

PTA General Meeting 01.17.19

Call to order by Roxanne Bain at 6:10 pm

Approval of **November Minutes**-motion approved

Amy Kerr Jung from Reaching Heights spoke about the Exceptional Children's Advocacy Group. She is a parent mentor helping families with children who have special needs, IEPs, or a 504 plan. They help families navigate the heavily complicated and confusing process. They have several resources including a parent group that meets regularly (Mary Pat Jolivette is the onsite liaison for Rox El) and are working on three priorities in the district. The more people that know we have resources the better, we have ongoing parent workshops and are planning for next year. We have a preschool group called Heights Young Families. Please share the word. The newest member of our Reaching Heights staff is Jen Holland and she is a program manager. She runs the programs we are talking about tonight-she manages the Community Care Team (Reaching Heights comes in to talk to PTA leaders to figure out how to support schools), Mini Villages (in all schools-in school tutoring program- we want to extend our volunteers out to all schools within the district), and the Role Models Program-coordinate speakers who help 5th graders. Please register for the adult spelling bee-we want individual schools to each put forth a team. Winner receives \$300 for their school's PTA. Every four years we do the Reaching Musical Heights performance at Severance Hall. Exceptional children's Advocacy Group is excellent and a having parent mentor is super helpful, even educators struggle with the programming.

School update-Shelley Pulling I do not have a formal principal report today. Cindy Rakow is here to talk about the Comfortable Cafeteria. Equity Training is coming up which will be exciting and there are still open spots. Teacher evaluations are ongoing and January is a bit quieter than the other months.

Cindy Rakow-Comfortable Cafeteria was initiated in 3rd and 4th grades in the fall. I had an Occupational health student from CSU help with the program. Students are more engaged if they've have positive moments outside of classroom activities. 6 weeks with differing programs. Lights were dimmed, curtains closed to provide more acoustic absorbance which brought the volume down in the lunchroom. Students reported that they liked trying new food, making new friends, learning about senses, sitting with new people, learning about food groups and having fun. Staff reported that they liked that kids were cleaning up after themselves, kids take responsibility, deeper conversations, kids were encouraged to make new friends and sit with new people. We decided to implement it school wide. K-2 start beginning of February and run through March. Once students had their lunches and are seated the staff will give a lesson. These cubes promote and generate conversations. Shelley Pulling said she is working on the schedule-recess before lunch helps kids eat more, better progression to get wiggles out before eating. We are hoping to implement this recess/lunch change as well as staggering the lunch periods so we don't have long lines waiting for hot lunch. We want to keep same lunch aide with each class for recess and lunch. We may try a dry run at the end of this school year to try it before putting it in place next year. PTA funded the novel food tastings and Molly Jones was instrumental in making cubes.

Budget Update-Sarah Bunce. Looks like we have a negative cash flow but we have our major fundraisers in the spring so it will balance out by the end of the year. Fall fundraiser didn't go as well as we had budgeted-we returned 80 boxes of chocolate.

Bylaws Vote-Elyse Custodio and Sarah Bunce We don't have an approved set of bylaws with the Ohio PTA at the moment. We will vote tonight to approve the complete set-the large ones from May as well as the amendments put forth in January. A Motion to Approve the entire set of bylaws was asked for

and a majority of hands voted in favor. There was one hand raised against the motion. **Revote was requested later in the meeting due to confusion about how many hands were raised. A revote was taken after the Committee Reports and this time there were 12 hands raised to approve and 3 hands raised to oppose. Again, the motion was approved by a majority.

Committee Reports

Membership-100 percent of teachers are in the PTA, the holiday gift drive went really well-the PTA gets lots of thanks yous and we were able to gift all teachers and staff. RoxEl Run is coming up and is in planning stages-please like it on facebook. **After school programming** begins next week. **School of Excellence** is planning on reaching out with community resources. Annie Safran-The **book fair** starts March 4th. We are not partnering with Scholastic this year. We are partnering with Macs Backs, a local independent bookstore on Coventry. A great thing about working with Macs is that we have more input into the selections at the fair. We have already emailed teachers for book lists and parents should submit lists of books they'd like to see. We will try to get discounted books and are still planning to do Books for All will collect donations so kids who can't buy books will still be able to get one. Nicole Tugeau gave an update from the **Diversity Committee**-they have a meeting every 2nd Tuesday of the month at the Lee Road library at 6pm. Next tuesday Jan 22 we have **Equity Training** with Sandy Womack and Lisa Hunt. We have 22 registered and can take up to 40 so there are still open slots for those who are interested. Our next big events are **Black History Month** and Multicultural Night. Some of the Black History Month activities include daily announcements in the morning, on Feb 5th we will have a live wax museum where people from the community come to talk to the students and are representing famous Black historical figures, dancers will be in school on February 15th, AVI food service will serve soul food for hot lunch the week of the 11-15, and black and white photos of each student will be taken and hung in the hallways including a diversity statement with photos, we will have yard signs with different quotes, and a passport and stamp scavenger hunt. **Multicultural night** will be an extension of all of this and we are looking for performers. We will have a collage of all kids faces and use that as the flyer for Multicultural night, and we will send out a notice for anyone who wants to do a table on March 6th. Hoping to have tables from scavenger hunt businesses.

** At this point Melissa Wood requested a revote on the motion to approve the Bylaws due to confusion about how many hands were raised. A revote was taken at this time there were 12 hands raised to approve and 3 hands raised to oppose. The motion was approved by a majority.

The PTA has excess funds and we've had continual budget surpluses for the past several years. We want a **capital expenditure project**-would like to spend 8-10k and can then again do another big item next year. We will use tickets to vote for the projects. The projects to be voted upon include an electronic marquee, literacy nook, book vending machine, poster maker, equity fund (there was a discussion about the legality of equity fund and going forward we will need to put something on membership dues), BBQ grill (storage would be difficult), air conditioning units, family pool passes to Cumberland pool, the book-Rethinking Schools; Teaching for Black Lives to be purchased for all teachers, a 5th grade hallway revamp, and a fund for two years of free after school programming (questions were raised about how this is different from the scholarships that are already offered and well utilized). A discussion ensued about how we would serve this to the entire school fairly and within cost. All members present received 4 tickets and were able to vote for whichever project they liked by placing a ticket in the corresponding bag. This way the members were able to vote for more than one project. We plan to be able to fund two projects.

Meeting was adjourned 7:58pm