

Meadowbrook PTO Meeting

NOVEMBER 11, 2020 / 9:15 AM / ZOOM Meeting

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: 9:17 AM

Attendees

Administrators & Executive Board Members:

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

Parents:

Debbie Beerman, Allie Gray, Emily Green, Danielle Kleinhans, Daya Levin, Priya Patel, Lisa Raju, Lorena Stevenson, Liz Wang, Sally Zhao, "Stina's Phone"

Agenda

Principal's Report (Pat Thome):

November 10 Special Board of Education Meeting

- The Board discussed in-person students pivoting to remote learning from Thanksgiving through January 18. A notification will be going out to parents this afternoon after a meeting of township superintendents.
- The Board also discussed the increase in student and teacher absenteeism due to quarantine or covid positive status.
- In-person teachers will be planning remote schedules during in-staff days during Thanksgiving break.
- The district plan is for in-person students to return to schools on January 19. The expectation is that students, teachers and staff will have quarantined after winter break travels and close contacts with people outside of their immediate family.

Remote Learning Questions/Concerns

How will remote learning will look different for in-person students compared to last spring - especially for the younger grades.

- There are more synchronous learning requirements (at least 2.5 hours) which are done in full classes and small groups. Mini lessons are held in reading and math and then teachers facilitate break-outs into smaller groups.
- Kids will follow their regular school schedule on Fridays (unlike the spring) and will follow their normal classroom schedule all school days.
 - Teachers will share with parents the daily schedule and zoom links. Instructional time will finish around 1:35/40 p.m. and then specials will be held after that.
 - Classes will continue to zoom for Art, Music and Spanish.

- Mr. Thome expects remote learning times to be 8:30 a.m. to 3:05 p.m. The lunch break is scheduled for 11:45 a.m. to 12:35 p.m.
- A materials pick-up day can be scheduled, if necessary. Mr. Thome expects that many teachers will work from school.

There were concerns voiced about families extending their winter break travel plans right up to January 18 and not using those two weeks to quarantine as intended.

- The intent of adding the two weeks of remote learning for all students after winter break is to quarantine.
- It's important that families quarantine so we can avoid Covid spread at school and return as healthy as possible for the spring semester.
- The district is planning that we return and Mr. Thome and our teachers are planning on this being temporary! However, it is always a possibility that the state says we can't return as planned.
 - The schools are currently running with minimal substitutes and the aides have so many responsibilities that it makes it difficult for them to step into the position of lead teacher during a teacher absence.

What programs/apps will the students be using and are they familiar with how to use them already?

- Kindergarten-2nd grade will be using SeeSaw.
- 3-5th grade will be using Google classrooms and some Seesaw.
- Teachers are going to work with students on tech in the next week if needed and parents will have access to Sue Ryder and tech support during remote learning.

Second Semester Choice Survey

- To date, responses are mostly the same as current placements. This is good news because if numbers stay similar there won't be a need to make room or teacher changes.
- No teachers at Meadowbrook have asked about switching from in-person teaching to remote teaching and vice-versa. Mr. Thome isn't certain if the school could honor that request if made. If there was a medical necessity, then something could be worked out to accommodate the need.
- Some Meadowbrook teachers have had to quarantine but did not zoom in to the classroom from home. But it is possible at other schools teachers have been doing this.

President's Report (Carrie Hughes):

- Meals from Grill House and Panera were provided by the PTO for both days of teacher conferences. Everything was pre ordered and individually packaged this year.
 - The PTO received a thank you letter from Maggie McElvain (2nd grade teacher) for teacher appreciation efforts this fall.
- The survey for second semester learning choices has been sent out by the district.
 - Families received individual emails from each school to register for RLA or in-person for the remainder of the school year.
 - Responses are due November 17 even if staying with the current placement.

- There has been no parent interest in being block parents. The PTO should ask individual families along the major walking routes.
- Thanks to Karyn Tefka for planning the Riobamba fundraiser. Hopefully the event drums up business for them in the future.
- Thanks to Lisa Raju and Liz Wang for the PTO sponsored Halloween bags for all students.
 - Teachers also received Meadowbrook masks and stress stars.
- Mrs. Finch co-authored a book titled, *Pass the Baton: Empowering All Music Students*.

Grant Committee (Debbie Beerman & Donna Sabin)

- The committee took an informal survey of teachers to gauge interest in submitting grant applications this school year.
 - The majority of respondents requested that we hold off for now.
 - The committee is requesting that allocated 2020-21 funds rollover to the 2021-22 school year.

Treasurer's Report (Emily Hoesly):

- The PTO finances are starting the year with a good balance:
 - No worries about lack of fundraising this year, as we have a good enough cushion to get us through a year with lower fundraising amounts.
 - We received a decent amount from the Hassle-Free fundraiser.
 - Birthday signs have brought in \$4,000.
 - Annual Family PTO Dues totalled \$2,500

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

- There has been a request to find a replacement for the Communications Secretary position on the Board.
 - Carron DeGrass offered to help out and take over the role for the remainder of the year if there is no outside interest in the position.

VP of Programming's Report (Caryn Chalmers):

- Nothing to report

VP of Fundraising's Report (Karyn Tefka):

- Thank you to all families that participated in the Riobamba fundraiser night.
- The PTO is planning a few more restaurant fundraisers for the spring semester. Restaurants are reaching out and looking for partnerships.
 - The PTO should contact NY Slices since they've been such a good pizza day partner.
 - Discussion regarding planning a pizza day during remote learning. Parents could pick up whole pizzas to bring home for lunch. Lisa Raju and Liz Wang will look into planning this event for the week after Thanksgiving.
- The Birthday Signs fundraiser is still occurring and the committee is amazing.

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

- Halloween classroom celebrations went smoothly with room-parent provided crafts and PTO sponsored gift bags.
- Due to classes going remote, room parents can reach out to teachers and see if there is anything they can do to help plan any winter holiday virtual activities.
- Classroom teacher gifts can continue as normal. A reminder will be sent out to room parents.

Recording Secretary's Report (Carron DeGrass):

- PTO holiday cards will be sent out to all staff and teachers in December.
- Select staff receive PTO sponsored holiday gift cards. These will be purchased through GiftCards+.

Other News:

- Lorena Stevenson and Kathy McNamara have indicated interest in being PTO Co-Presidents for the 2021-22 school year. This change will open up the position of VP of Room Parents.
- The Dairy Queen day was very successful - more than 300 "treat-a-teacher" items were ordered, but we only needed 130. We took the remaining funds and put them back into Teacher Appreciation funds and the funds paid for most of the masks that were handed out at Halloween
 - Perhaps an additional Dairy Queen day could be coordinated during remote learning.
- **There is no scheduled PTO meeting in December.**

MEETING ADJOURNED: 10:31 AM

Upcoming Events:

NOV 18:	RLA Materials Pick-Up (4:30-5:30 p.m.)
NOV 23-27:	No School - <i>Thanksgiving Holiday</i>
NOV 30:	No School - <i>Teacher Inservice Day</i>
DEC 1:	Remote learning starts for all students
DEC 9:	RLA Materials Pick-Up (4:30-5:30 p.m.)
DEC 21-JAN 1:	No School - <i>Winter Break</i>
JAN 3, 2021:	School resumes
JAN 13:	PTO Meeting (9:15 a.m.)
JAN 15:	Half-Day of School - <i>Teacher Inservice Day</i>
JAN 18:	No School - <i>Martin Luther King, Jr. Day</i>