

PTA Council Virtual Meeting

Wednesday, October 7, 2020

Attendance: Cathy Kedjidjian, Rebecca Richards, Katie Ahmed, Beth Conlon, Shiva Mohsenzadeh, Alisa Cios, Nicole Carlson, Crosbie Lind, Cori Mohr, Dana Doffin, Jennifer Jarosick, Scott Nelson, Julie Moon, Karen Hitzeman, Maria Feitlich, Mark Richter, Dane Deli

Called to Order: 9:30 Beth Conlon

Dane Deli: overall very pleased with to transition to Hybrid

- Transportation had some bumps, but improved every day
- Students, teachers, parents have worked well together to follow safety guidelines
- Tik tok episode - used as a learning opportunity
- Substitutes hard to come by under normal conditions, even harder now
 - Dane will talk to Dr. Hopkins re: making it easier for people to apply to become a sub
- Continue to look at metrics and work with task force and other school districts
 - It is not without risk
- Masks need to be worn at all times
 - Not hearing about mask compliance issues
 - Mark Richter said distancing is more of an issue
- Should screens be required to be on or not? Still figuring this out, participation and engagement are the key focus

Cathy Kedjidjian:

- introduced Maria F. Maria will be helping Cathy with communication and social media
- Talked about D34 Parent Connect, amazing Lean on Me program
 - Would like more people to attend, normalize reaching out for help
- Trying not to over communicate, ability to opt out of notifications

Mark Richter:

- Teachers have grown regarding the delivery of instruction remotely
- Learning curve delivering to 2 different groups (at home and in school)

- Middle school staff is working VERY hard to reach out to kids that aren't connected and engaged
- Operational standpoint
 - Busing, checking in, self assessment- getting better, quicker and more efficient
 - Finding supervisors still needs refinement
- Clubs starting soon, will be remote. It will offer some normalcy to students

Beth Conlon: Why did we choose full day model for middle school? It's hard for teachers to teach students in school and at home

Matt Silverman responded:

- We are leaning on great teachers
- Doing half day is not sustainable
- It's hard, it's crazy
- "For the record, I hate pandemic!"
- Strong concern for teacher burn out

Crosbie Lind: For kids that are in school, but the teacher is remote, how did that happen? Will you have a designated sub?

Mark Richter: Are we having a sub permanently connected to a teacher that is remote? TO THE GREATEST EXTENT POSSIBLE.

Crosbie: It is upsetting that kids are in a classroom without a teacher.

Dane Del: It is very upsetting. I'm sympathetic to the frustration.

- Many ever changing circumstances for staff to be in person
- Provisions in the law under which a teacher could be eligible for leave
- We had 2 long term subs, that at the last minute changed their mind and really left us in a bind

11:00 am: Matt Silverman, Cathy K, and Dane Deli had to leave

Meeting resumed with another Zoom link

11:05 am: meeting resumed with Karen Hitzeman, Cori Mohr, Dana Doffin, Rebecca Richards, Kate Ahmed, Crosbie Lind, Beth Conlon, Julie Moon, Shiva M, Jennifer J, and Scott Nelson

Julie Moon GEF:

- Event Oct 25
- Starting a fund drive
- Grant deadline Oct. 23
- Working with Maria and Cathy K to show the difference between GEF/PTA/Gelfund

Shiva/Legislative:

- Address ways to level the playing field for kids that have been disadvantaged due to COVID
- Still waiting to hear about SAT's

Cori Mohr/ Special Needs: if you haven't heard from your parent liaison, please let Cori know
Parent liaisons are here to help

Karen Hitzeman/ Gelfand:

- Just finished big fundraiser
- Raised \$21,000 through Growing Together in D34, trees/leaves
- Supports low income D34 families
- Last resort
- Not just low income families, but families that are in crisis
- Rent is the biggest current need

Beth Conlon/GBS:

- Working on technology robot that follows teacher around
- 247 teachers working from home which is 50% and they will re evaluate every 2 weeks
- Oct. 21 uplifting comedy event

Scott Nelson clarified that Beth wants to know: How many D34 teachers are teaching remotely?
Scott Nelson: will pass along the information, would be helpful to have more info to make decision for next decision time (to choose GOAL or Hybrid)

Cluster Sharing

HE/HO:

- Red carpet, stars 1st day of Hybrid
- 85 members, feels low
- Holiday helper program planning under way

LY/PR:

- Low membership
- Bought lunch for teachers
- Virtual Bookfair, no profit
- Food truck event 15% return

WB/GG:

- Membership (2 levels) \$20 and \$50
- United Nations Day
- Veterans Day, video diary
- More teacher membership this year

SPAT:

- 248 members (half of what we usually have)
- Spirit wear sales
- Anderson Book Fair starts Friday
- Not doing conference lunches this year

Meeting notes submitted by Rebecca Richards, Secretary