

Meadowbrook PTO Meeting

OCTOBER 7, 2020 / 9:15 AM / ZOOM Meeting

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: 9:16 AM

Attendees

Administrators & Executive Board Members:

Gabrielle Cederlund, Carron DeGrass, Carrie Hughes, Kathy McNamara, Shirley Singh, Karyn Tefka, Pat Thome

Parents:

Mindy Hong, Lisa Raju, Sheeba Tran, Liz Wang

Agenda

Principal's Report (Pat Thome):

Meadowbrook Grounds & Facilities

- The rented tents will stay up until the week prior to Thanksgiving (Nov 20.) The tents can't hold the weight of heavy snow.
- The Upper Gym is currently being used for furniture storage. All items will be going into storage at the end of October. The Village of Northbrook is providing a warehouse for the district's use.
- P.E. classes will have to move inside to the gyms unless temperatures are moderate enough to have classes outside. Both gyms will be available for P.E. classes.

Indoor Lunch Planning

- Classrooms with standard desks will have lunch in their rooms with plastic trifolds on each desks. The front section is clear plastic and the sides are solid.
- Classrooms with the smaller college-sized desks will be scheduled to have lunch in the upper and lower gyms. While spacing kids out, the spaces can fit up to 30 students in the lower gym and 25 in the small gym.
- There are currently about 20 kids going home everyday for lunch but this might increase with inside eating.
- Snacks can be eaten outside during recess.

Winter/Spring Term Decision Deadline

- Parents will be getting an email from D28 at the end of October with information regarding in-person or RLA selection for the second term.
- The decision deadline will be November 17. This gives schools time to plan for any changes in students numbers for in-person learning.
- The decision affects the remainder of the school year.

- Meadowbrook might have to shift classes to different spaces to accommodate additional students. Mr. Thome is hoping that no students will need to shift classes/teachers.
- Larger spaces such as the Library and the Foundational classroom might need to be used.
- A few families have reached out about changing their current student placements both in RLA and in-person.
- It should be communicated to 5th grade parents that RLA students will be included in special end of year 5th grade activities.

President's Report (Carrie Hughes):

D28 PTO Meeting Updates

- During the first 7 weeks of school there have been 3 separate Covid-19 cases.
- In grades K-5, 70% of students are doing in-person and 30% are remote learning. At NBJH, 69% of students are in-person and 31% are remote..
- D28 launched a new website on October 1 and will be adding a mobile app soon.
- The “**Cheers to 28**” event planning will be revisited in a few months. If the event does not happen this year, perhaps next year. The committee decided that it is better to hold this as an in-person event vs. a remote event.
- **Gift Cards+** will happen before winter break. All ordering will be online with two distribution days.
- Some parents have complained about the lack of a district-wide printed calendar. The decision was made that it didn't make sense to spend funds on printing this year due to unforeseen Covid-19 scheduling changes. Parents can visit the new website for calendar information.
- A new question will be added to the **CrisisGo** self-reporting survey. If anyone in the family has been tested for Covid-19, the child(ren) should not attend school.
 - To date, parents have been really cautious/aggressive with keeping kids home.
 - Pam Streeter is following up with every family of a child who is sick.
- There is an upcoming public hearing regarding D28 implementing eLearning during inclement weather days instead of having regular snow days.
- **D28's Sister School in Kenya** is having a really difficult time. The students aren't in school at the moment but administrators are really focused on just feeding the kids. The district is planning a free-will fundraiser.
- The **Block Parents** program is important for the PTO. This year there are more kids walking and riding bikes. Nothing has been done in terms of the committee. Households in Meadowbrook's immediate walking area need to be recruited.

Carrie Hughes will send out an email and put out a request for volunteers on the Meadowbrook Facebook page.

- The front hall showcare is usually decorated by the PTO. This year teachers decorated it with positive and upbeat items.

Treasurer's Report (Emily Hoesly):

- A big thank you to all of the families that donated to this year's Hassle-Free Fundraiser.
- The PTO is planning on purchasing t-shirts for students and teachers. The design is being finalized.

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

- There was discussion regarding the click-rate on the PTO Notes section within Mr. Thome's Friday email newsletter. There are concerns about having an extra click instead of having the PTO items right in the newsletter. Important items can always be highlighting in Mr. Thome's top text.

VP of Programming's Report (Caryn Chalmers):

- Nothing to report

VP of Fundraising's Report (Karyn Tefka):

- Birthday Signs has enough volunteers.

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

- Halloween Classroom Parties
 - Liz Wang and Lisa Raju are creating pumpkin draw-string gift bags for all Meadowbrook students (less than \$2/bag cost.)
 - The gift bags contain squishy stress stars printed with "I'm a Meadowbrook Star" and a space to write the child's name. Bags will also have a grade-specific toy and a ball-maze.
 - For in-person student Halloween parties, room parents will drop off crafts for teachers.
 - RLA Meadowbrook students will get the gift bags and have a planned craft or game. These activities must be planned for the whole remote class (including Westmoor or Greenbriar students), so room parents will have to work with the other school room parents in the mixed classes
 - A \$3 reimbursement per Meadowbrook child in the mixed RLA classes is acceptable.
 - Party materials will be distributed at the Oct. 28 materials pick-up day.
- Class Community Events
 - Many classes have coordinated class community building events that have been successful such as a mom's outdoor coffee and outdoor kid meet-ups.

Recording Secretary's Report (Carron DeGrass):

- Nothing to report

Other News:

- **Friday Ice Cream Day**
 - An overwhelming amount of parents ordered ice cream for their children and teachers. Between child and teacher orders the total came to 434 items.
 - These items were priced low due to a discount from Dairy Queen and this special event is more for fun than a PTO fundraiser.
 - 292 teacher treats were purchased but Meadowbrook has only 100 staff. The leftover funds will go back into other upcoming teacher appreciation efforts.
 - Each RLA teacher will get a \$5 gift card.
 - RLA students can come and pick-up purchased blizzards at school.
 - Only two volunteers (Lisa Raju and Liz Wang) will be coordinating the ice cream delivery. They will be wearing gloves and masks. Ice cream will be placed in individual baggies with a spoon and then distributed by classroom teachers.
 - Dairy Queen is making the blizzards on totally clean blizzard machines for allergy concerns. Luigi's treats are allergen-free.
- **Ongoing Teacher Appreciation**
 - Many teacher appreciation events coming up: meals during conferences and before winter break.
 - Thanks to the Patel family for donating the Dunkin trunk on the playground before school this past Monday. The truck provided coffee drinks and donuts. They also donated a morning of the Dunkin truck at NBJH.
 - Last week Meadowbrook Girl Scout troops sponsored coffee and treats for teachers.
 - If anyone has new ideas for RLA teachers appreciation, please let Lisa or Liz know.
- **Virtual Book Fair**
 - This year's book fair was held virtually and wasn't successful. Mr. Thome and Jenn Loewy are exploring different options for the spring book fair.
- **Box Tops**
 - Collection forms will be sent home in backpacks.

MEETING ADJOURNED: 10:34 AM

Upcoming Events:

OCT 14-15: Parent-Teacher Conferences

OCT 15: Half-Day of School

OCT 16: No School

- OCT 28: RLA Materials Pick-Up
- OCT 30: Halloween Classroom Parties
- NOV 3: No School - *Election Day*
- NOV 18: RLA Materials Pick-Up
- NOV 23-24: No School - *Teacher Institute Days*
- NOV 25-27: No School - *Thanksgiving Holiday*