

Meadowbrook PTO Meeting

SEPTEMBER 9, 2020 / 9:15 AM / ZOOM MEETING

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: 9:17 AM

Attendees

Administrators & Executive Board Members:

Caryn Chalmers, Carron DeGrass, Emily Hoesly, Carrie Hughes, Kathy McNamara, Shirley Singh, Karyn Tefka, Pat Thome

Parents:

Rinat Billow, Melissa Busko, Kieran Campion, Silva Hakobian, Laura Jaeger, Danielle Kleinhans, Daya Levin, Effie Liosatos, Jenn Loewy, Isabel Long, Ilene Meyer, Marv Nyren, Donna Sabin, Sam Shapiro, Lorena Stevenson, Claudy Thompson, Liz Wang, *Unspecified Name*: Debby's iPhone, *Unspecified Name*: DRFTEK Station 2, *Unspecified Name*: GTwo

Agenda

Principal's Report (Pat Thome):

- Beginning of the School Year:
 - Students are following directions and doing a good job wearing masks.
 - Recess has been more challenging in terms of keeping kids socially distanced (some kids are choosing to keep their masks on during this time.)
 - The school halls are mostly empty.
 - The lunch period has gone well. Outside lunches have been nice.
- Busing:
 - A challenge has been the arrival time of buses, but bus schedules are changing and arrival times at school are improving.
 - There have been no bus behavior incidents.
- Health Update:
 - The kids have been very healthy so far. Only a few kids have been sent to the quarantine room and all of them have checked out with normal ailments (i.e a regular stomach ache or common cold.)
- Typical fall school events and programs such as Fall Fest, special lunch and Halloween parties are most likely not happening.
- Mr. Thome opened up the meeting to parent questions:
 - Claudy Thompson: Thanks and congratulations to the staff and teachers for the great start to the school year.
 - Sam Shapiro: They have a kindergartener who is enjoying her first year. They questioned whether kids have to wear masks during P.E. (masks can come off

during P.E. based on what activity they are doing.) Students don't have to wear masks when outside.

- Shirley Singh: Their daughter in the RLA program is happy to have structure during the day and to see her friends.
- Remote Learning Academy (RLA):
 - There has been interest in putting together a parent support group to share ideas. There are currently a few district-wide parent-led Facebook groups that are pretty active. Having one that is Meadowbrook specific would be nice as well.

President's Report (Carrie Hughes):

- Welcome and introduction
- The Board is still looking for a 2020-21 VP Administration. This person would then transition into the Presidential role next year. Please let Carrie Hughes know of any interested parents.

Treasurer's Report (Emily Hoesly):

- Carrie Hughes thanked Emily Hoesly for being such a big help over the summer.

Communication Secretary/Website Manager's Report (Shirley Singh & Gaby Cederlund)

- Last year PTO meetings were broadcast live via Facebook. This year's meetings will be recorded from the Zoom call and will be accessible via the PTO Notes section in the Friday newsletter.
- The PTO will continue using Pat Thome's Zoom account for future meetings.

VP of Programming's Report (Caryn Chalmers):

- Nothing to report

VP of Fundraising's Report (Karyn Tefka):

- Birthday Signs Committee:
 - The committee needs additional volunteers (currently 5 on the committee.)
 - The committee is divided into neighborhoods but all addresses are fairly close to everyone who attends Meadowbrook and they will take any volunteers from the area.
 - Laura Jaeger volunteered for Church and Walters.
 - Signs can be delivered when it is convenient for the volunteer (the timing doesn't have to be overnight)
 - The call for volunteers will be advertised in the PTO News portion of Friday's newsletter again.
 - New birthday signs were ordered and have been delivered and utilized.
 - An idea to consider in the future: parents would return the signs from their yard to a specified address instead of the delivery person picking them up.

- There were concerns voiced that the signs wouldn't be returned in time due to back-to-back deliveries.
- Also concerns about multiple people touching signs instead of just the one delivery person.

VP of Room Parent's Report (Kathy McNamara):

- Halloween Parties:
 - To date, Northbrook Village has not made any Halloween announcements
 - Parents commented that it would be nice to have some type of Halloween celebration at school because kids love the holiday.
 - Parents questioned the possibility of holding the parade for just a few classes/one grade at a time for students and staff/teachers only.
 - Other ideas include a virtual Halloween with photos of kids dressed up or something that could be done on Facebook to include parents and RLA students.
 - Pat Thome added this item to the Administrative Agenda for discussion.
- Room Parent Planned Activities:
 - Discussion about options for room parent-coordinated activities outside of school to get to know other classroom parents.
 - Room Parents can send a survey to gauge interest in planning optional parent events (Laura Jaeger to share the survey her classroom has already taken.) These could be activities for parents only or group outdoor play dates at a park, etc.
 - Kathy McNamara will communicate this option to room parents in her next email.
- Meadowbrook needs 2-3 parent volunteers to assist with the RLA supply pick-ups next Wednesday, September 16 from 4:30-5:30pm.

Recording Secretary's Report (Carron DeGrass):

- Nothing to report

Teacher Support (Lisa Raju):

- Last Monday, each Meadowbrook teacher/staff member was provided with Meadowbrook spirit wear mask lanyards.
- Last Thursday, Meadowbrook teacher/staff members received individually wrapped cookies that said, "Thank you for the sweet start to the school year." Cookies were also delivered to staff in the district offices and at NBJH.
- If you have any ideas or suggestions to help support and thank teachers, please let Lisa Raju or Carrie Hughes know.

Other News:

- Laura Jaeger has organized an upcoming school supply drive to benefit The ARK (based in Chicago). Flyers will be sent out to room parents to share with parents.
- Parents can drop-off donated school supplies at the Meadowbrook front office or donate through a Target registry.

MEETING ADJOURNED: 10:15 AM

Upcoming Events:

SEPT 11: Meadowbrook Spirit Day

SEPT 14: Picture Day for in-person students

SEPT 15: Picture Day for RLA students

SEPT 28: No School (Yom Kippur)

OCT 7: PTO Zoom Meeting

OCT 14/15: Teacher Conferences

OCT 15: Half-Day of School

OCT 16: No School