

Romona Elementary School PTA
General Board Meeting Minute (via Zoom)
February 10, 2021
Romona Elementary School, Wilmette, IL

Present: Principal Cindy Anderson, President Paloma Samotny, President-Elect Ela Nistor, 1st VPs D39 Communications & Legislation Jie Li and Caroline Ma, 3rd VPs Enrichment Tania Bouwman and Linnea Johnson, 4th VPs Fundraising Lauren Litchfield and Jacki Krashin, Treasurer Kimberly Newman, Webmaster Preeti Varshney, Remote learning liaison Amy Bowen and **Parents:** Sarah Squires-Doyle, Tania Figur, Colleen Larkin, Jacob Shorr, Talita Skopis.

1. Call meeting to order - Paloma Samotny

- a. The meeting was called to order at 7:07 pm by Paloma Samotny.

2. Principal's Report - Cindy Anderson

- a. Cindy thanks the PTA for all the snacks and treats provided to our teachers and staff to celebrate Valentine's Day.
- b. Cindy reports that a lot of the staff members have already taken the Covid vaccine.
- c. Romona is working closely with the village to install the playground in the summer, plans are to be finalized at a meeting scheduled for the end of the month, in this meeting they will discuss the plans for KEEP (Kindergarten Enrichment and Enhancement Program) as well.
- d. Teachers worked on report cards and the district is sending MAP test results via mail
- e. Safeguard screening tests are going well. Many families are participating.
- f. Kindergarten enrollment starts in March (8th and 9th).
- g. Teachers and staff are having a P.D. (Professional development) day with the visit of Mr. Doug Reeves and this training will focus on Inclusion and Equity.
- h. Cindy is celebrating African American History at Romona through her morning announcements.
- i. Cindy shares that some 3rd. Grade classes are working on Persuasive Writing and hoping to add more fun to Friday's Spirit Days.
- j. Cindy asks parents to make sure their kids have well fitting masks and that they follow the drop-off and pick-up rules so everyone is safe.
- k. Ela poses a question regarding the proposal for KEEP, asking if there is anything parents can do to help the project get implemented and Cindy answers it in a positive way saying that parents input is always welcome at the village board meetings.

3. President - Paloma Samotny

- a. Paloma reports that the PTA is trying its best to keep the relationship between teachers and parents as healthy as possible.
- b. Paloma say we are trying their best to promote some fun activities for the kids

- c. Paloma asks that parents share ideas and suggestions with the PTA to make the school experience more fun for everyone.
- 4. President-Elect - Ela Nistor**
- a. PTA is still looking to fill important positions for the next school year, such as VPs or Enrichment and Secretary, Treasurer and a few others, Ela says she 's working on making a document available online with all open positions to share with our community .
- 5. Treasurer - Kimberly Newman**
- a. Kimberly reports that the PTA has received a check for \$235.19 from Amazon Smile and \$ 128.00 from Box Tops.
 - b. Kimberly reminds everyone of the process of requesting cash or reimbursement for PTA events to be made through the forms available on the PTA website.
- 6. Webmaster - Preeti Varshney**
- a. Preeti reports that the Calendar has been updated with a new date for the International Festival (April 12-18)
 - b. Yearbooks link for preorder from Jostens is available on the website.
 - c. A suggestion box has been added to the website. Parents are welcome to share ideas and comment on events etc...
- 7. 1st VPs D39 Communications & Legislation - Report given by Paloma**
- a. Paloma recaps the Bingo Night sponsored by D39 Education Foundation, happy to report turnout was great.
 - b. D39 Education Foundation Silver Lining project is underway, they are collecting messages of optimism and good things that came out of the Pandemic and compiling into a presentation that will be shared with the community when ready.
 - c. CRC and PASS 39 didn't have anything to report at this time.
- 8. 2nd VPs Volunteer & Support - Report given by Paloma**
- a. Eliza Fisher is helping with the Yearbook committee, Paloma reports that yearbook distribution will happen in the fall instead of at the end of the School year because of some delays related to the timeline needed to get everything ready for printing. Paloma asks all parents to send as many pictures as possible and that Cindy asks teachers to do the same.
 - b. Amy Bowen, the liaison for remote learning parents reports that she's been in touch with the Okey Dokey group for a possible virtual concert. She also reports that some parents are finding it a bit confusing to upload pictures to the yearbook.
- 9. 3rd VPs Enrichment - Tania Bouwman and Linnea Johnson**
- a. Linnea reports that teachers are sharing a Virtual Assembly on Historical Perspectives, they'll be learning about Wilma Rudolph, an african-american sprinter who won 3 gold medals at the Olympics in 1960.
 - b. D39 is still working on some enrichment activities for the whole community, One Book One District is one of the many ideas to be implemented.
 - c. Tania thanks everyone for donations made to Stock the Shelves, a non-profit organization that helps provide supplies to refugees.

- d. Tania also reports that they have been in close contact with teachers asking for their input on activities related to enrichment.
- e. Cindy explains that One Book One District will cover the subject of the Pandemic, teachers across the district will read the same book and have a conversation with the students about that subject.
- f. Kimberly reports that the International festival was moved from March to April in the hopes of better weather. Ongoing survey shows that families are leaning towards an outdoors event. Amy Bowen offers to help the committee, she also suggests a cookbook, which Romona already has done in the past, we still own a few copies.

9. 4th VPs Fundraising - Lauren Litchfield and Jacki Krashin

- a. Lauren reports that they have submitted all of the brick texts to the engraver and that a sample will be shared to be approved sometime soon. She is still hoping that the Park District will pay for the installation of the brick patio which will happen soon after the playground is installed
- b. Lauren announces that SquareArt 1 program will happen online this year and that items will be shipped home instead of to the school.
- c. In lieu of TeacherPaloozza she says there are a few other ideas coming to light and we are working on implementing those this year.
- d. Cindy says that she will reach out to Lauren about the items auctioned at the Benefit. Kimberly shares that some of the morning announcement winners will have the chance to use their prize during the International week.
- e. Tania asks about the 4th Grade Farewell Planning Committee and Paloma answers that the existing committee led by Carolin Huh has started to plan fun activities for the Graduating Mustangs. Cindy mentions that in a meeting with the other principals the graduation subject was raised and that we should coordinate with the other schools to keep the celebrations as inclusive as possible, given so many of our students are in mixed classes.

10. Additional Business & Announcements

- a. Kimberly makes a motion to approve the minutes from November's meeting and Tania Bowman seconds it, everyone present at the meeting is in favor as well.
- b. Next PTA General Board Meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 14th at 7pm.

11. Adjournment

- a. Paloma Samotny adjourned the meeting at 7:55 pm.