



Ross Elementary School
 PTA General Body Meeting Minutes
 September 5th, 2018, 6:00 p.m.

Welcome & PTA Overview: Kate Gardner, PTA President

President Kate Gardner called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m. and welcomed all to the first PTA meeting of the 2018-2019 school year. She introduced the executive board, committee chairs, and LSAT members.

- Executive Board

- President: Kate Gardner (2nd & PK4)
- Vice President: Alison Brody (4th & K-1)
- Secretary: Stefanie Schneider (K-1)
- Treasurer: Matt Adinolfi (K-1 & PK3)
- Upper Class Rep.: Diane (5th)
- Lower Class Rep.: Amit Thakkar (K-1 & PK3)

- Committee Chairs

- Auction Chair: Debbie Huang Sundberg
- Holiday Tree Sale Chair: Geraldine Gardner
- Mother’s & Father’s Day Book Drive Chairs: Eugenia Agia and Valerie Kindt
- Open House Chair: Dayner Baer
- Spooktacular Chair: Katie Mastin
- Teacher Appreciation Chair, Open
- Community Service Chair, Open

- Room Parents

- PK3: Nina & Zane Kanderian
- PK4: Liz Lowery & Sam Hewitt
- K-1 Emminger: Adam Kent
- K-1 Eickmeyer: Katie Mastin & Allison Rapp
- 2nd Grade: Neha Misra & Shanti Sale
- 3rd Grade: Diane Gross & Khalid Pitts
- 4th Grade: Amy Bauer & Alison Brody
- 5th Grade: Arthur Griffin

- LSAT

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Daniel Adler (Parent) ○ Sujeesh Krishna (Parent) ○ Neha Misra (Parent) ○ Debra Olson (Parent) ○ Kate Gardner (PTA Board) ○ Vacant (Community Member/IB) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Alex Randall (4-5 Aide) ○ Lisa Juriga (Librarian) ○ Tyler Hercules (K-1 Aide) ○ Kelly Emminger (K-1 Teacher) ○ Kelly Gruse (2nd Grade Teacher) ○ Principal Holly Searl
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President Gardner explained that the role of the PTA is to raise funds, build community, and serve as a resource to families. She explained that the PTA raises 150K every year to supplement the DCPS budget so that that Principal Searl can hire additional human capital such as an aide in every classroom, a full time Spanish teacher, and a full time PE teacher. She highlighted that the PTA pays for things like office supplies, mosquito control, curriculum materials like Handwriting Without Tears, library books, technology in the classroom, professional development, field trips, enrichment events, school wide events, and need-based confidential scholarships for after school enrichments.

President Gardner asked parents to contribute to the PTA in some manner, whether it is money, time, or talent. President Gardner explained that there is a class competition to reach 100% participation and emphasized that families can join for as little as \$1.

LSAT President Adler explained that the LSAT is a DCPS-mandated board that advises the principal on key school planning issues such as the budget. President Adler explained that the meetings are open to community members, and he welcomed thoughts or feedback. An anticipated topic this year is the middle school transition.

Treasurer's Report: Matt Adinolfi, PTA Treasurer

Treasurer Adinolfi presented on the financial health of the PTA and explained the revenue targets and budget expenditures. He reported that the total revenue goal is \$152,000 and last year the PTA raised \$188,192. He highlighted the school-to-school initiative, which is a new budget item this year. The PTA will donate \$2,500 of the proceeds from the holiday tree and bake sale to PTAs at other schools that do not have the capital to start their own fundraisers.

Committee Updates, 2018-2019

President Gardner introduced the committees and asked attendees to sign up for committees. A few were highlighted in particular:

- Holiday Tree Sale, Geraldine Gardner
 - Both a fundraiser and community building event
 - There will be a bake sale and community service event
 - Might do a gingerbread house decorating event
- Auction, Debbie Sundberg
 - Committee Chair Sundberg announced that the auction will be March 30, 2019 at the Human Rights Campaign.
 - She encouraged parents to donate items to the auction and help plan the event and procure items.
- Mother & Father's Day Book Drive
 - Takes place over 4 days at the end of April
 - Ask people to donate \$25 for a book plate in a book, and a letter honoring them



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- o Largest fundraiser for library – raised \$7,000 last year
- Additional Library Fundraising
 - o Ms. Juriga announced that this year, instead of a Scholastic book fair, Ross will host a book trolley in October. A second event will take place at Politics & Prose on Sunday, March 24, 2019. A portion of the proceeds from both events will benefit the library

Upcoming PTA events

The following upcoming events were highlighted:

- Back to School Picnic - Wednesday, September 12th, 6:00pm, Diane Frendak
- Picture Day - Friday, October 5th
- Walk to School Day - Wednesday, October 10th, Debra Olson
- Open House - Friday, October 12th, 9:00 a.m.
- Ross @DC United - Sunday, October 21st, Debra Olson
 - o Six kids in grades 2-5 grade will be selected to carry the flag. Those who are interested should write “yes” on their form and flag bearers will be chosen by lottery.
- Halloween Spooktacular - Tuesday, October 30th
- Movie Night -Friday, November 9th

Principal’s Update: Principal Searl

Principal Searl welcomed new and returning families to the school. She announced that Ross has exceeded its enrollment target and is now at 196 students. Last year at this time, enrollment was 171 students. The fifth grade is record size with 22 students. Principal Searl acknowledged that the growth creates challenges for facilities management. She reported that she has asked DCPS to make a final determination about the feasibility of finishing the attic space and that DCPS came out to evaluate it last week. She reassured parents that the school has supplemental staff, such as Ms. Mitchell, to work with small groups make the numbers work. She emphasized that Ross will get more money next year based on the larger enrollment this year because the school is funded based on bottoms in seats on audit date (October 5). Ross also receives additional funding for at-risk, ELL, or special education students.

