

General PTA meeting 3.14.19

Call to order by Roxanne Bain at 6:09

Melissa Garcar, Rox El's IB coordinator, opened with a self introduction and an ice breaker activity. She has been working at Rox El for 8 years. It takes 3 years to be certified as an IB school and we have been IB for 5 years. IB has 10 attributes. Thinkers, risk takers, inquiries, principled, balanced, caring, reflective, knowledgeable, communicators, balanced, and open minded. Ice breaker will start by counting off in Chinese by 3s to create three groups. We will break into groups and try to find something that we all have in common and then create a discussion around the IB word assigned to the group. Set the timer for 9 minutes.

Patrick McNichols-**Roxboro Middle School** principal gave a brief introduction to middle school and the transition to middle school.

Rox middle is certified as an IB school. We are going back to our home next year! Normally we'd bring 5th grade over for a tour, but can't do that this year because they are still at Wiley. Our building will be ready by middle of July. The project included a refreshment of the building to help maintain consistent temperatures throughout the school. There will be no access for staff until late July early August. This summer we want to recruit 100 parents to join middle PTA and as a perk those 100 can do an early sneak peak on August 10th. We will have three orientations the following week beginning with the 8th graders who have never been in the building. The orientations will include information about where you drop kids off, expectations for morning check in, where to get into building, lockers, classrooms, etc. The 6th grade orientation will be more in depth and will include learning how to use lockers, walking around to classrooms, and will talk about the four core teachers. Thursday or Friday before school starts kids and parents can come in and walk the building and walk their schedule and talk to counselors. Also 6th graders will have WEB (where everyone belongs). We want to recruit 60-80 current 6th 7th graders to serve as web leaders to help with guidance counselors, teachers, avid teacher. These kids will be trained on how to mentor the new students. There will be an incoming 6th grade kid only orientation. Grouped into 10 with the older students they will meet each month and work on team building, talk about grades, anti-bullying. All students are encouraged to attend the orientations; some can't cause of vacation, but there will be multiple ways for parents to come in and feel comfortable. Will have community based open houses to tour the renovated middles (like CHUH did with the high school) this fall. We just finished up 4th year of IB. Next year we will need to recertify the IB programming. Sometime around March 12-13 2020 the IB team will be here for the recertification. One thing we learned from Wiley was the need to narrow down space kids are in. Kids are in 4 person team-science, ELA, math, social studies and we want to keep the classrooms close together. 6th grade is all in the basement of Roxboro and all 7th and 8th grade are on the upper floors. Benefits of refreshment of the building include new bathrooms in basement. All middle school students take a world language-Spanish and Mandarin are offered, PE/Health is taught as a combined class, there is no recess, all student take music for 6th and 7th, vocal and/or orchestra and band are options, and visual art for 6th and 7th. Project lead-the-way includes 7th and 8th engineering-design projects, learn about how Dyson has the bladeless fan. Avid is college preparation program. Tutors come in twice a week and help teach study skills and note taking. We have special ed and gifted. We have 16 clubs and activities. These can change based on parent mentor availability. 13 athletic teams for 7th and 8th only. State rule says no 6th sports. Guidance support based on beginning letter of the last name: A-L will have Ms. Carr and M-Z will have Mr. Dixon. The school website and twitter have lots of information. There is a daily announcement on

the website. There are after school programs-Connect which runs Mon-Thurs and offers homework help and helps with transition and Open Doors which will be back at St Pauls this year.

Roxanne made a motion to **approve the January minutes** and the motion was approved

Sarah Bunce gave a **financial update**. This time of year is quiet-there's not a lot of money going in and out. Book sale numbers are not in yet and the balance of the account is not reflected in these budgets. We have about \$30,000 which shows that we have spent more than we brought in which is what we intended. There is a fundraiser on Monday at Dewey's. Other fundraisers-yard signs-we can start selling them spring, and swag sales are possible new sources of incomes. All of our fundraisers are for the general budget. Maturity Tea expenditure-is there more funding for personal products and can we offer something more at the class? Maturity Tea is a sex education class offered by Nat History Museum for 5th graders.

Diversity Committee report-Elyse Custodio. We meet every 2nd Tuesday of the month. Black History and Multicultural night were both great successes and came in under budget. Women's history month is something we have ideas for and will build up for next year. We are considering another live wax museum. Unshop has needs-tennis shoes, socks, belts, shoelaces, hair ties. We have a lot of winter inventory and are trying to move it. We will use the next meeting to switch from winter to summer clothes. Equity training at Rox El went well. Black History month scavenger hunt prizes went out today....all children who participated got something. All business donated gift cards. We will add standing rules for each committee. Next year want to incorporate teachers into black history month and we want the PTA mission statement please reflect on this.

