

Roxboro Elementary General PTA Meeting 9.13.18

First general meeting of the 18-19 school year

Call to order by Roxanne Bain at 6:14pm

Roxanne began by introducing herself since she is the incoming PTA president. This is her 7th year at Roxboro. She began in the PTA working on and was the chair for the after school programming and for the past few years was the chair for the RoxEl Run. This community is very important to her and she is excited for the upcoming year.

Clare Taft is the chair for the **PTA membership** committee this year and continued the meeting with the first PTA membership raffle. She stated that aside from the \$5 donation to the national PTA council, all the additional money and donations made to our PTA go right back to school. She said we have more members than ever before. We usually have around 75 members and this year we are already over 100! We will have another membership raffle at the November meeting. Members names were then drawn out of a bag and three winners (one teacher) were selected. Members had to be present to claim the gift cards which were from Luna Bakery and Zagaras.

Sarah Bunce, the PTA treasurer, presented the **budget**. She began by briefly reviewing the budget organization for new PTA members. This year we have a few new income sources including yard signs and swag sales. Next she discussed our spending/expenses. Spending is broken down into enrichment, teacher week, general expenses, and programming and these are categories that we spend on every year. There are several new expenses this year including Black History month, Mother's day/mom/grandma spring event (details are yet to be worked out), Transportation provided through Uber to and from PTA meetings and all PTA fundraisers and other school events, and the 5th grade maturity tea. Sarah asked for a motion to approve this budget, a motion was made, and budget was approved by a raise of hands. There were no dissenting votes raised. Sarah proceeded to provide and discuss the budget summary for this upcoming year. We have already made approximately \$2600 through the fall fundraiser (chocolate sales) and PTA membership drive. We have spent \$3600 on Scholastic magazine subscriptions for the teachers for each class in the building, first day of school expenses (red carpet) and back-to-school BBQ costs and transportation.

Shelley Pulling the Rox El principal gave the **school report**. She said the new school report cards are out. They as teachers and staff have come together and developed a Building Level Action Plan. We increased our performance index last year. This year there is a change in metrics. A perfect building score is 120, meaning that each and every kid in the school performs at the highest level. We are 97.8. An "A" is 110. An "A" may be unreachable now, but we are planning and preparing for kids move up and the metric to increase. Roxboro elementary has a new overall grade of "C". Our progress level is rated as a "D." Achievement is a "C". We are on target and have met our gap closing metric. Students with disabilities are included in the performance index. Ms. Pulling will host a morning coffee session on report card. There is extensive detail to cover with regard to the report cards and thus an entirely separate meeting will be the best way to present and discuss this information. She said there is quite a bit of new data to these report cards that it does take away from the business of teaching. They believe business of educating is more than this score. Our class sizes are big and enrollment is up which is a positive. The CHUH district caps classrooms at 25. She introduced Cindy Rakow from Every Moment Counts who will be presenting on a new school wide initiative called Comfortable Cafeteria. She said

that lunch time can be a pressure point for kids. The cafeteria can often be loud. We have wonderful lunch aides. It is hard to find balance between structure and a fun relaxed lunch period. We will start with Third and Fourth grades and hope to move it into all classes later in the year.

Cindy Rakow introduced herself. This is her 2nd year in the Heights schools-2nd year at Roxboro El. She was in OT for 20 years both in and out patient settings. She was a member of the faculty at CSU for 14 years. The organization she works for is Every Moment Counts. Her director at CSU received a grant to develop this program, Every Moment Counts. It considers mental health as feelings of well-being not as a disorder. She introduced the **Comfortable Cafeteria** program-this is a 6 week program that works with school and cafeteria staff to create a comfortable and pleasant lunch time for all students. We want the students to be able to socialize, rest, eat well, make friends, and learn conversational skills. Each week a new theme will be introduced by lunch staff guided by trained staff from her program. The weekly themes are: 1) time to enjoy meal, time to socialize, learn to be respectful 2) making friends and how to be a good friend 3) mealtime conversations 4) mix it up which encourages the kids to sit with peers they don't know 5) Senses-taste, texture, sounds-learn that everyone has different senses-learn to respect and honor those difference in others and 6) making healthy choices and try new foods. She asked us "What can you do as parents?" Have meals with kids, make conversation, ask about what they learned in school, and help them practice these skills at home. She met with some building staff and Dr. Jackson in the cafeteria and they recorded the environment in order to have a baseline and set targets for the program. This program will start in October with 3rd and 4th serving as the test classes. It will run through Thanksgiving and they will use the month of December to debrief and plan for the school wide roll out in January. She played a video highlighting the program in a school with teacher and staff input.

Lisa Husain spoke about the **Make a Wish Walk**. In May, the CHUH teacher's union decided that they wanted to participate in fundraiser events and want to be supporters of the Make a Wish Foundation. On October 6 there will be a Walk for Wishes event at the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo. She and Christina Sweeney (2nd grade) will be the Roxboro representatives. Our school team name is Rox Walks for Wishes. Please join our team and walk or donate. Participants can stay at the zoo afterwards for free. You can join on PTA website link. They are excited for this healthy competition between CHUH schools, including the board of education. She ended on a personal note-her family was a recipient of Make a Wish Foundation's work and they felt very blessed.

PTA Updates: Committee Reports

Kelly Nolan is the chair for the school dances and introduced the **Halloween Dance**. She's been in the school for 8 years and has been chairwoman of the dances for 4-5 years. They are great events-we do one for Halloween and Valentine's Day. She is asking for volunteers-anyone can help. This event is good for creative people and those who like to decorate. People sign up to bring treats, snacks and drinks. It is free for everyone and is a very fun event.

