**AGENDA & NOTES**

**ROSEMONT RIDGE PTO GENERAL MEETING**

**Wednesday, August 30, 2023**

**10 AM**

* **Call to Order**
  + 10:01 AM – Sarah Tycast made introductions; welcome to those present and attendees on Zoom
* **Welcome and Get to Know Participation**
  + Principal Sara and Penny, roundtable introductions
  + Overview of PTO
* **Board Election – 10:05 AM**

Proposed Slate of officers (see agenda)

President – Sarah Tycast – 2nd year of president term

Vice President – Lisa Johnson (via zoom)

Treasurer - Sandra Kirchner, Grace Teng (working together)

Secretary -Kat Kellner (Rosenbaum)

**Motion moved for approved and seconded – passed unanimously**

* **Calendar of events**
* (refer to handout / proposed calendar)
* This is the first year school and PTO are really back from COVID. Last year, PTO was able to cover costs of events financially because of hold over / non use of funds in prior years, this year may have to charge for events
* Pink sheet events – call for volunteers/chairs are needed for some events (sign up with Sarah or email – PTO email to be shared)

BACK TO SCHOOL BASH - 9/8/2023 5:30-7:30 on RRMS Field

* + Similar to last year – will be outside; it is a drop off event (for RRMS kids)
  + Inflatables / not bounce houses; Kona ice available for purchase, games
  + Aim is to provide a time for kids and families have fun
  + Sarah has things lined up, will be asking for some help for set up -info to come out soon

COYOTE FUNDRAISER

* + It’s a fun run and primary/main fundraiser for PTO
  + All advisories come up with theme, kids get into it
  + 8th grade mom Krista and another mom are heading up. Need a 6th or 7th grade parent who is interested in taking it on. Reach out to Sarah if interested
  + Its in the AM, fun morning, DJ present and all kids are outside
  + Fundraising isn’t by lap – just collection and turn in.

FALL CONFERENCES/ MEAL SHARE

* + These are one off events usually; need some coordinators for various events. Generally involves commitment to get a signup genius set up, folks to participate & commit and coordinate meals

**Staff Appreciation Week –**

* + 8th grade mom (Francis) has coordinated; looking to engage new help to continue great tradition. Holly Baldwin expressed interest.

**Cookie share for teachers**

* + long standing RR tradition. There will be a signup genius and folks sign up to provide cookies, then staff “shops” for cookies. This is right before the holiday break in December.
  + Note – food events and such are typically for staff. There are a lot of allergies, too much sugar focused for kids. NOTE: all parents are encouraged to read the parent handbook to familiarize themselves with various topics

**Monster Mash**

* + Fall celebration / dance / costume optional (PTO needs a chair for this)

**Spring Dance**

* + First time last year, likely will be done again, date TBD.

Other chairs/coordinators needed – Board has handled in past but would be nice to have a chair for specific events

Spirit Wear – thru CadMark, there are some supplies and PTO has a store. If there is interest, we can order more.

Dineouts – Option to explore if there is someone interested in spearheading it and a way to fundraise and support local businesses and socialize

**Volunteering for events/at school:**  Register with HelpCounter, events will be on SignupGenius

* + Note – in middle school, you don’t volunteer in classroom like in elementary, so volunteering for school events is a way to experience the energy. Sarah encourages folks to participate whether you like to organize or volunteer or drop off – we can use help in all areas for events.
  + Lisa and Sarah will coordinate most of the volunteer needs – still need volunteers to register with HelpCounter (were some issues with signup last year, should be good for 2 year cycle and same as the one used in elementary schools – there was a lot of lag last year given everyone had to renew due to covid. Encourage everyone to sign up and register / check that you are registered for ease of volunteering.

