

PTA Meeting Notes 11/30/2021

In attendance: Alison Brody, Kristen Chelak, Kate Gardner, Brian Knudsen, Liz Lowry, Jenny McAlister, Holly Searl, Melissa Sabatier, Debbie Sundberg, Amanda Tyler

The Executive Board discussed proposed amendments to the PTA bylaws:

- There was discussion around the first proposed change - All Ross families, teachers, and staff are members of the Ross community, eliminating the requirement for membership dues:
 - Brian did not agree with this proposal and suggested maintaining membership dues as they have been a proven mechanism to generate funding for the PTA. If the issue is about inclusivity, then he suggests that we could solve that in different ways
 - Amanda supports the changes
 - Alison supports the proposed changes because she thinks sending a message of everyone being a member is what she would want from the PTA
 - Melissa wants to keep it inclusive, but have language saying that contributing money is highly encouraged
 - Suggestions for creating an “annual fund” and using that language instead of memberships
 - Holly says other DCPS schools with similar demographics have moved away from the membership dues model
 - Concerns that without the membership model, which has worked in the past as an effective tool for fundraising, we may not meet annual fundraising goals
 - Opinions that while Fall for Ross has not been as successful as previous membership campaigns, this may likely be due to other factors (such as back to school after a COVID year, less effective communications to the school community, families that are less connected to Ross because they joined last year or this year) and not necessarily because it is not a membership drive.
- Suggested various changes to the bylaws via marking up a Google doc, including:
 - Proposed updates to open the possibility for two vice president positions and to define those roles.
 - Proposed updates to grant the teacher representative on the PTA voting rights.
 - Discussed granting the principal PTA voting rights, but there were not strong opinions.
 - Defining the various PTA committees
- The proposed changes will be presented to the full PTA at the December meeting, to be voted on at the February meeting.