**PTA Minutes**

*Spring Glen PTA General Membership Meeting*

Wednesday September 16, 2020

Held via Zoom

Meeting called to order by Steve Curtis

*In attendance*

Board members present: Courtney Connors, President; Steve Curtis, Vice President; Elizabeth Williams, Vice President; Jess Van Denend, VP Membership; Misha Serfillippi, VP Fundraising; Cara McDonough, Secretary

Absent: Jonathan Farrar, Treasurer

**Introduction & announcement of vote for president in advance of regular business** - VP Steve Curtis

**Vote for president** - VP Steve Curtis

* Steve Curtis made a motion to vote in Courtney Connors as PTA President. Kara Breen seconded.
* Request for any other candidates for role of president from the floor. No candidates emerged. Called for a voice vote by all present, current PTA members, taken in alphabetical order. The motion passed unanimously.

**Welcome and introductions - PTA president**

* Courtney Connors presented a PowerPoint on the PTA’s goals and mission for this academic year, emphasizing inclusion, communication and community in light of challenges due to the pandemic. She expressed gratitude to the school administration and teachers for their hard work getting ready to open schools.
* Noted that due to the unusual character of this year, the PTA will not be able to plan for many of the traditional events and fundraisers held at the school. The PTA does hope to continue with some events held in past years, such as “One School, One Book” and an in-person or virtual 5K, and others.  The PTA will also introduce new initiatives, including an informational webinar series and other enrichment activities.
* Discussed the reasoning behind the PTA’s invitation for parents to donate to the school and district via specific Amazon wishlists and other supply lists.
* Expressed the importance of school committees and urged parents to get involved with committees that interested them, or suggest new ones.
* Introduced PTA Executive Board for this academic year.

**Principal’s Report**

* Principal Hornreich said they staff was happy to see children back at school, and reported that they are working on improving protocols day by day, including drop-off and pick-up.

**Call for a motion to accept minutes of last PTA meeting and communication of correspondence**

* Courtney Connors called for a motion to accept minutes of June 24, 2020 PTA meeting. Misha Serfillippi called for the motion. Jess Van Denend seconded. The motion passed.
* Secretary Cara McDonough stated that communications received prior to academic year and during the first few days of school included: thank you notes from administration and teachers following the traditional back-to-school breakfast provided by PTA to teachers; questions from parents about protocols and other issues this school year during the pandemic, which the PTA is addressing in a set of FAQs; emails and messages from parents interested in receiving a “back to school” lawn sign - the lawn sign initiative is one of the PTA’s ongoing projects, which began prior to school starting.

**Health & Welfare**– Courtney Connors

* Reported that former PTA board member Christy Czekaj has experienced some health problems and that Misha Serfillippi has been organizing meals; interested individuals can get in touch with her to help out.

**Treasurer's report –** Courtney Connors standing in for Jonathan Farrar

* Discussed the need to significantly amend the budget this year in light of the pandemic and noted that a budget will be presented and voted on at the October meeting.

**Reports of standing committees**

*Membership - Jess Van Denend*

* Reported on how to join the PTA and reminded members that dues are “pay what you want,” so if dues are challenging they are not necessary.
* Said that if members have talents or interests to please be in touch about joining committees.

*Fundraising – Misha Serfillippi*

* Read correspondence from Leigh Castaldo, who is currently organizing the 5K but could not be in attendance. The 5K had originally been slated for last spring but has been postponed – due to schools shutting down -until September, then November. Comments referenced the hard work and cost involved with organizing such an event and questioned whether moving it to the spring, and perhaps involving other district schools, would be a better idea.

*Diversity & Inclusion - Sofia Fertuzinhos, Chair of committee*

* Discussed the mission and goals for this year, including a book drive, monthly newsletter and activities to celebrate recipes and other cultural traditions.
* Encouraged people of color and LGBTQ+ individuals to join the committee.

*Outdoor Committee - Elizabeth Williams and Steve Curtis*

* Discussed the damage to Mother Nature’s Classroom during the recent storm and efforts to improve the space by volunteers on the committee. Also discussed plans for PTA to create and maintain a community garden in the space.

*5K*

* Was previously discussed in fundraising report (see above) so skipped a second report.

**Old business**

* Brief mention of the back-to-school webinar, which was held August 19, via zoom, and featured a presentation and Q&A with Principal Hornreich.

**New Business**

*PTA meeting schedule – Courtney Connors*

* Noted the meeting schedule, attached to the agenda, with General PTA Membership meetings via Zoom held on the third Wednesday of every month at 7 pm.

*Classroom supply lists - Jess Van Denend*

* Information on teacher Amazon supply wishlists, as mentioned earlier in the evening.

*Yard signs - Elizabeth Williams & Cara McDonough*

* Information on yard sign project, as mentioned earlier in the evening. Noted that those who would like a traveling “back to school” yard sign and haven’t had one yet should email Secretary Cara McDonough.

*FAQs for this year - Cara McDonough & Steve Curtis*

* FAQs are currently being completed and will expand as year goes on.

Call for new committee members for the following committees - Courtney Connors

* Fundraising
* Membership
* COVID Response
* Distance learners
* Social media and communications
* Budget

**Good of the order**

* Elizabeth Williams noted that parents should watch out for a survey from the PTA, asking for input on what families would like to focus on this year.
* Misha Serfillippi urged members to come to the PTA Board with any idea, no matter what.

**Announcement of next meeting** - Courtney Connors.

* Weds. Oct. 21st via zoom

**Request motion to adjourn**

* Motion to adjourn made by Elizabeth Williams. Misha Serfillipi seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 8:23 pm.

*Minutes respectfully submitted, 9/17/ 20 by Cara McDonough, Secretary*