towards getting new and improved playground equipment for Romona.
  - i. Benefit to be held on Saturday, February 23, 2018. We will return to calling it the Romona Benefit instead of the Romona Red Gala.
  - ii. Venue is TBD. Theme is "Jump Jump Jubilee".
  - iii. Fundraising goals are based on what the final playground cost will be.

**5. Treasurer - Kristine Heitner**

- a. IGNITE fund contributions are up 12% from last year. To date, 39% of families are participating vs. only 34% last year.
- b. Remember that there are additional PTA donation opportunities when shopping at Heinen's, Amazon Smile, Mighty Nest as well as collecting Box Tops.
- c. Christina Ballester suggested reminding parents how their donation money gets spent (i.e. student enrichment, new playground) in an effort to increase donation participation.

**6. 1st VP, D39 Communications & Legislation - Sanaa Imad**

- a. SAC - Student Council Representative Sandy Karwowski is working with teachers to select the 2018-2019 student council volunteers.
  - i. The goal of SAC is to raise money for worthy causes in our community or in our school.
  - ii. SAC is responsible for monthly school spirit days, helping out with school assemblies, etc.
- b. Julie Hannahan wants to remind parents not to park at the island in front of Romona. Also, the Transportation Commission is working on a long term plan to improve biking and walking safety.

**7. 2nd VP, Volunteer & Support - Sharon Gertz**

- a. Remember to sign up and volunteer in Romona's lunchroom, Learning Commons/Library. Check on PTA website to sign up.

**8. 3rd VP, Enrichment - Tania Bouwman**

- a. Enrichment opportunities, which align with class curriculum, are supported by the PTA with money from the IGNITE Fund.
- b. Multicultural Potluck will be held Friday, 10/12 6:00-7:30 pm. Bring a dish to share.
- c. October Coat Drive will support our sister school in Zion.
- d. Open Gym nights will again be held during the winter months with Mr. Toy or Mr. Shaaf supervising the activities from 5:30-7pm. Dates TBD.

**9. 4th VP, Fundraising - Lauren Litchfield**

- a. "Romona on the Rocks" Friendraiser on 10/20 will have tickets going on sale soon. It will provide a good opportunity for parents to mingle while raising money for Romona.
- b. Stay tuned for more parent fundraising parties to be held throughout the year.
- c. "Square One Art" fundraising effort will be sent home with students to complete at home then return back to school for submission. Participation is optional.
- d. Christina Ballester suggested revisiting the idea of the Bloomingdale's fashion show fundraiser, which uses parent volunteers as models.

**10. Additional Business & Announcements**

- a. Next General Board Meeting - Wednesday, 11/28, 7:00pm.

**11. Adjournment**

- a. Shannon Zock adjourned the meeting at 8:07pm.