

PTA Executive Board Meeting Minutes

December 1st, 2016, 8:30 a.m.

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

President Olson called the meeting to order 8:35 a.m.

President, Debra Olson

- **Buddy Bench**
 - President Olson shared that our Buddy Bench in honor of Mr. Rogers is ready to be unveiled, preferably on the 7th or 9th of next month. The goal of Buddy Benches is to promote friendships and inclusion and ensure that every child has a place on the playground.
- **Membership/Activity Fee Restructure**
 - Given that there is still some confusion regarding the separate membership dues and classroom activity fees, President Olson communicated that we will have one fee next year that will increase if the family has more than one child at Ross.
- **Purchases Approval**
 - Shed:
 - Two weatherized sheds for \$1000 were approved. Discussion followed regarding construction, possibly the 2nd weekend of the tree sale on December 10th, 2016.
 - Technology Needs:
 - President Olson reported that the Smart Boards have stopped working in the 4th and 5th grade classrooms. The functionality and cost of replacing them were discussed and it was voted to replace these with flat screen televisions and Apple TV software that easily function with the teachers' MacBooks, at a cost of less than \$1000 versus \$5000 Smart Boards. Also discussed was adding a Day in the Life section to the January agenda regarding how we use technology in the Ross classroom and DCPS curriculum.
- **Holiday Tree Donations**
 - The board discussed tree donations, and Lower-School Rep. Kamras to coordinate holiday and get-well card making and wreath decoration for Mr. Flanagan.

Treasurer's Report

- **Holiday Tree Sale**
 - President Olson provided an update on behalf of Treasurer Green. Treasurer Green has paid half of the Tree deposit, \$6,000. Holiday Tree Sale Chairman Spears reported that we have sold 40 trees online so far.
- **Finances**
 - President Olson also discussed updating the Finances portion of our By-Laws to make our accounting process more automated, paperless, and streamlined.

Secretary's Update

- **Membership Update**
 - Secretary Gardner provided an update on membership fees and activity dues, as well as on the class participation contest, noting that PK4 was the first class to reach 100%

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participation. Member sponsorships were also discussed, along with a Spring capital campaign, and next year's fee restructure.

Lower-School Rep. Update, Miwa Kamras

- **Social Justice/Community Service Committee**
 - Lower Class Rep. Kamras summarized the November meeting, including its vision and priorities, as well as next steps for the committee in the Winter. Ideas included parent workshops/coffees on particular social justice issues with professional facilitators; service learning nights where families can get involved; and a social justice spotlight on the website.

Announcements & Upcoming Events

- **The following announcements were made:**
 - The Student Leadership Team (SLT) will sponsor a food drive for Martha's Table from December 5th through December 9th.
 - The Student Leadership Team (SLT) will also sponsor "Spirit Days" from December 19th through December 21st, with our seventh annual Pajama Day to be held the day before Winter Break.
 - Two Math Nights will be offered this year: Wednesday, January 25th for the Early Childhood floor (PK3 through 1st) and Thursday, January 26th for the Upper Floor (Grades 2 through 5) from 6:00 through 7:30 p.m. with pizza dinner for sale at 6:00 p.m. both nights. Ms. Pazmino is coordinating the event and PTA to help get parent volunteers.
 - The 3rd PTA General Body Meeting will be rescheduled from January 18th, 2017 to January 11th, 2017.
 - Tuesday, February 14th, 2017 will be the Ski Trip for 4th & 5th grades.
 - Upper School Rep. Rabin to coordinate the Holiday lunch for the staff to be held on Friday, December 16th and catered by Bittersweet catering.

Meeting adjourned at 9:45 a.m.

Next EB Meeting is Friday, January 5th, 2017.

MEETING MINUTES RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY KATE GARDNER, SECRETARY