Principal Searl announced that children have had 2 fire drills already and will do another one in September. Next week there will also be a lock down (stranger) drill and evacuation drill. While the JCC is being renovated, the evacuation site is Marie Reed. She asked parents to talk to their children about what will happen in an emergency and make sure that they know emergency phone numbers. She emphasized that the only people who can pick up kids in the event of an emergency are parents or people who are listed on that sheet.

Principal Searl passed out a summary of the Panorama survey results as well as PARCC results. She reported that Ross is now the highest scoring school in the city in ELA other than test-in



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high schools. It is also the second highest performing school in math. She highlighted that Ross is outperforming schools with similar demographics and has no black/white achievement gap.

Update on Ross Field: Kate Gardner & Principal Searl

Principal Searl reported that DCPS is going to replace the field and playground next summer. The board recommends that the PTA put the money that was previously earmarked for the field towards playgrounds enhancement.

Special Guest, John Claud, Friends of Fillmore President

Fillmore President John Claud explained that Fillmore is an arts and music facility that Ross, Key, and Stoddert use because they do not have dedicated arts space. He asked for parents to contribute to this effort and consider joining the PTO. He said that he anticipates a renewed budget fight to keep Fillmore open. He explained that Friends of Fillmore supports the teachers and pays for instrument repair and other supplies such as clay.

Adjournment: 7:25 p.m.; the next PTA General Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 7th at 6:00 p.m.

ROSS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

A Place For Children To Grow

Ross PTA General Body Meeting
September 5th, 2018



1. Welcome & PTA Overview: Kate Gardner, PTA President, 6:00 p.m.
2. Treasurer's Report: Matt Adinolfi, PTA Treasurer, 6:10 p.m.
3. Committee Updates & Sign Ups, 2018-2019, 6:20
4. Principal's Update: Principal Searl, 6:30
5. Update on Ross Field: Kate Gardner & Principal Searl, 6:45 p.m.
6. Special Guest, John Claud, Friends of Fillmore President, 6:50 p.m.
7. Announcements & Upcoming PTA events, 6:55 p.m.
 - a. Back to School Picnic - Wednesday, September 12th, 6:00pm
 - b. Picture Day - Friday, October 5th
 - c. Walk to School Day - Wednesday, October 10th, Debra Olson
 - d. Open House - Friday, October 12th, 9:00 a.m.
 - e. Ross @DC United - Sunday, October 21st, Debra Olson
 - f. Halloween Spooktacular - Tuesday, October 30th
 - g. Movie Night -Friday, November 9th
8. *Adjournment: 7:00 p.m.; the next PTA General Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 7th at 6:00 p.m.*

2018-19 PTA Executive Board

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- Vice President – Alison Brody (4th & K-1)
- Secretary – Stefanie Schneider (K-1)
- Treasurer – Matt Adinolfi (K-1 & PK3)
- Upper Class Rep – Diane Frendak (5th)
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Ross Parent Leaders

Committee Chairs

- Auction Chair: Debbie Huang Sundberg
- Holiday Tree Sale Chair: Geraldine Gardner
- Mother's & Father's Day Book Drive Chairs, Eugenie Agia and Valerie Kindt
- Open House Chair, Dayna Baer
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Local School Advisory Team

Daniel Adler (Parent)	Alex Randall (4-5 Aide)
Sujeesh Krishnan (Parent)	Lisa Juriga (Librarian)
Neha Misra (Parent)	Tyler Hercules (K-1 Aide)
Debra Olson (Parent)	Kelly Emminger (K-1 Teacher)
Kate Gardner (PTA Board)	Kelly Gruse (2nd Teacher)
Vacant (Community Member/IB)	Principal Holly Searl

(LSAT, continued...)

- Required at every DCPS School
- Advises the Principal on (from DCPS materials)
 - allocation of school resources;
 - organization of the school;
 - curriculum options, including special or supplementary course offerings and specialized research-based instructional strategies;
 - budget decisions;
 - priorities and considerations for staffing patterns and the selection of personnel;
 - monitoring overall student progress;
 - school culture, and
 - family engagement.

**BYLAWS
OF THE
ROSS SCHOOL PARENT-TEACHER
ASSOCIATION**

Article I—Name, Location and Purpose

Section 1: The name of the organization shall be the Ross School Parent Teacher Association.

Section 2: The organization is located at 1730 R Street, NW, Washington, DC 20009.

