



General Body PTA Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, September 16th, 2015

PTA President, Debra Olson, called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

Welcome: PTA President, Debra Olson

- Opening Remarks & Introduction of the 2015-2016 PTA Executive Board Members
 - President: Debra Olson
 - Co-Vice Presidents: Stacey Rodriguez & Lisa Juriga
 - Co-Treasurers: Allison Rabin & Cherish Medawar
 - Fundraising: Kevin Wood
 - Secretary: Kate Gardner
 - At-Large Member, Lower Grades: Camila Viegas-Lee
 - At-Large Member, Upper Grades: Tena Howell
- Introduction of our 2015-2016 Homeroom Representatives (HRR)
 - Nora Rigby, PK3
 - Erin Kucerik & Neha Misra, PK4
 - George & Margarita Gutierrez, K
 - Mark MacEwan, 1st
 - Joel Churches, 2nd
 - Natalie Halich, 3rd
 - Jennifer Touchette, 4th & 5th

Principal's Update: Holly Searl

- 169 students are enrolled for the 2015-2016 year.
- Provided an update on our test scores, new initiatives, and partnerships (please see attached PowerPoint). Some highlights:
 - We surpassed our target goals in reading, writing, and student satisfaction.
 - We are a DC pilot school for Project M² (Mentoring Young Mathematicians) & Project M³ (Mentoring Mathematical Minds), math gifted enrichment curriculum for grades K-5, and are using ST Math this year, instructional software that introduces math concepts visually without relying on language proficiency.
 - Our partnership with Department of Interior is ending in December.
- Introduced new faculty: Jillian Atlas (3rd); Bethany Bronson (Instructional Coach); Katherine Mustian (1st); Paul Stewart (Spanish); Meghan Pazmino (ELL).
- Thanked Ms. Lee & Mr. Rogers for their continuing 25 and 23 years at Ross, respectively.

Special Guest: Lateefah S. Williams, Esq. Attorney Advisor, Community Outreach, Office of the Attorney General for D.C.

- Ms. Williams is working with elected D.C. Attorney General, Karl Racine, focusing on community outreach, engagement and education, including outreach to schools on preventing violence so students do not ever reach the OAG Juvenile section. She is looking forward to partnering with us in anyway possible, e.g. consumer protection, bullying prevention.

Treasurer Update: Allison Rabin

- The PTA has \$156,000 in the bank and we have raised approximately \$8500 from the fall membership drive so far.
- Continuing to seek 100% participation of parents with suggested dues of \$100.00 for membership per family and \$100.00 for activity fee per child. PTA funds support many expenses such as additional staff, staff development, and classroom supplies.
- Save the Date for our Annual Auction on March 19th, 2016 at the Human Rights Campaign building. This is our largest fundraiser of the year and there will be plenty of opportunities to volunteer.

Fundraising Update: Kevin Wood

- Ross Day at Nats Park on September 27th at 1:35 p.m. with seats in the shade, is also a “Signature Sunday” and “Kids Run the Bases” day. 1/3 of the cost of each \$25.00 ticket will benefit the PTA. Kindly return forms by 23 September.
- Ross Day at RFK for D.C. United v Chicago Fire is at 2:00 p.m. on October 18th. Tickets are \$21.00 and 1/3 of each ticket will go back to the PTA. Note there will be a lottery held for ticket holders for 25 kids to participate in the “high five line” on the field.
- Ross Electronics Recycling Event with Washington Fine Properties will be held on October 24th from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., with donations of electronics and proceeds to benefit Ross.

Membership Update: Kate Gardner

- Thanked Mr. Markus and Mr. Rogers for being the first teachers to join the PTA, along with the 40 families who have joined to date and noted continued opportunities to join to support Ross students.

Upcoming Events

- National Walk to School Day (10.7): Jennifer Touchette
 - Ross Walk to School Day is a chance for all kids to walk (bike or scoot) to school with their friends and our goal is to recruit 100 kids.

