

## Thornell Road PTSA Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, September 11, 2018

Meeting was called to order at 8:45 AM by Kim Horan

Attendees: Kim Horan, Roger DeBell, Lisa Mauger, Norah Pritchard, Rachel Nichols, Gina Brown, Ivana Nadler, Kari Szabo, Andrea True

Welcome and introductions around the table.

### Open Positions:

- Kari has a list of what positions are open and she will send it around to the executive committee. Currently, the Yearbook is a priority concern.
- Kari attended the new family and kindergarten orientations which generated a lot of volunteer interest. Some parents provided feedback suggesting that time of the meeting is challenging; suggested that if meetings were in afternoon/after work or school they might be able to attend.
  - This was discussed, the District meeting is scheduled in the evening and also experiences low attendance.
  - Kim is concerned that if we try to change the meeting time that the people who are currently attending will no longer be able to attend.
  - Committees could meet outside of the work day as an alternative. We just need volunteers to run those meetings.
- One of the obstacles we face in getting open positions filled is that people don't know what positions are available and what type of time commitment the positions may require.
  - Discussed posting openings on TRE Facebook page
  - Including a request for help in the e-newsletter
  - Suggested a table at the Back to School picnic
- Kim would like someone to start shadowing her position as her term is coming to an end. There is a lot to learn.
- Ivana is looking for coordinators for the after-school programs.
  - One option is a Snap-ology program- there is a group with instructors and materials, but they would need a coordinator.
  - The PTA also has several sets of Legos but there has been no coordinator for the Lego program.
- The idea of a new family liaison was suggested. Currently we are directing families to the Facebook page which has recently been seeing a lot of traffic/conversations.

### Principal Report: Mr. DE Bell

- Welcome to everyone and thank you for all the work.
- The school-year is off to a great start.
- Full-day kindergarten is going well.
- Last year the PTA funded the Buddy Bench and after a long process it was installed!
  - Mr. DeBell met with each grade level to discuss the bench, the idea behind it, and how the kids can use it.

- The students had a lot of great conversations and used those conversations to create posters for the common spaces and the classrooms.
- The auditorium updates are complete. The new curtain has been hung and the floors have been refinished.
- With additional classrooms being used for classes Mr. DeBell is working to figure out available free space for the after school programs.

#### Book Fair:

- Jen Hern will be running the book fairs again this year. She has someone who will be assisting/shadowing her.

#### Art Ambassador:

- The question was raised: What happened to this position.
  - Kim explained that we ran out of volunteers and have been working with a bare bones crew.
  - Art Ambassador and Science Action were two positions that fell to the wayside. We need volunteers to keep these programs going. A committee works best so that the work can be spread around.
  - Gina Brown suggested a coffee hour, perhaps at the Pittsford Spiegel Center, to introduce opportunities where help is needed.
  - Some jobs are more time consuming than others.
  - It was suggested that a survey could be created to find out if people are interested and able to help and get some definitive information regarding why they haven't been able to help.
  - If we add a "help wanted" section on the PTA website Mr. DeBell can create a link and include it in his newsletter but he cannot include a specific request for volunteers.
  - We can include this information in the PTA e-newsletter to be sent direct to parents.

#### School Supply Kits:

- Parents missed these supply kits. The set up is difficult due to the timing of the lists being sent home and supply requests varying from teacher to teacher.
- An app was discussed where teachers can select what they want to be added on their supply lists and then supplies can be ordered directly and shipped to the family home. This would replace the school supply boxes.
- Another suggestion for the school supply boxes would be for all teacher's supply requirements to be combined at each grade level and all supplies could be ordered that way. People may get a few extra items this way and they could either keep the items or donate them back to the school. The convenience of having the supplies provided in the box at school may outweigh the cost of purchasing the extra items.
- More conversation needs to take place regarding this.

#### Yearbook Volunteers:

- This is a priority position that is currently vacant. It was discussed that a committee would be ideal to spread the distribution of work.
  - One idea was to have one, or more, volunteers per grade level so that they could collect pictures from that level rather than one person trying to capture images for the entire school.
  - It was suggested that a table could be set up at the Back to School picnic.

#### Reindeer Lane: (Christmas Shop)

- This was a great event that the kids really enjoyed but we are going to need more help if we are going to do it again this year.

#### Request from Mrs. Autovino:

- Last year, with money provided by the PTA, the library was able to purchase a Maker Space kit (robotics and programming kit). An iPad is required to build many things with the Maker Space kit. Last year, Mrs. Autovino was able to borrow an iPad from BOCES but she can only borrow them for short periods of time. She is requesting funding to purchase two to three iPads for the library. Kim requested that she put together a written request and some pricing suggestions to be reviewed at our October meeting.

#### Friday Treats – Back to School

- The first Friday in October the PTA has put together a welcome for the teachers. We are looking for volunteers to help organize this event. Rachel Nichols voiced interest in assisting and will speak with Kim for more details.
- At this event teachers will be able to sign up for PTA.

Meeting adjourned 9:45 AM

Next meeting: October 9, 2018, 9:00 AM, Thornell Road STAR lab.