Fay Parrill-**New Website**. Her goal was to set up a website so any new family can come in and find answers quickly as well as serving as a great resource. There is a button to opt into PTA enews. We have a transportation page which answers questions about to Uber and how it is paid. There is a place to pay for membership dues. There is a membership page which describes reason why someone would want to join PTA and has a "Why I'm a member" section. Want to rotate people and families through this "Why I'm a member". There is a volunteer page with information about background checks and how to get and pay for them. There are descriptions of what you can do and how you can volunteer. The calendar feature is great-you can import this one into your own calendar. Resources page-info from School of Excellence, Exceptional Children's Advocacy, food pantry that is free of snap requirements. There is a PTA organization page which include the written records and docs on how to get reimbursed. Still have questions about ushop and after school programming and after care. A PTA rep from state commented on how nice our website is. There are lots of great pictures too!

Capital Expenditure

Literacy Reading Nook going into the media center and a book vending machine offering free books to all kids were the winners of the capital expenditure vote. Literacy nook-we are still getting committee together to work on the finer details. We bought the vending machine and were able to get books from the book fair to stock the machine. The budget for the vending machine and reading nook were 4K each. The vending machine was about \$2200 so we are thinking the extra money can be used for replenishment books. We will try to get grants to help add additional funds for new books. The idea is that each kid will be able to build their own home library. The vending machine was refurbished for us so larger slots on bottom to accommodate books for younger kids. We planned to spend 8-10k on this capital expenditure so we have about 2K left. A BBQ grill and the 5th grade hallway spruce up were 3rd and 4th and we may be able to fund these.

Committee Reports

Nominating Committee-we need at least 1 more person, but it would be great to have 3 more people. Ohio PTA will come for 30 minutes to talk about how we run a nominating committee.

Roxarts-auction was this past weekend. This was an amazing event-raised money for arts and science programming within the entire tiger nation. Money will be split equally between schools. We met our goal and raised 55K! This shows how much people care about the district. April 27th will be the low key-parents night out at the B Side. Tickets \$20. These funds will raise money for Rox alone. It will be a silent disco and we will have raffle baskets.

Fay Parrill-Equity Proposal. We are still in the stage of information gathering and trying to answer several questions including how will we generate money. Can we allow people to opt in as a part of the membership dues or maybe they can choose to designate some money from fundraising so portion of chocolate goes to equity. Can money come from unused mini grants. We want to encourage more schools to participate and possibly have small fundraisers. There is a grant we can apply for-diversity inclusion. Do we have legal constraints-need lawyers to address concerns. Other issues-who will distribute funds, where will the money live. There was lots of discussion and everything is in the early planning stage.

Roxel Run. Runsignup website is live it is \$25 for adults, \$10 kids. We want to make sure that every child who wants to run can run. You can sponsor a child or classroom for extra \$\$\$. We will work to get transportation to and from the run. This is a great community event. Any questions please let us know. Need sponsorships and we are working on them now.

Just Write a Check-Clare Taft gave the report. The campaign will kick off soon. We are working on the letter and are planning to have it go out before spring break. Jump Rope for Heart is wrapping up and we will try to get it out after that concludes. There will be incentives this year as we've had in years past. Write a check is our biggest fundraiser. We have never reached our 10k goal, but will try this year. In the past it has been 50/50 community/parents. This fundraiser is the only one that gives 100% of the donations back to the school community and it funnels into our annual fund.

Annie Safran-Book Fair. It went really well this year and we switched from using Scholastic as the book supplier to a local independent bookstore Mac's Backs. I hesitate to give final numbers, but our rough total looks to be around \$7500! Last year we made \$4000. The difference this year is that people were willing to spend money on quality books. There was a good mix for everybody. We will get back 30% in trade. A catalog would be nice for next year.

Jen Holland-Reaching Heights. April 3rd we will have a community event and will hear about what we are doing. They can volunteer or donate money. Reaching Musical Heights made lots of money through tickets sales, and donations. May 1st is the spelling bee. \$250 for each PTA to participate. 3 to a team and an alternate.

Elizabeth Kirby from Chicago was hired for the **new superintendent** for the CHUH school district. She grew up in Shaker Heights.

Meeting adjourned at 7:59pm