

Thornell Road PTSA Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday October 8, 2019 9:00 AM

**Attendees:** Carrie Archer, Kristin Bergholtz, Hillary Bobys, Megan Bonafonte, Gina Brown, Nadia Cheema, Erin Chimento, Joelle Cullen, Kylie DeGrave, Colleen Emmons, Yelana Ermakova, Virginia Hartman, Leman Kose, Tiffany Moore-Corteville, Ivana Nadler, Rachel Nichols, Sarah Pelusio, Eram Reynolds, Liz Ruder, Teague Ruder, Marianne Schreyer, Sadie Szrama, Deborah Trimble, Andrea True, Emily Waller, Liz Wenger, Dawn Schnell, Vanessa

Called to order: 9:06 AM by Gina Brown

**Introduction:**

Welcome & Introduction by Gina Brown. Thank you to everyone for attending. Highest attended meeting. Reminder that this meeting is being recorded. If you don't want to be on the recording please turn off your camera.

Read message from Mr. Debell welcoming everyone and thanking everyone for attending. So happy to have students back at school. Arrival & pick up routines are getting much smoother and continuing to improve. Thank you for your ongoing support and patience.

Usually there are two teachers who are a part of these meetings, Lisa Mauger and Amy Adams. They are currently unable to attend but hopefully they will be able to make it back later in the school year as things settle in.

Gina has been chair for a year & a half and her term is coming to an end. Looking for someone to pick up the position and we can use this time to shadow through the transition.

**Diversity & Inclusion: Sadie Szrama and Emily Waller**

District meeting happened yesterday, they will be doing a lot of virtual workshops/training throughout the course of the year.

Looking to get students & parents involved. Kindness and inclusivity, standing up for each other are being encouraged.

They will be having a meeting coming up soon. If anyone has any ideas or suggestions please send them along.

**After School Enrichment: Ivana Nadler**

After school programming won't be able to take place this year. Some of the vendors are trying to put together virtual opportunities.

We have one vendor, Butterfly Yoga, has been very active about doing things virtually. They offer pre-recorded opportunities. Flyers will be sent out instructing families on how they can register online and they would get access to videos.

Other option is for access to teachers to log in. Ivana has not been able to speak with Roger at this time because everything is so busy. Kirsten Bergholtz has spoken w/ some of the teachers over the summer and there was some interest. Suggested that we reach out to Mr. B and Mrs. Hill to see if they would like some support.

Drama Kids: Have not received any response from instructors.

Any input is welcome, feedback on whether people think their child(ren) would be interested in participating in virtual, after school.

### **Budget Report - Liz Ruder:**

This position is in second term and looking for someone to transitioned position to. There are a lot of items that need to be adjusted in the budget to accommodate last year.

In order to vote on the budget you need to be a member of the PTSA. Membership link was shared in the chat.

### **Fund Raising:**

Typically we have a number of fund raisers, some we are unable to do, some we can.

Holiday Shop - this won't be able to happen this year which is unfortunate because the kids really like it. Reindeer Lane may decide to try and do something online and sounds like a logistical nightmare.

Spirit Wear - We can do a fall sale. The vendor does offer masks so we can include those as well.

Square One Art - This is something that Gina has talked to Mrs. Lubbers about in the past and it hasn't worked out and she isn't sure if she will want to try and do it but it is worth exploring. Child makes a piece of artwork and then you can purchase items with the artwork on it.

Yearbook - still looking for assistance with yearbook. Not sure how class pictures are happening this year. Looking for people to submit pictures from home/remote learners, etc.

Box Tops - still happening. There are still some boxes you can cut tops off of but mostly they have converted to virtual donation. Looking for someone to pick up this position.

Can Kings - still happening, Gina tried to drop cans at the Mendon can drop center because Can Kings was so busy they couldn't take in cans. The Mendon locations looks like it they also do donations so Gina will talk to them about setting up a donation through there as well.

Question from Erin: Are we able to do small fundraisers within the school (i.e. kids donate a dollar to get wear a hat for a day)?

Answer: Yes, however not this year because we are not allowed on the school grounds at this time so we are unable to do anything within the actual school.

Biggest district fundraiser is the Super Sale which is currently postponed hopefully to the Spring. Try to do things that aren't sale based.

Book Fair - Any money that comes in from the book fair will only be paid out in Scholastic Books dollars, they are no longer paying out cash.

Other Suggestions:

Restaurant fundraisers - Chipotle, Tom Wahls

Pumpkin Carving - Carve a pumpkin, give a donation, walk the hallway w/ the pumpkins in it.

"Light the Loop" - Colleen Emmons

Carrie Archer - at the middle school they sell hearts and the money raised goes to charity.

Could we make this virtual? Make a donation, submit some type of artwork to a slideshow that could be sent out on a monthly basis?

Gina suggested that perhaps if we have a few people who are interested in participating in a separate conversation offline.

Teag pointed out that we have talked a lot about fundraising but we do have a budget and we anticipate less expenditures as well.

Connect your amazon account to Amazon Smile - free and funds are donated to the district. Gina will also ask Geoff to put a link on the PTSA TRE website to get this setup.

### **Open Positions:**

Picture Coordinator - we aren't sure how that is going to work this year but the position is open.

Yearbook Coordinator

Box Tops Coordinator

Book Fair Coordinator

Sarah Polusio - Chair of district PTSA introduced herself.

We want to really support school spirit, and be sure that kids who are working remotely feel included in activities and feel like part of the TRE community.

Thank you to everyone for attending.

**Open Forum:**

**Colleen Emmon** - community service suggestion to build school spirit for future. Super Bowl - set up a field goal and kids can bring in can goods to put into the team of their choice. Gina said that she thought that the Student Council holds a food drive in the Spring and maybe that they could be coordinated.

**Kristen Bergholtz** - We should be mindful that there are families in our community in all different positions and we should be sensitive to that when pushing activities that require financial investment.

**Ivana Nadler** - Do we know the best way to communicate w/ families?

Answer - membership directory is a good way to reach people. If it is not a fundraiser we can get Mr. DiBell to send something through Infinite Campus. These messages need to be consolidated if possible.

If anyone has any ideas re: after school enrichment &/or if they'd like to chair a program please contact Ivana.

**Yearbook Cover Contest** - this will happen this year. We need to figure out the theme, in the past the kids picked the theme but this year we might just select it, maybe Pittsford Strong, Stronger Together or some other quarantine theme.

**Erin C** - Want to make sure that not only kids but parents feel included and feeling a part of the Thornell community. Suggestion - create & post committees and committee members which may make people feel more comfortable with volunteering.

**PTSA Liaison** - in the past we there were room parents for each class however those were done away with years ago. We set up PTSA Liaisons and this year we are going to need this more than ever.