

PTA Meeting Minutes

Thoreau Middle School, Administrative Conference Room

Tuesday, March 20, 2018

Attendees: Principal Azimi, Buck Condill, Beth Eachus, Sarah Helmicki, Stacey Leimbach, Rene Newman, Samantha Rayburn, Emily Korff, Gayle Schlueter, and Michele Alonso.

Beth called the meeting to order at 9:39am.

Due to conflicting meetings, the agenda items were shifted to accommodate arrival times of attendees.

Approval of Minutes

Sarah Helmicki presented the minutes from the February 20, 2018, PTA meeting. There was a motion to approve the minutes by Stacey Leimbach. Gayle Schlueter seconded, and the minutes were approved as written.

Treasurer's Report

Laura Schmorrow was unable to attend the meeting. Beth spoke for her and noted that the budget is on track for fundraisers. Crosstown Hoops, a fundraiser, will take place on April 6. Expenses for Crosstown Hoops may exceed budget, but as long as the overage does not exceed \$300 a vote is not required to approve this increase in expenses. Overall, membership is down for this school year, but it is unexpected that new members will join at this time of year.

Expenses overall are down. The 8th Grade Party Committee is seeking additional funds, which may be possible.

The Hospitality Committee asked for clarification on its budget based on financial donations made in lieu of food donations. Per Beth, all financial donations made to hospitality will be used for hospitality expenses.

Principal's Report

Mr. Azimi noted that he is in the middle of staffing. With boundary changes, TMS is projected to have 1200 students for the 2018-2019 school year, which is more than 200 students over the current census. As a result, Mr. Azimi will hire more than 15 full time equivalents (FTEs). There will be at least 10 new classroom teachers, 1 counselor and 1 custodian. Per Mr. Azimi, the challenge will be to maintain the "small school" culture which creates the very close knit, supportive community that TMS enjoys.

Most students will be coming from Luther Jackson MS. They will need to de-staff to adjust for their lower enrollment. New jobs at TMS will be posted in the community so that staff from LJMS who will be leaving that school can consider positions at TMS.

A discussion ensued about juuling/vaping and the dangers of this new trend. Even though middle school students are not old enough to purchase juuling/vaping devices (min age 18), students can purchase juuling/vaping devices online so that they can evade the age requirements. TMS will have a presentation for students. There will be a 7th grade presentation and an 8th grade presentation. The PTA and Mr. Azimi will look for an opportunity to have a presentation for parents as well. Overall, it is a very dangerous activity. Not only is it addictive, but the process involves the user inhaling aerosol, formaldehyde, nicotine and other

PTA Meeting Minutes

Thoreau Middle School, Administrative Conference Room

Tuesday, March 20, 2018

carcinogens. Juuling and vaping are not regulated but are appeal directly to young people with their “candy” flavors and sweet and fruity smells.

Student Services Report

Ms. Aguilar did not have any report at this meeting. She had a conflict and was unable to attend.

Committee Reports

Hospitality: The Hospitality committee noted that they provided candy for teachers for St. Patrick’s Day in March. They plan to provide water bottles to teachers in April. Teacher Appreciation Week will be in May and will entail a full week of hospitality for the teachers. Ideas/plans include a “fresh” Farmers Market event where teachers can select fresh fruit and vegetables. Another idea is to have an open market for school supplies. There will be other events, but teachers will also be treated to lunch courtesy of Navy Federal Credit Union. Lastly, the Hospitality committee is considering ice cream treats for June. The committee members plan to stay on the committee for the next school year.

Beth also provided updates for the following additional committees:

Directory: The directory has been distributed. There should be 1 director per family.

Crosstown Hoops: This will take place on 4/6/18. Everything is on target for this event. Communication plans are in place including eNews, eBlast, etc. There will be a sign up genius for parents to volunteer. Since TMS will “host” this year, our school will be in charge of concessions. A flyer for pre-sale tickets will go out to students. All revenue for ticket sales prior to the event will go to TMS. Ticket sales at the event must be split between both TMS and Kilmer MS.

Auction: The TMS auction will be held online. Some items have already been donated for the event. There will be a sign up genius for additional donations.

Courtyard: The mosaic of the Thoreau eagle for the courtyard will be created using a picture and then replicating the picture onto bricks. The bricks will be weather resistant. A local boy scout will lay the purchased bricks for his Eagle Scout project.

President’s Report

Beth discussed the need to put together a slate for next year’s PTA officers and committees. There will be a Nominating Committee who will need to confirm who will be back for the 2018-2019 school year. In particular, we are seeking people to be on the PTA board as the President, Secretary and Treasurer will be departing. A letter will be drafted and sent to feeder schools, including Flint Hill, Mosby Woods, Cunningham Park, Stenwood, Louise Archer, Vienna and Oakton Elementary Schools.

New Business

PTA Meeting Minutes

Thoreau Middle School, Administrative Conference Room

Tuesday, March 20, 2018

Beth and Mr. Azimi both praised students who participated in the walk out. All students who participated were very respectful and stood with dignity and decorum in the freezing cold. Approximately 400 students participated.

Beth ended the meeting at 11:30am. The next meeting will be held on April 17, 2018, at 7:00pm.