

**Romona Elementary School PTA
General Board Meeting Minutes
November 20, 2019
Romona Elementary School, Wilmette, IL**

Present: Principal Cindy Anderson, SAC Teacher Representative Jamie Parker, President Kimberly Newman, President-Elect Paloma Samotny, Treasurer Jacob Shorr, Webmaster Preeti Varshney, 1st VP Assistant District Communications & Legislation Addie Gabriel, 2nd VP Volunteers & Support Sharon Gertz, 3rd VP Enrichment Tania Bouwman, 4th Co-VPs Fundraising Lauren Litchfield and Jacki Krashin, Parents: Amy Bowen, Morgan Estabrook, Julie Hanahan, Sarah Squires-Doyle

1. Call meeting to order - Kimberly Newman

- a. The meeting was called to order at 7:05pm by Kimberly Newman
- b. Lauren Litchfield moved to approve the previous meeting minutes from 9/25, Jacki Krashin seconded and the minutes were unanimously approved.

2. Principal's Report - Cindy Anderson

- a. Introduced Jamie Parker as the new Student Advisory Committee teacher representative to the PTA.
- b. The 4th Grade Outdoor Education trip went very well.
- c. Thank you from all the teachers/staff for the food/snacks during teacher conferences. It was much appreciated by all!
- d. Book Week currently happening is going well. We are excited for illustrator John Parra's visit on Thursday.
- e. iGNITE future visits include Birds of Prey, Rosie the Riveter and Lou Aiello.
Thank you to iGNITE!
- f. Next week is Thanksgiving week, a reminder of **no school** all week.
- g. Romona has created an Equity Team who will work on ways to increase inclusivity and diversity. The entire Romona staff will have teacher training from the ADL (the Anit-Defamation League) 1/15/20 on how to respond to potential harmful words/actions in different scenarios.

- h. D39 to continue hosting parent seminars on diversity and inclusion. Parent Sarah Squire-Doyle suggested using Room Parents as a way to reinforce D39 message by forwarding recommended children books.

3. President's Report - Kimberly Newman

- a. PTA Membership is at 68% (265 members, out of 388 households)
- b. iGNITE participation is at 51%. (200 donations totaling \$22,750); magnets being distributed, donation letter can be found on the PTA website.
- c. Hard copy AtoZ school directories have been distributed.
- d. Our 2018-2019 taxes have been submitted.
- e. IL/PTA membership fees have been paid.
- f. Six Flags Read-To-Succeed program coming in December; program completely online this year. Parents will register their student using their class code and log in reading hours.
- g. D39's Nutrition Committee Representative is Nicole Rose (not present). Healthier changes to menu will be highlighted in red on future menus. Some changes coming include new bagels and breadsticks, tator tots, D'Animal smoothies, food bowls (pork carnitas/rice, etc).

4. President-Elect's Report – Paloma Samotny

- a. International Festival will be 3/8/20 at Romona; the permit has been submitted and the school has been reserved. Conversation around moving it in future years to anticipate growing attendance. Cindy suggested looking at the Junior High. Civics & Safety representative Julie Hanahan advised having the Wilmette Fire Department double check power source safety for event.

5. Treasurer's Report – Jacob Shorr

- a. Checks are being processed.
- b. Please make sure to fill out proper forms when requesting cash for an event and for deposit. Forms are in the front PTA hall closet and on the PTA website.

6. Webmaster – Preeti Varshney

- a. Lunch Club registration will go live on the PTA website 12/4. Check the website for a list of all clubs.
- b. Giving Tuesday on 12/3 will have a link on the PTA website for people to donate.

7. 1st VP Assistant District Communications & Legislation - Addie Gabriel

- a. PASS39's next meeting will be 1/15/20. "Supporting your child's and your own mental health needs." Parents Night Out to follow.
- b. The SAC's food drive was successful. The school store needs parent volunteers on Fridays during lunch; sign up online. This year's proceeds from the school store will benefit The Playground Fund. The next school spirit day will be 12/17, "Wear Your Favorite Clothing" to showcase Originality (the 'O' in Romona ROCKS).
- c. D39 Educational Foundation – representative Julie Hanahan reported that the annual Fashion Show was a success: thank you to 'models' Kimberly Newman and Paloma Samotny for participating. Trivia Night will be 2/1/20 at St. Joseph's: sales will start after winter break. D39 made a donation to the Highcrest new Learning Commons: construction is almost done. Science Olympiad classes are now called LAB39: register now for classes after winter break. The Ray of Light Fund is looking for ideas.
- d. Civics & Safety – representative Julie Hanahan requested that people let her know if the crossing guard on Locust Road in front of the Wilmette Junior High School disappears now that the construction has been completed.

8. 2nd VP Volunteer & Support – Sharon Gertz

- a. Volunteer to help during lunch! Sign up online at the PTA website.
- b. Buy your yearbook now!

9. 3rd VP Enrichment – Tania Bouwman

- a. The Garden is now closed for the season.

- b. Winter Coat Drive is now completed. The sister school representative Tanya Jeong is reaching out to our sister school's new principal at West Zion Elementary to coordinate future programming.
- c. The Lunch Club registration will begin 2/1/4 at 9am. Classes will start 1/13/20.
- d. Open Gym Nights are coming in January. Tuesdays and Thursdays in January; Tuesdays only in February. Free for Romona families; 5:30-7:00pm.
- e. Next Open Tech Night will be 2/11/20 from 5:30-7:00pm.

10. 4th Co-VPs Fundraising – Lauren Litchfield, Jacki Krashin

- a. The SleepUnder on 11/15 was a success. Need to tweak last minute registration procedures.
- b. Square One Art orders are due 12/1.
- c. BoxTops have made \$300 so far.
- d. Romona Benefit: 170 parents have signed up. Tables are still available for purchase on the website. We would like to call businesses to offer sponsorship packages. If any parent would like to volunteer to call please let Lauren/Jacki know. Any business who donates will be recognized in PTA newsletters.
- e. Fundraising efforts include pitches to Wilmette Park District (i.e., help install patio?) and the D39 Board of Education (i.e., be put on an agenda to ask for monetary support).

11. Additional Business & Announcements

- a. No School – Thanksgiving Week 11/25 – 11/29
- b. Next Executive Board Meeting 12/9
- c. Next General Board Meeting 2/12/20

12. Adjournment

- a. Kimberly Newman adjourned the meeting at 8:04pm.