



Ross Elementary School

PTA Executive Board Meeting Minutes

August 30th, 2018, 8:45 a.m.

**In attendance:**

Kate Gardner, President | Holly Searl, Principal | Alison Brody, Vice President | Matt Adinolfi, Treasurer | Stefanie Schneider, Secretary | Diane Frendak, At-Large Member, Upper Grades | Amit Thakkar, At-Large Member, Lower Grades

**Welcome**

President Gardner called the meeting to order at 8:53 a.m. and welcomed the Board.

**Principal's Update, Principal Searl**

Principal Searl reported that Ross has record enrollment this year with 196 students and new children in every grade level. There are 139 families. There are 22 fifth graders, which is a record during her tenure. Principal Searl reported that the school is now fully staffed, with Tysean Currington coming on board as a K-1 aide at the beginning of the week.

Principal Searl reported that Ross gained 9 points in reading on PARC. Ross is now the top performing elementary school in the city for reading, and there is no racial achievement gap at Ross. There is a continued focus on English language learners and closing the gap. Ross also has the highest Insight data for the city, which reflects teacher feedback and feelings about the school.

**Treasurer's Update, Matt Adinolfi**

Treasurer Adinolfi reported that he would send out a summary of the financials. The budget for the year is about \$150,000 and there is \$125,000 in the bank right now at the start of the school year.

**President's Update, Kate Gardner**

**a. PTA Membership and Merchandise**

President Gardner reported that 50 families have joined the PTA. With monthly pledges, the PTA membership drive has brought in \$27,000. The board agreed that the first two classes to reach 100% membership can have a free dress day or an extra recess. 149 students have bought school supplies. Lower School Representative Thakkar suggested clarifying the difference between membership, supplies, and merchandise as there was some confusion



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among parents. Secretary Schneider likewise suggested clarifying that PTA members must renew their membership each year and that the monthly charges do not roll over from one school year to another.

The PTA agreed to give new baseball shirts to the staff as a thank you for all of their work.

**a. Calendar Discussion**

Walk to school day is on October 10 at 7:45. Spooktacular is Tuesday, October 30. Movie night is November 9. The board will propose possible movies and there will be a survey for parents to vote. Vice President Brody offered to spearhead the movie night. Principal Searl advised that this year children need to be accompanied by an adult at the movie event. The proposed date for the auction is March 30 at Human Rights Campaign.

Principal Searl advised that this year there will be monthly multicultural celebrations. The first one will celebrate Hispanic Heritage month on September 4, 2018 and will be led by Senor Stewart.

**a. Field Update**

President Gardner reported that DCPS is going to pay for a new field and new playground to be constructed next summer. New federal guidelines on field standards will come out this fall. DGS and DCPS will engage families on playground equipment. Principal Searl suggested earmarking previously allocated field money for extra enhancements to the playground above and beyond the DCPS budget.

**a. Communications Update**

In response to parent feedback, a decision was made to send out weekly emails with the principal's bulletin and PTA update in the same format as last year. Because the new website does not have a feature to sign up for email lists, the board will use the class email lists collected by the room parents for this bulletin. Parents will be able to opt out if they do not wish to receive the weekly bulletin. The bulletin will also be posted online. This update about how to sign up will be in the next bulletin and also on a flyer that will go home next week.

**a. Bylaws Amendment**



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President Gardner proposed amending bylaws to reflect current committees. The amendment would remove outreach/membership, picture, and school directory committees. The board discussed additional outreach to welcome in new families apart from the committee.

**Upper School Representative, Diane Frendak**

**a. Back to School Picnic**

Upper School Representative Frendak reported that 82 guests have RSVPed. The forms have been submitted and she will order chairs from the warehouse for the picnic and make a flyer to go in kids' folders.

**Announcements**

On Tuesday Sept. 25 at 8:30 a.m. staff from DCPS will be at the school to fingerprint parents as part of the volunteer clearance process for field trips.

Meeting adjourned at 10:14 a.m.

Next EB Meeting Date is Thursday, October 4 at 5:00 p.m.

MEETING MINUTES RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY STEFANIE SCHNEIDER, SECRETARY