* **Treasurer’s Report by Grace**
  + Treasurers Report & 2023/24 Budget Review
  + Budget report – started off well with COVID leftover funds
  + Budget will drop due to programming back online. PTO generally likes to maintain $25K to roll over from year to year, and we’re below and that’s why we are looking at possibly charging for some events.
    - Sarah noted that this is more $$ that we would roll over because PTO committed to help pay for PA / Sound System in Commons/Gym and there was a gap in money from district (ended up being $40K and we have not been charged yet)
    - Taking into account the $40K that will go to the District/School, we have about $28K for budget for 2023 to 2024 school year.
    - Hope to raise at least $30K from Coyote Run. Encouraged last year for families to donate $100/each (with 700 kids, that would more than meet goal but folks give different amounts).
    - Last year, there was $200 stipend per teacher (new for Rosemont, typical in elementary). The more we raise, the more we can do to help school and provide fun program.
    - Some pending asks to consider as well - track team needs some equipment
  + Discussion on process for classroom funds and curriculum enhancement with Principal Sarah
    - Forms for both, go thru principal to make sure its appropriate, stays at school, shared request. Both Sarah and Penny were new last year, so they worked on dialing in the processes
  + Additional 2023 – 2024 budge items discussed:
    - 6th grade orientation – was lower cost because different format than prior years
    - 7th grade service day – may not happen / TBD
    - 8th grade celebration – budget was previously $500 and RR 8th graders paid to go to Bullwinkles, then it was COVID and now we’re just back 2 years – 1st was on site party, 2nd (last) year was Bullwinkles paid for by PTO.
      * This year, Sarah T thought is to split costs and do some fundraising thru the year and there was general agreement/support for the same. It’s about $40/PP and PTO may be able to help offset. Because PTO is for entire school, typically we have not funded specific grade activities.
    - Back to school – likely the cost will be under what was covered last year by PTO
    - Student Support - counselor discretion – we have set a budget and leave it to the counselor to address and best use (snacks and other items)
    - Section C – is department level contribution
      * About $19.5K just going to support the teachers (includes stipeneds per teacher and took out last year’s one time support).

**Green Team** – Update and background shared by Claire.

This year, might be a Green Initiative (maybe during lunch time, optional activities for kids from Eco School Network) -

* + Likely more during the day options for students for awareness
  + May need some budget for Rosemont Gives Back week
  + This year, do not have anything planned for after school and last year’s budget was not used. so taken out.
  + Proposed moving budget to Rosemont Gives Back event spring event coordinated thru Advisory Classrooms -kids pick activity like plastic collection, clothes drive, write letter, etc.) General support for same expressed by attendees.
  + There was a spend of $225 (for replacement of aging leaf blower with new electric one) against $500 budget. Action - decided to add to budget line item of $500 for Green/Rosemont Gives Back.

Sarah proposed for vote to move forward with budget as proposed, will adjust as needed through year.

**10:43 am - Motion made to approve budget, seconded – unanimously approved**

* **Principal Report**
* **New Business**
* **Q&A**
* **Adjournment**

**Career Day** –Update from Amanda Cottler, 1 of 2 returning chairs for career day in Feb for 8th graders

* + Large undertaking, but lots of items dialed in re process and materials. They are looking for a 3rd chair to help
  + It’s a great event – 8th graders learn how to budget, simulated job, etc. Mock interviews and also tables for / with different careers.
  + Lots of planning and coordination and opportunities to help and get involved

**Questions and discussion about where to look for what events/groups need chair**

* + Check PTO website for latest
  + Any chairs needed are on the pink list of events
  + Where to email PTO with questions - message facebook/email for officers on website and general PTO email (also on bottom of school newletter)
  + If you are interested in volunteering, Lisa and Sarah will get communication out (and/or let them know today)

* **Principal’s Update** 
  + Last year, 1/3 of staff at RR were new, Counselor was 1 year in
  + Thank you to Sarah Tycast for last year and consistency. Grateful for the budget and generosity of RR community, not
  + It is different on how to contribute/be present in middle versus elementary school
  + 2nd year back from COVID is much more stable, grounded,
  + Encouraged all parents to read student handbook. New era for education on cell phones – away for the day is very clear this year and with follow thru. Reviewing it with students at school and encourages parents/caregivers to read with kid.
  + Penny – added her gratitude and thanks.
  + This year focus is on improving educational programs – care and connection are still primary, now focusing on how to integrate learning, assessment, professional development for teachers. RR is inclusive, have students who have not been in public education system. This first month is about getting school year off the ground. Lockers have been difficult this year – reality is kids don’t use them with chromebooks and backpacks (outcome from COVID).
  + Its is ONLY school-issued Chromebooks this year. There are now tools (Go Guardian) to help teachers keep students focused on tabs to be used in class. Helping kids hone in on device for what’s needed for lesson, and helps level set. Question asked about for home monitoring. There should not be hours and hours of homework (its finishing work at home).
  + Chromebooks will be going home – encouraged all to label cords and the computer, and make sure it comes back charged (set up space at home). Part of coming to class prepared.
  + Airpods are NOT allowed – lots of lost ones, distractions in class, etc
  + If you need to contact your student during the day, best to contact the office.

11:01 AM – adjourned.