Mary Pat Jolivette introduced **School of Excellence**. She and Lisa Hunt are working on this new program. Mary Pat will spearhead the program at RoxEl. She has surveys (passed around at this meeting) and they will be available to anyone who is interested in taking the survey. They are anonymous and can be turned in at school. Lisa Hunt spoke about the School of Excellence-it was initiated last year across district. It is an initiative to put the PTAs at the head of the partnerships between the schools and will be part of the building level action plan in all schools. They will invite staff, security, lunch aides and include as many people as possible to all work together for one goal. How can we have PTA support

building level and school improvement? She supports family engagement for district and they are always looking at ways to connect to families. The surveys have been great because they can show where we are lagging. She put a plug in for Homecoming and the Homecoming parade watch which is October 12. This is yet another opportunity to come together as a community to support each other. They would like to have entertainment and food for every one of all ages as well as representation from every school. Looking ahead-Feb 23rd is the planned date for the 2nd Heights Academy. The first one this summer was very successful.

Roxanne Bain talked about **background checks** which will be offered at the Board of Education from 10-2pm on Tuesdays. They will open for one evening on Oct 3rd for background checks if the day timing doesn't work for your schedule. The cost is \$24 and the RoxEI PTA will pay for it if you don't want. Looking for information in the upcoming Enews and home flyers.

Future Heights-**Music Hop** is this weekend and is a great way to support the schools and community.

PTA volunteer opportunities:

We are looking for a **parent coordinator for the school newspaper**. Nicole Tugeau is passing along the position and will be able to train and walk the new coordinator through the job.

We need a **chairperson for the Mother/Grandmother** spring event. We are hoping that a dad could be involved organizing this morning event. It is similar to the Doughnuts with Dudes upcoming event, but is a way to thank and give back to moms and grandmas.

Doughnuts with Dudes is next week Sept 20. Jeff Donnelly is organizing and is hoping to get a few volunteers to set up in morning before school-7:45am. Help is needed to pass out doughnuts, help with coffee, and the photo booth.

Fall fundraiser Chocolate Bar sales-Molly Jones will give the report

Melissa Wood interjected into the chocolate report and wanted to know about Bylaws. Roxanne Bain said she was hoping to wait until the November general meeting after people have had time to review the bylaws or at least the end of this meeting to discuss. Melissa firmly asked that the Bylaws be discussed at this moment. Roxanne briefly explained the updates and changes to the Bylaws. She said an updated set of Bylaws and well as the changes are printed out and she asked that members take a copy so they can review and read them prior to the next General meeting in November when a vote will take place. She gave some background about the changes. Last school year the PTA was rushing to get the old bylaws updated so they could be submitted before the end of the school year. This PTA voted on and approved the updated bylaws on May 8th. However because it was rushed the changes were incomplete and Ohio PTA stated that we needed to hold another vote. The changes that are included in these updated bylaws to be voted on in November are 1) This PTA is open to allowing co-chairs (as has been done in years past) 2) any officer position can be held for an additional year (beyond the 3 year max) by the same person if there are no other volunteers and 3) a slight change to the fiscal term of a PTA membership. There were subsequent heated talks that ranged from votes not counting, lack of transparency, and unfairness with regards to the May 8th and 9th votes. Roxanne thanked everyone for their views and feelings.

Roxanne went back to the PTA committee updates. Tina Emancipator will be running the **Bake Sales**. Lisa West will be organizing the family **fall ice skating party** as well as the **Village**. Please contact her if you would like to help out with the Village.

Claudia Zalevsky spoke about **Rox Arts** which is an organization dedicated to the enhancement of arts and science enrichment for all students in our district. RoxArts start at Roxboro elementary. Funding for both middle schools was added a few years ago. Last year we were able to give to every elementary in district. 2k for each elementary in the district, 3k for each middle, 1k for every grade at Rox. They need help with fundraising and would like to get volunteers from every elementary in the district. They will be having a meeting September 26th at TavCo on Lee Road.

One School One Book. This will kick off on October 10th and close on October 31st. October 17th is literacy night. We need volunteers for planning, literacy night, and the scavenger hunt.

Roxanne moved to talk about something more fun! In our budget we are spending less than we bring in and we have a surplus. We want to **spend 8-10k on capital improvements** this year to spend down the surplus. We will vote on options tonight and again in January. There are three major categories of capital improvements that were brought from the teachers: 1) add to playground-playground shade however this is too expensive. We will plan and research for playground enhancement (asphalt murals) in January. 2) Building enhancement for the front foyer and media center. The budget is 4k. Funds will be used to make the foyer more welcoming including a desk for security, planters, paint and a Media Center Reading Nook-outside of conference room-bean bags, rocking chairs, reading lamp, cozy spot to use during library or any other appropriate time. 3) Electronic scrolling information marquee like Cain Park. We don't have any cost numbers for this marquee yet so basically because the playground updates are too expensive and the marquee has no cost options we will vote tonight on spending 4K to update the foyer and media center. There were a questions about spending money on programming- Roxanne reiterated that this is a capital campaign project. It was asked if we can we add programming and how much our general output on programming is each year. There was a short discussion. Roxanne held the vote on providing money for foyer project and 5 hands were raised for the 4K spending now and 18 hands were raised to keep the money until January when more proposals were collected. The possibility of forming a committee for this spending was brought up and Roxanne suggested that it might be too many hands in the pot. This potential fall funding input came from teachers. Lisa Husain brought up using google docs as a way for everyone to enter in their thoughts and ideas for spending in January.

Adjourned 7:33