



Ross Elementary School
PTA General Body Meeting Minutes
November 7th, 2018, 6:00 p.m.

Welcome, Kate Gardner, PTA President

President Gardner called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. She reminded the PTA that the PTA's main function is fundraising. She reported that the first fundraising event was very successful, with 85% of families joining the PTA. The PK4 class reached 100% participation first, followed by PK3. With pledges, the membership drive raised \$57,000 for the school.

President Gardner reported that both the Back to School Picnic and Spooktacular were successes. The next community event is a Movie Night on November 9 with a screening of Paddington 2. If there is inclement weather, the movie night will be rescheduled in the spring.

President Gardner announced that the Holiday Tree Sale will be December 8 & 9. It will continue on December 15 if there are leftover trees. She explained that the sale will be a week later than usual because the trees are reportedly dry this year. She requested volunteers to help sell and deliver trees. President Gardner also announced that on December 8 (the first day of the tree sale), there will be a gingerbread house decorating event, sandwich making for Martha's Table, card writing for veterans in the library, and possibly a STEM activity in garden. President Gardner reported that the DCPS Expo is also on December 8 and additional volunteers are needed.

President Gardner reported that the second auction committee meeting would occur immediately after the PTA meeting and encouraged parents to attend and volunteer. The goal of the auction is to raise \$50,000 for the PTA.

LSAT Update, President Daniel Adler

LSAT President Daniel Adler reported that the LSAT has been discussing physical space due to increased enrollment. He explained that there are currently 188 students, and that the building capacity is in the mid 170s. The other major issue before the LSAT is middle school. The mayor announced that the Shaw Middle School site, which had previously been flagged as the future feeder school for Ross, is going to be used for Banneker High School. The long term middle school plan for Ross remains an open question. President Adler reported that the LSAT had a phone call with DCPS about the issue and is asking DCPS to come up with viable options before giving feedback.



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In response to questions about why Francis Stevens may not remain the feeder school, President Adler reported that there may be a capacity issue and that DCPS is moving away from the education campus model. On the other hand, Francis Stevens is supposed to be modernized in 2022, which includes an expansion. There will be a roundtable discussion about this issue at the Wilson Building on November 15.

Treasurer's Report: Matt Adinolfi, PTA Treasurer

Treasurer Adinolfi reported that the PTA's revenue goal is \$152,000 and the PTA is 1/3 of the way to the goal. The expense budget is \$150,000. Half of that budget has been spent due to the timing of expenses such as the tree purchase and auction-related expenses.

Principal's Update: Principal Searl

Principal Searl reported on the results of the Panorama Survey which measures social emotional learning as self-reported by parents, students, and staff. Ross students scored lowest on perseverance or "grit." The hypothesis for this result is that that most children at Ross feel supported. As a result, there may not be as many opportunities for productive struggle. Because Ross students are strong academically and used to learning quickly, they may lose interest if the learning doesn't come quickly. Therefore, the school is trying to link class work to resilience and grit. STEM is a natural fit where themes of learning from failure and perseverance can be emphasized.

Principal Searl also reported that OSSE is publishing new report cards for every public and charter school in DC using the STAR framework.

Mr. Ewing, STEM Teacher

Mr. Ewing reported on the STEM projects for the various grades. PK has been studying patterns with trees. K/1 has been building self-propelled vehicles. Second grade has been studying severe weather programming. Third, fourth, and fifth grades have been doing video editing. The third grade is also coding in SCRATCH and the fourth grade is making terrariums. Mr. Ewing reported that the fourth and fifth grades will participate in the math competition.



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Mr. Ewing also reminded parents that the STEM lab is open Mondays and Wednesday from 8:15 to 8:30 for grades 3-5 and on Fridays from 8:15 to 8:30 for K-2.

Announcements and Upcoming PTA events

- Movie Night – Friday, November 9th (weather permitting!)
- 11th Annual Holiday Tree & Bake Sale, Saturday December 8th & Sunday, December 9th

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

MEETING MINUTES RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY STEFANIE SCHNEIDER,
SECRETARY