

Ross PTA Executive Board 2022
Monthly Meeting
March 1, 2022
7-8 pm

In Attendance:

- Kristen Chelak (Teacher Rep)
- Kate Gardner (Vice President)
- Brian Knudsen (Treasurer)
- Liz Lowry (Secretary)
- Jenny McAlister (Upper School Rep)
- Amber Sawyer (guest)
- Holly Searl (Principal)
- Debbie Sundberg (Lower School Rep)
- Amanda Tyler (President)

1. Update from Ms. Sawyer on new Ross Website
 - a. Ms. Sawyer has been working to redesign the Ross website. The goal is for the new site to go live on March 14
 - b. She would like the PTA to review and provide feedback:
 - i. Preview site: <https://rossdcnew.wpengine.com/>
 - ii. Provide feedback here: https://dck12-my.sharepoint.com/:w:/g/personal/amber_sawyer_k12_dc_gov/EZi3licMF8pCr-D9rLAWP2IBL7o5OIQ2UjbDseQLRB_Wqw?rttime=E8GvTuH72Ug
2. Update from Principal Searl on Race/Equity opportunity
 - a. Exploring DEI work for parents and staff. One parent suggested [Kindred Communities](#), which Holly has started to explore.
 - b. Kindred would be a significant investment from parents, staff and students. It would be a 3-year commitment and costs \$25k/year, so \$75K total.
 - c. Ross has been committed to exploring this work, and Holly would like to start planning for next year.
3. Events Update (Melissa/Jenny)
 - a. Melissa has found that for any after-hours event at Ross, we need to have up to \$2M in insurance coverage (for molestation, etc), but our insurance only has coverage up to \$1M. Until we can find a solution, we will need to figure out a location to host events outside of Ross. This means that the early March movie night will not be possible. Melissa is exploring indoor options for the movie night (St. Thomas Parish and The Foundry are both possibilities).
 - b. Kate is looking into dates to host a Bingo Night at the Foundry. She will ask Mr. Eickmeyer if he's available and willing to MC.
 - c. Holly is exploring spaces for 5th grade graduation. They will select a location that won't require a fee.

- d. Jenny has been in touch with DC United about a block of tickets for a soccer game on Sat. May 21 at 4PM. A \$150 deposit would be required. We could select tickets at different prices. Jenny is recommending the cheapest tickets at \$27.
 - i. It was suggested that the PTA could fund tickets for families that aren't able to afford them. It was decided that the PTA can send out communications about the tickets and let the community know that the PTA can fund tickets for families that aren't able to cover the costs.
- 4. Update on Ross Auction plans (Amanda/other committee members)
 - a. Location will be the rooftop at St. Thomas Parish on 18th St.
 - b. We are actively in procurement for auction items and sponsors.
 - c. The theme is Spring Fling. Jen Adams will be helping with graphics.
 - d. Alison has asked Esther Ciammachilli, host of Morning Edition on WAMU, if she would like to host. Esther is interested, but will need supervisor approval.
 - e. We may cancel the auction committee meeting this week.
- 5. Finance Reports (Brian)
 - a. February was a quiet month for revenues and expenditures
 - b. Saw a normal monthly increase in overhead expenditures, only about \$1700 in total spending.
 - c. Brian has learned from the Lawyers Committee that they have discontinued the School to School Initiative. The contact offered to connect Ross directly with another DC public school, likely Title 1.
 - d. Holly will check in with teachers and supervisors to see if the handwashing station is still be used and is still needed.
 - e. We did not have time to cover proposed bylaw changes from Brian. We will discuss at the next executive board meeting on March 22.