

Strandwood PTA General Association Meeting

February 4, 2021

Welcome & Agenda: (minutes by Lawson): called to order at 7:05 pm by Castle using Zoom

(Quorum min: 16) Virtually attended by: Maggie Castle, Jody Lawson, Cheri Scripter, Gillian Thomas, Stephanie Taheri, Eva Yee, Jennifer Roche, Jill Russell, Shannon Veltri, Lindsey Sowko, Tracie Watanabe, Stephanie Markowitz, Renee Schumacher, Christine Finkas, Amber McCaffrey, Liz Mallon, Tod Gomes, Madeleine Holt, Angela Estrada-Dennis, Marissa Shannon, Jenifer Osterholt, Anna Tsai, Lindsey Dohlman, Tamara Rubyn, Liz Hadley

Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes:

Motion to approve the December 3, 2020 General Association meeting minutes by Lawson, seconded and approved

Principal's Comments (Scripter)

- Distance learning continues! We are currently in the purple tier—schools are not allowed to return to in-person learning until COVID subsides. Hoping to have more by the District's next meeting in February. Looking at a model that allows for distance learning in the morning with groups that come in for an afternoon session with A/B days. Afternoons would be more for social/emotional support and helping students get back into routines while still being socially distanced. Possibility of SDC classes being back full-time. The Superintendent stated that the earliest we could be back was March 8th.
- Our JFK Counselor Rodrigo Sanchez has finally been cleared to work with students. He will be running some 45 minute sessions with grade level groups.
- Any issues with our new communication platform, ParentSquare? Emails from Strandwood and the District are now coming from there!
- Michael Ackley's invoice has been corrected—thank you for your patience! Still hoping the district helps us purchase devices for next year—no word yet.
- The EDI committee met on 2/4. They discussed how to make an equitable school. Talked about providing books for the school and library to make sure they were diversified. Would it be possible to offer scholarships for after-school programs? They also discussed celebrating different months like Black History month as we move through the school year.
- What is the principal working on? Our Safety Plan and COVID-10 Prevention Plan and our School Accountability Report Card (SARC). Any feedback? The office is working on kindergarten registration. FYI, report cards go home March 12.
- On Friday, Feb. 5th, classrooms will be hosting Kaiser's Best In Me assemblies. These live virtual presentations along with three supporting videos focus on being kind and managing stress.
- On March 2nd , we'll kick off our American Heart Association challenge. Let me know if you are interested in letting us throw a pie in your face....!

Teacher's Report (Sowko)

- TK/K: Animals from the polar regions, 3D shapes, continuing with letters and sight words, main idea and details, 100th Day (next week)
- 3rd: Beginning Science unit on Climate, beginning some writing on biographies, wrapping up math unit on units of measurement with rounding and add/subtract
- 4th:
 - ELA: We are reading "Patty Reed's Doll" as a novel study and working on comprehension strategies for stories.
 - Writing: Opinion writing
- 5th:
 - Social Studies: 13 Original Colonies and preparing for the Virtual Walk Through the Revolution next month;
 - Math: Adding, subtracting, multiplying, dividing fractions
 - Science: Water Cycle and Water on Earth; Earth and Space Science, Ms. Kolbeck next week
 - Reading: Theme, Summarizing, and Inferencing in Literary Texts
 - Language/Writing: Expanding, Combining, Reducing Sentences/paragraphs in written works
- Library: All grade levels are listening to this year's California Young Reader Medal nominees. Lessons are based on each book.

Financial Reports (Finkas)

- Review of financial reports presented by Finkas
- Motion to ratify checks #7246-7258 by Lawson, seconded and approved

VP Reports

VP Communication (Watanabe)

- Continue to work on the Roadrunner and the website.
- Read and Dream Team reported a successful distribution in December and hope to do another in March.
- Spiritwear will be hosting another sale at a later date.

VP Programs (Schumacher)

- No report

VP Ways & Means (Holt)

- Looked into different pledge-a-thon type events. Most of them still take a large percentage of the total amount raised unfortunately, so trying to look at multiple options. 99 Pledges and Pledgestar were two to consider. Might be good to consider instead of an auction this year.

VP Hospitality (Taheri)

- SAW Meeting was held on 2/3/21 and had a great turnout.
 - Monday: The gift of coffee and door banners
 - Tuesday: Handmade paper flowers/card bouquet
 - Wednesday: Box lunch order using hospitality budget (and reverse parade?)
 - Thursday: Supply/Book Drive for teacher basket (Amazon wish list)
 - Friday: Student video or e-card
 - Would it be possible to have another staff parade at some point? Dr. Scripser would like to talk to teachers about it and look at possibly doing later in the school year.

Parliamentarian (Schofield)

- No update for now

Unfinished Business

- Bylaws Update: Are going to the Council for review, and then will be presented at our next meeting

New Business/Recommendations of the Executive Board

- Nominating Committee volunteers needed
 - Executive Board Elections are on Thursday, April 1, 2021
 - Committee includes: Stephanie Taheri, Christine Finkas, Amber McCaffrey, and 1 vacant alternate (check with Liz Mallon)
- Discussion about Trivia Night/Auction Status for this year and fundraising in general.
 - Trivia Night/Auction status for this year.
 - Still would like to fund art, science, and reading IA positions
 - Might need to consider funding more chromebooks as almost 150 of them will be expiring in September
 - Think it might be better to do a Read-a-thon in lieu of the auction this year
 - Also consider adding more dine out nights as they don't cost us anything to run or programs like Farm Fresh to You
 - Class auction projects? Is there a desire to move ahead with those?
 - Might be good to see how well they sold last year.
 - Maybe better to focus on other fundraising events this year instead.
- Use of Future 5th grade Funds for the following:
 - Virtual Outdoor Ed Field Trip (approx. \$800). More details to follow. (Could possibly use a matching donation that came into school for this!)
 - Yard signs for the outgoing 5th graders
 - Drive through promotion ceremony?
- Motion to approve Events Calendar as presented below by Lawson, seconded and approved

Open Discussion

- The office is working to get Spring Photos scheduled on March 24th and 25th from 3-7 pm. May try to coordinate Read and Dream distribution that night as well as a dine out night?

Announcements

- School Recess- Feb 12 NO SCHOOL
- President's Day- Feb 15 NO SCHOOL
- Executive Board Meeting – Feb. 16 (7:00pm via Zoom)
- Scholastic Book Fair – Mar. 1- 14 (online)
- EDI Committee Meeting- Mar. 4 (6:00pm via Zoom)
- General Association Meeting – Mar. 4 (7:00pm via Zoom)
- See's Candies Fundraiser Mar. 8- 19
- Staff Appreciation Week Mar. 8-12, 2021
- Executive Board Meeting – Mar. 16 (7:00pm via Zoom)
- EDI Committee Meeting- Apr. 1 (6:00pm via Zoom)
- General Association Meeting (Elections) – Apr. 1 (7:00pm via Zoom)
- Cesar Chavez Day– Apr. 2 NO SCHOOL
- Spring Break Apr. 5-9 NO SCHOOL

Meeting adjourned at 8:38 pm