

PTA Executive Board Meeting Minutes  
October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2016, 8:45 a.m.

**In attendance:** Holly Searl, Principal; Debra Olson, President; Nora Rigby, Vice President; Andrea Green, Treasurer; Miwa Kamras, At-Large Member, Lower Grades; Kate Gardner, Secretary

The meeting was called to order by President Debra Olson at 8:50 a.m.

**President, Debra Olson**

- **Turf Replacement**
  - President Olson provided an update on the turf replacement project. As the funds are not in the DGS budget, we will start a Capital Contribution Campaign to fundraise, but we will need to get approval from DCPS first. President Olson shared that she will contact [Landscape Architecture Bureau](#), who redesigned the playground and field 10 years ago in a pro bono effort. It was noted that the entire play area was designed with porous pavement and underground cisterns that allow for all stormwater to be treated onsite, which qualified the project for a funding grant from the D.C. Department of Health.
- **Summer Camp Fair**
  - As last year's Auction was too late to consider summer camps, the board discussed whether we should host a Summer Camp Fair this Winter as a service to Ross families. One Saturday of the Holiday Tree Sale was suggested for a date. President Olson to follow up with Principal Searl.
- **Fillmore Update**
  - President Olson shared a 2-pronged approach to ensuring that Ross continues to have a robust arts program in 2017: on the one hand to continue to look at ways to save Fillmore, including Friends of Fillmore (FoF) circulating a [change.org](#) petition and continuing meetings to discuss options that would allow Fillmore to continue serving our school's arts needs. In addition to these FoF activities, President Olson continued, the affected schools will need to start planning for what an "in-house" arts program would look like.
- **Spooktacular**
  - President Olson announced that while we are not planning a haunted garden this year, we will have fortune & story tellers, and that we will suggest a \$5 donation for pizza dinner, with the 5<sup>th</sup> graders to assist.
- **After School Enrichment Committee**
  - President Olson shared that parent Shanti Sale will chair and that there were many people who signed up to join the committee at the PTA General Body meeting.
- **PTA Meeting Childcare Policy**
  - The board discussed its childcare policy for PTA General Body meetings and agreed to limit registrants to 25 kids, who must be three and potty trained. In the Winter and colder months, we will break up into two classrooms by age, with two babysitters for each room.

**Lower-School Rep Update, Miwa Kamras**

- **Social Justice/Community Service Committee Update**
  - Lower-school rep. Kamras provided an update on the first Social Justice/Community Service community meeting that is upcoming, when they will discuss its vision, guiding principals,

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along with next steps for the Winter. She explained that there will be a two-pronged approach with the teachers to start a social justice-focused curriculum, a curriculum rooted in the principals of Social Justice Curriculum Design and Design Thinking, that will continue through the end of the school year. This curriculum will be closely connected to the Committee's objective to provide meaningful opportunities for Ross students and families to engage in social justice and community service work that enables students to more deeply understand inequity and the role they can play in addressing it, such as school wide service activities with partner organizations along with a parent coffee series with local professionals to facilitate learning and conversation for parents on how to engage their children about race and equity issues.

**Vice President, Nora Rigby**

- **Glen Oaks Park Elementary Book Donation Update**
  - Vice President Rigby provided an update on September's service project: she estimates that we collected between 600-700 used books and \$150 to purchase new books for Glen Oaks Park library.

**General Forum & Announcements**

- Picture Day (& free dress) on October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2016
- PTA Movie Night: Rescheduled for Friday, October 21<sup>st</sup> and we will have tables for both merchandise and membership.
- Spooktacular: October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2016 starting at 6:00 p.m.
- Membership Drive: Kick off in November with class competitions for 100% participation
- Election Day at Ross: On November 8<sup>th</sup>, we will have coffee starting at 8:15 a.m. and a special election on the Ross playground for students to participate in.

**Meeting adjourned at 10:00 a.m.**

**Next EB Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2016**

MEETING MINUTES RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY KATE GARDNER, SECRETARY