

Ross Elementary School
 PTA General Body Meeting Minutes
 September 19th, 2017, 5:30 p.m.

Welcome & President's Update: Nora Rigby

• President Rigby called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and welcomed all to the first PTA meeting of the 2017-2018 school year.

o She introduced this year's **Executive Board**:

- Nora Rigby: President
- Kari Cunningham: Vice-President
- Kate Gardner: Secretary
- Matt Adinolfi: Treasurer
- Shanti Sale: Lower School Rep
- Debra Olson: Upper School Rep
- Holly Searl: Principal

Homeroom Parents:

- Lindsay Jasser: PK3
- Amit Thakkar: PK4
- Christine Spears: K-1 Emminger
- Neha Misra: K-1 Eickmeyer
- Mara Karlin: 2nd Grade
- Alison Brody: 3rd Grade
- Barbara Donaldson: 4th & 5th Grade

and the **Local School Advisory Team (LSAT)**:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eugenia Agia (parent) • Sujeesh Krishnan (parent) • Alison Brody (parent) • Allison Rabin (parent) • Shailee Adinolfi (parent) • Nora Rigby, (PTA President) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jillian Atlas (Faculty) • Joseph Conlon (Faculty) • Teri Huet (Faculty) • Hannah Konig (Faculty) • Jacqueline Lee (Faculty) • Meghan Pazmino (Faculty) • Holly Searl, Principal
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o Following introductions, President Rigby, discussed the role of the PTA, which is to raise funds, build community, and to serve as a resource to families; and the role of the LSAT, which is to provide strategic advice and support to the school administration.

o President Rigby also discussed the PTA's fundraising activities throughout the school year, highlighting the Fall Membership Drive, Holiday Tree Sale, and Spring Auction, that help meet our annual revenue goal of \$144K. She requested that families donate their time,

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talents, and/ or money to fully support the faculty and staff at Ross Elementary so they can create the best and most productive educational experiences for our students.

- **PTA Financial Protocols: Matt Adinolfi, PTA Treasurer**

- o Treasurer Adinolfi presented on the financial health of our PTA, discussing the Board's fiduciary procedures and governance that ensure all expenditures are properly authorized, including check signature by two officers, as well as independent bookkeeping and auditing, along with a CPA who files required annual 990 tax forms.

- o Treasurer Adinolfi also highlighted that the community can review monthly financial updates, including income and expense totals, on our [website](#) and will provide financial reviews at the quarterly general body meetings.

- **Update on Ross Field: Kari Cunningham, PTA Vice President.**

- o Vice President Cunningham provided background information on artificial turf field replacement at Ross, including fundraising efforts over the past two years and last year's authorization vote to release the funds needed to re-turf the field. Since initial GMAX safety testing that measures the shock-performance of our field's surface in August, Principal Searl heard from the Department of General Services (DGS) that our field has been re-tested and will not be replaced or repaired. Vice President Cunningham shared that she is working with Principal Searl and city leadership to find out all pertinent information about our field so we can ensure its safety for our children. The Board recommends that we continue to gather information before we decide whether to replace the field ourselves with money budgeted for this purpose. After additional questions were raised, it was moved that we table the discussion to a separate information session later in the Fall.

- **Justice & Kindness Committee Update, Miwa Kamras, Comm. Chair**

- o Committee Chair Kamras introduced the committee and described its mission: to provide meaningful opportunities for Ross students and families to build community, practice kindness, and engage in the work of social justice. She asked that families sign up to take part this year, which will include service work with our partner organization, Martha's Table, as well as a parent coffee series with Culturally Competent Kids, whose mission is to equip parents and educators with the necessary tools to positively shape children's perceptions of what diversity is and how it impacts them and their lives.

- **Questions from the Floor, Nora Rigby, PTA President**

- o Questions were asked about after-school enrichment costs and locations after changes to the Ross after-school programming for the 2017-2018 school year occurred. A general discussion ensued, with President Rigby answering that as Ross is no longer a Title 1 school,

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we are not required to have after-care programming, and while the PTA did organize a Tennis program last year, it was not the best use of Principal's Searl time to organize and host enrichments on site. President Rigby encouraged everyone to read our after-school [FAQ](#). After recognition of another parent asking to establish an after-school committee to research after-care and enrichments at a non-Title 1 school, it was moved that the question be referred to a committee for separate review.

• **Announcements, Nora Rigby, PTA President**

o PARCC

Ross has the highest math scores in the city with a 10 point gain resulting in 85% of our Grade 3-5 students meeting/exceeding standards. In ELA, we gained 9 points, and are at 80% of our Grade 3-5 students meeting/exceeding standards, 3rd place in the city behind Stoddert and Janney.

o AmazonSmile

Please visit [AmazonSmile \(smile.amazon.com\)](https://smile.amazon.com), and select "Ross School Parent-Teacher Association" in Washington, D.C. in order for Ross to receive donations.

o Committee Sign Ups

The following committee sign-up sheets were circulated:

Open House – (October 13, 2017; January 12th, & February 9th, 2018)

Holiday Tree Sale (December 1-3, 2017)

Auction (April 21st, 2018)

Teacher Appreciation Week (May)

Justice and Kindness Committee (All Year)

Used Book Drive for schools impacted by the recent hurricanes

o Upcoming PTA events:

The following events were highlighted:

Walk to School Day - Wednesday, October 4th, 2017

Picture Day - Friday, October 6th, 2017

Ross @DC United - Sunday, October 22nd, 2017

Halloween Spooktacular - Thursday, October 26th, 2017

Movie Night - Thursday, November 9th, 2017

Stead Park Recreation Center Community Meeting - Sat, Sept. 23, 2017

Meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Adjournment: Next General Body Meeting Date is Wednesday, November 8th, at 6:00 p.m.

MEETING MINUTES RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY KATE GARDNER, SECRETARY