

PTA Executive Board Meeting Minutes  
September 1<sup>st</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**

- **Ross Screen on the Green**
  - President Olson announced that the first annual Ross Screen on the Green is scheduled for Thursday, September 29<sup>th</sup>. The quote for outdoor screen, projector, sound system, and technician will be \$715. Following discussion, and upon motion duly made, seconded, and unanimously carried, the Board approved, and we will plan to charge for popcorn and pizza.
    - Vice President Rigby to investigate the film license necessary for outdoor movie events.
    - Principal Searl to let Ms. Mitchell know about opportunities for the Student Leadership Team (SLT) to help at the movie night.
    - Treasurer Green to check into popcorn machines from Amazon.
    - The Board to look into top children's movies to show at the event.
- **Bench Refurbishing**
  - President Olson reported that Phil is overhauling the benches, two at a time, and will charge no more than \$3700 for all. Following discussion, and upon motion duly made, seconded, and unanimously carried, the Board voted to accept bench costs. Vice President Rigby plans to find plaques for benches, e.g. Mr. Rogers Buddy Bench.
- **Turf Update**
  - President Olson provided an update on the turf replacement project on our field. As the FieldTurf product, a sand and rubber concoction, lasts about 10 years, and our field is over 10 years old now, we are looking into replacement options for the infill material that is different than the current recycled crumb rubber. Previously, DGS was to set aside funds in its new budget this October to replace our Fieldturf synthetic field, but unfortunately, members of the Artificial Task Force Team, Stephen Kitterman from DGS and Bridget Stesney from DCPS, reported that our field did not make the cut, although our field will be maintained to include grooming, sweeping, and removal of debris. While we can fundraise (to add to the \$10K Auction fundraiser), we will need to get approval from DCPS.
- **Shed**
  - President Olson related that the sheds in back did not work. While Phil could make something custom that would cost about \$4K, Principal Searl reminded the Board that we cannot install anything permanent, as this is not our property, and suggested an outdoor committee to handle shed and turf issues. After discussion, the Board agreed to refer issue.
- **D.C. United Game**
  - After discussion, the Board approved a Ross day at RFK Stadium this October.

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- **National Coffee Day**
  - President Olson suggested a PTA coffee morning on National Coffee Day, Thursday, October 29<sup>th</sup> using ThreeFifty Bakery and the Board agreed.
- **Website**
  - Web Master Pazmino relayed that we can now embed products from our Square account on our website, which will increase the cost by 15%, but does show closer to 250 items instead of 10. After a suggestion, the Board agreed to raise some prices of the Ross merchandise. The Board also discussed and approved payment for work done on the website.
- **Back to School Childcare**
  - President Olson communicated that we will use Steam cafe pizza and pay babysitters \$30 with pizza, recommending 3 per night.

**Principal's Update, Holly Searl**

- **After School Programming Parent Committee**
  - Principal Searl shared that after there was some dissatisfaction with an after-school and summer camp provider, an after-school programming committee will be formed to oversee the priorities and implementation of after-school activities and to enhance the enrichment programs offered to Ross students.
- **School Opening Update**
  - Principal Searl announced that we had a super positive opening, with 171 kids enrolled, our largest to date, and shared the following class sizes:

14 in PK3	19 in PK4 (1 seat to be filled before count day in October)
25 in K1/E (14:K; 11:1 <sup>st</sup> )	25 in K1/M (14 K; 11:1 <sup>st</sup> )
25 in 2 <sup>nd</sup>	27 in 3 <sup>rd</sup>
23 in 4 <sup>th</sup>	13 in 5 <sup>th</sup>

**Vice President's Update, Nora Rigby**

- **Louisiana flood victims service project**
  - Vice President Rigby shared with the board how devastating flooding has affected schools in Louisiana, and wiped out the library collection at Glen Oaks Park Elementary School in Baton Rouge. She proposed that she coordinate a September service project to donate new books and collect financial contributions to rebuild this library. The board agreed.

**Treasurer's Update, Andrea Green**

- **Finances**
  - Treasurer Green reported that she has been busy rebuilding the past three years of financials, as well as ensuring our tax-exempt status. She communicated that we will try to automate the accounting processes as much as possible. Treasurer Green also provided an update on the Ross merchandise to date; with about \$4K spent, the PTA

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plans to sell items at the upcoming picnic, on National Coffee Day, as well as on our Square store where we can list all items with inventory counts.

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

- **Public Service/Social Justice Engagement and Opportunities**
  - Lower-School Rep. Kamras announced the plan to create a committee that makes community service and social justice a priority this year and ties in with Ross class curriculums. She highlighted some possible school wide service activities with local partners such as Martha's Table and DC Central Kitchen, as well as family service nights.
- **September Potluck Picnic**
  - Lower-School Rep. Kamras provided an update about the upcoming picnic to celebrate the start of the school year. In addition to the Zumba dance instructor that Vice President Rigby booked, she brought up some suggestions to build community, as well as logistics.

**Secretary Update, Kate Gardner**

- **Membership Update**
  - Secretary Gardner provided an update on PTA membership to date, reporting that 40 families have joined; 100 new member forms have been printed; and the online form and link to join and pay via Paypal is now live.

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

**Next EB Meeting is moved to Friday, October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

MEETING MINUTES RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY KATE GARDNER, SECRETARY