- We will have two meet up points, one at 15th & R, with a police horse escort, and school breakfast and coffee on the playground (weather permitting).
- Jennifer Touchette recruited a PK3 parent to help with the event (thank you).
- Spooktacular (10.29): Debra Olson for Sarah Gilmore
 - Our third annual Spooktacular will be on October 29th from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., which has traditionally included a costume parade with trick-or-treating; a haunted garden; and festival on the field.
 - There will be a survey going out from homeroom representatives so we can prioritize and streamline the Spooktacular events this year since it has required a lot of effort in the past.
 - The Spooktacular will require a parent to take over or co-chair and there will be many opportunities to volunteer.
- Picture Day (10.15)
 - Picture Day is also a Free Dress day and we will use Freed Photography again this year, with portraits to be taken in the garden. The photos will also be used in the yearbook and all ordering will be done online.
- 1st Open House (10.21)
 - Our first Open House of the year will be on Wednesday, October 21st starting at 9:00 a.m. Homeroom parents will send out volunteer opportunities to give tours to prospective families. No preparation is required; you will be given a fact sheet with frequently asked questions.

Announcements

- Thank you to Shanti Sale for updating our website.
- Reminder for parents to create an account through the Ross website and subscribe to the class e-mail lists.
- DCPS Office of Food and Nutrition Services is re-bidding the district's food service contracts for 2016-2017 and to make sure their selection process incorporates the opinions and preferences of our families, please fill out the OFNS Parent [Survey](#) by September 30, 2015 (<http://tinyurl.com/orzl9sa>).
- Our next General Body PTA meeting is scheduled for November 18, 2015 at 6:00 p.m., with Labyrinth providing childcare.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

MEETING MINUTES RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY KATE GARDNER, SECRETARY



ROSS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

PTA General Body Meeting
September 16, 2015

*Building Knowledge through
Joyful Rigorous Instruction*



VISION

**WE ARE A DIVERSE COMMUNITY SHARING
A COMMON PASSION FOR ACADEMIC
EXCELLENCE AND SERVICE TO OTHERS.**

R: Rigorous academics

O: Open-minded, respectful
community

S: Strong sense of self

S: Service to others

Our Progress

	Target	Achievement
Reading	81%	91%
Writing	80%	95%
Math	69%	66%
Student Satisfaction	96%+	100%



Moving Forward



Increases in student learning occur only as a consequence of improvements in:

