



Ross Elementary School  
PTA Executive Board Meeting Minutes  
November 2nd, 2018, 8:00 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 & Approval of Minutes, Kate Gardner**

President Gardner called the meeting to order at 8:10 a.m. and welcomed the Board. The Board agreed to approved the minutes from the October 4, 2018 Executive Board meeting by email.

**President's Update, Kate Gardner**

**a. Holiday Tree & Bake Sale**

President Gardner reported that Geraldine Gardner has to withdraw as holiday tree sale chair but has already ordered 400 trees and done a lot of work on the back end. President Gardner has reached out to prior chairs and volunteers to recruit a new chair or co-chairs. The Board discussed starting online sales in early November. President Gardner reported that two trucks are reserved for the event. The Board discussed reaching out to the Ross community to see if others will lend their trucks.

The tree sale is confirmed for December 8 & 9 (and December 15 if there are trees leftover). The PTA, led by Vice President Brody, will host sandwich making for Martha's Table on the 8<sup>th</sup>. Patricia Villamil has also offered to donate supplies and lead a gingerbread making event on the 8<sup>th</sup>. Principal Searl advised that the building will be open from 9 to 1, and the two events can be staggered in the cafeteria, with children signing up in advance. Ms. Juriga will lead card making in the library. Mr. Ewing and Ms. Konig are also planning STEM activities for the 8<sup>th</sup> which will take place in the garden, weather permitting.

**b. Auction Update**

President Gardner reported that the auction committee had its kickoff meeting last week and will be holding bi-monthly meetings at Treehouse Atelier. The committee is voting on themes.

**c. November 7<sup>th</sup> the General Meeting Agenda**

President Gardner reported that the JCC will provide childcare for the next PTA meeting. The PTA agenda will include discussion of the Shaw Middle School site, a



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report on what the PTA does, and a report by Mr. Ewing on STEM projects being done with the PTA funds.

### **Treasurer's Update, Matt Adinolfi**

Treasurer Adinolfi reported that the budget is in the good shape. The PTA has hit 30% of its revenue target, and the membership dues are consistent with last year. He reported that the PTA has spent 50% of its budget, which is expected because of front loaded costs for the holiday tree sale and auction.

### **Principal's Update, Principal Searl**

Principal Searl reported that the LSAT was invited to participate in a phone call about the possibility of moving Banneker to the Shaw Middle School site. She reported that DCPS's enrollment audit will be on Monday. On the count day, there were 188 students. Principal Searl advised that enrollment projections for next year are due soon.

The Board discussed circulating a survey about parent education re topics. Possible topics include human development issues, anxiety, bullying, setting boundaries, raising an independent child, and screen time.

Principal Searl reported that there is a federal requirement that states must rank their schools. OSSE will be publishing a new report card of DCPS and charter schools. OSSE will use the STAR framework which gives a 5-star rating based on factors such as performance (as measured by PARC), performance growth, attendance, and re-enrollment. Principal Searl reported that Ross's re-enrollment rate was 92% this year, the highest it has ever been, due to retention of fifth graders.

Upper School Representative Friendak proposed that the PTA maintain several extra Metro cards that can be used in the event that a child forgets his or her card on a field trip day. Upper School Representative Friendak will preload several cards and spearhead this pilot project.

### **Upcoming Events**

Vice President Brody reported that the November 9 movie night will feature Paddington 2 and will start at 6 p.m. President Gardner will recruit some movie night volunteers.

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 a.m.



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Next EB Meeting Date is rescheduled for Friday, November 29 at 5:00 p.m.

MEETING MINUTES RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY STEFANIE SCHNEIDER,  
SECRETARY