Section 3: The organization is organized exclusively for charitable, religious, educational, or scientific purposes under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code. Specifically, the purpose of this organization is to:

- A. Support the education of all Ross Elementary School (Ross) students,
- B. Support Ross faculty and staff,
- C. Foster relationships among parents, staff, and community members, and
- D. Assist Ross faculty and staff to provide a safe and nurturing environment where all students, families, and faculty can thrive and grow.

Ross PTA Purposes

Fundraising



Community Building



Why does the PTA need to raise funds?



What does the PTA Pay For?

- **All office and classroom supplies** for the school so that Principal Searl may hire additional staff not budgeted for by DCPS, such as aides for every classroom and a full time Spanish teacher.
- **Teacher trainings** on the latest in literacy, STEM education, and brain-based research.
- **Field trips and enrichment experiences** that expose Ross students to all that DC has to offer, including partnerships with the Kennedy Center, the National Arts and Humanities Council, the Phillips Collection, Imagination Stage, ReSET Science, and Camp Fraser.

What does the PTA Pay For? (Con't)

- ***Classroom technology*** to supplement and tailor the DCPS curriculum to your child's needs.
- ***School-wide events*** to help foster greater community among the Ross students and families.
- ***Need-based, confidential scholarships*** for after school and other enrichment opportunities, such as those at the EDJCC.

What PTA Needs From You

▣ **Key PTA Fundraisers**

- ▣ Membership Drive (September)
- ▣ Holiday Tree Sale & Bake Sale (December)
- ▣ Annual Auction (Spring)
- ▣ Mother's & Father's Day Book Drive (April/May)
- ▣ Ross Merchandise: t-shirts, sweatshirts, etc. (year-round)

▣ ***Donate Money***

▣ ***Special Talents?***

- ▣ Carpentry? graphic design? restaurant owner? web design?

▣ ***Feedback*** – email us!

Help Wanted

- ▣ **Committee Sign-Ups, Tonight and Online**
 - ▣ ****Auction, Chair: Debbie Sundberg*
 - ▣ *Holiday Tree Sale, Chair: Geraldine Gardner*
 - ▣ *Mother's & Father's Day Book Drive, Eugenie Agia*
 - ▣ *Spooktacular, Chair: Katie Mastin*
 - ▣ *Teacher Appreciation, Chair: Open*
 - ▣ *Open House, Chair: Dayna Baer*
 - ▣ *Community Service, Chair: Open*

PTA Revenue Targets (SY2018-19)

CATEGORY	AMOUNT
Auction	\$50,000
Membership	\$45,000
Tree Sale	\$28,000
Classroom/School Supplies	\$14,500
Mother's and Father's Day Book Drive	\$6,500
Community Partnerships/Other	\$6,000
Merchandise	\$2,500
TOTAL REVENUE GOAL	\$152,000



**Ross School PTA
Statement of Activity**

	Actual FY17-18	Budget FY18-19
REVENUE		
Membership Dues	\$51,445.34	45,000
Annual School Supplies	\$22,971.31	14,500
Merchandise Income	\$2,613.00	2,500
Auction Revenue	\$52,818.62	50,000
Tree Sale	\$30,603.71	28,000
Mothers/Fathers Day Book Sale	\$7,183.09	6,500
Yearbook Revenue	\$2,838.17	
COMMUNITY & PTA Event Income	\$2,928.10	0
Miscellaneous Fundraising (Total)	\$14,791.00	4,000
Community Partnership		2,000
TOTAL REVENUE	\$188,192	\$ 152,500
EXPENDITURES		
Total COMMUNITY & PTA EVENTS	\$6,373	7,500
Curricular Supplies	\$8,024	10,000
School Enrichment Programs Expense	\$2,710	2,500
School to School Initiative	\$1,633	2,500
Field Trip Expense	\$11,755	10,000
Total Fundraising Expense	\$29,029	29,500
Total General Admin (PTA Overhead)	\$14,276	13,500
Library/Classroom Books	\$5,650	7,500
Merchandise Expense	\$2,284	2,000
Total Operations Supplies	\$23,140	11,500
Staff Appreciation	\$2,678	3,000
Staff Development	\$12,100	18,000
Staff Discretionary Classroom Supplies	\$12,724	15,000
Technology	\$18,336	20,000
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$150,711	\$ 152,500
NET INCOME	\$37,481	\$ 0

Upcoming PTA Events

- **Back to School Picnic**, Wednesday, Sept. 12th, Diane Friendak
- **School Picture Day (Volunteers)**, *Friday, October 6th*
- **Walk to School Day**, *Wednesday, October 10th, Debra Olson*
- **Open House**, *Friday, October 12th*
- **Ross at DC United**, *Sunday, October 21st, Debra Olson*
- **Halloween Spooktacular**, *Tuesday, October 30th, Katie Mastin*
- **2nd General PTA Meeting**, *Wednesday, Nov. 7th*
- **Ross Movie Night**, *Thursday, November 9th*

Announcements

Ross Field Updates

Amazon Smile for Ross

DCPS at Ross for Fingerprinting: Sept. 25

Merchandise