1

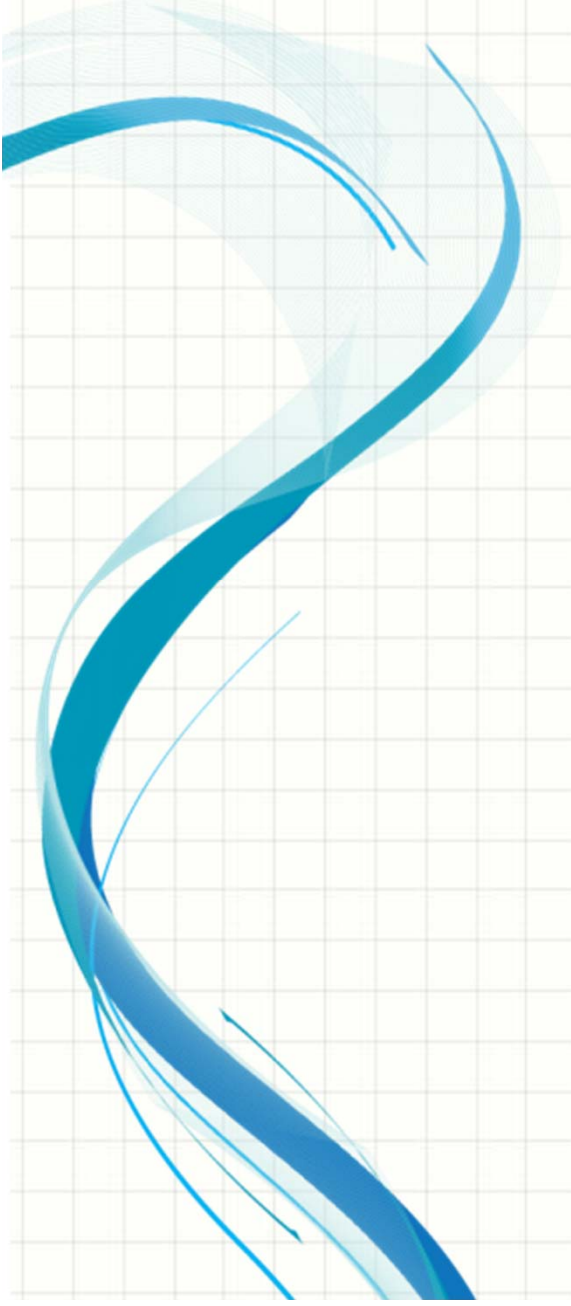
- The level of content

2

- Teachers' knowledge and skill

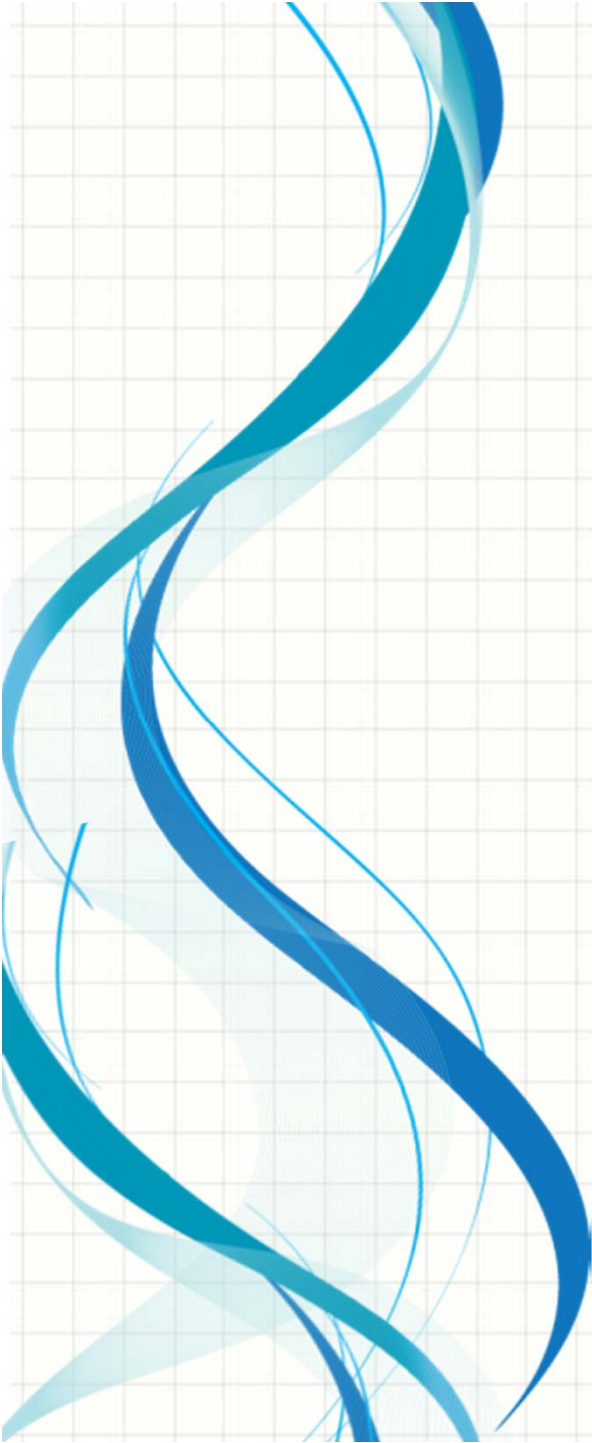
3

- Student Engagement



Mathematics: *Rigor*
and Conceptual
Understanding

- M2/M3
- ST Math



ELA: *Content and Text Complexity*

- Evidence-based Writing
- Vocabulary
- Emphasis on Non-fiction



CONTINUING PARTNERSHIPS

- *Kennedy Center: Artists in Residence and Field Trips*
- *DC Arts and Humanities Council*
- *ReSET Science Core Partner School*
- *Everybody WinsDC!*
- *YMCA and JCC after care*
- *Higher Achievement*
- *Department of Interior*



WHAT'S NEW?

- *Physical Education Grant: Professional Development, Bikes, Fishing, Golf, Family Fitness*
- *Engineering is Elementary (Grade 2)*
- *Overnight Trip (Grade 5)*
- *Spanish (PK3-2nd)*
- *Expanded Library Time*
- *Theatre Enrichment After School*
- *Fillmore Classes: PK3/PK4 on site; Ukelele*
- *Faculty*



**THANK YOU FOR PARTNERING
WITH US**