

Thornell Road PTSA Meeting Minutes

Tuesday December 8, 2019 9:14 AM

Attendees: Megan Bonafonte, **Gina Brown**, Erin Chimento, Colleen Emmons, Tiffany Moore-Corteville, Ivana Nadler, Rachel Nichols, Jennifer Simpson, Sadie Szrama, Andrea True, Emily Waller, Roger DeBell (via phone)

Called to order: 9:06 AM by Gina Brown

Introduction:

Welcome to everyone thank you for coming. It has been a quiet month, not too much going on but we are trying to work on tying up other things we have been working on.

Spirit Wear - the company we work with is struggling with inventory but he thinks we can make a sale working. May just be t-shirts, not hooded sweatshirts. Would like to do masks for teachers as well.

- Gina is also working on the 5th grade t-shirt, maybe trying to incorporate the 5th grade design.

The District PTSA recently sent something out regarding the creation of a kudos board where people can create pictures, videos, etc. giving shout-outs to teachers/staff throughout the district. Gina thought that it might be fun to do for Thornell Road.

ASE - Ivana Nadler:

Someone reached out regarding offering a coding class. It is fairly pricey \$18/class/kid.

There has been an online art class (taught by Joanne Andrews) offered by other schools and Ivana thought it might be interesting to offer it at TRE. Currently looking for a coordinator. Gina posted this request on FB.

Sign language class is also something that has been asked about. Working on coordinating that as well.

Roger DeBell:

In communication with the Dept. of Health on a daily basis. He is more optimistic today that he was at this time last month based on how things have been going. Based on information that we have currently it looks like school will remain open which is very encouraging. A lot of stress is tied to the possibility of having to shift to fully remote and that seems to have subsided a bit.

We had our first reported cases last week but transmission has been happening outside of school. Guidelines and procedures are in place and working to keep everyone safe. In his own mind, Roger feels that if we can get into the middle of January without things getting too much worse that we will begin to see the light will be at the end of the tunnel.

Thank you for the support and understanding that the community has continued to extend. Goal is to keep the doors open and continue “doing what we are doing”.

Roger shared a question for the group: How did everyone manage the news last week once we had some positive cases in our school?

Response Question: Are kids coming to school sick or were the cases caught in advance.

The cases were caught in advance based on people following COVID screening. Roger said that people have been adhering to the screening guidelines very well. Staying out of school, getting testing and being responsible and proactive.

Gina spoke with Katie Wells and our team at TRE are going to put together something re: mental health / social-emotional to contribute to our eblast. Roger reminds everyone that our team is available to support all of our students in any way that we can so please reach out if you see any signs or anxiety or anything else that you are concerned about.

Science Action - Rachel Nichols:

Rachel has been working really hard to re-organizing the Science Action curriculum and supply kits to transition this programming to adjust to the COVID regulations. It was approved by the District and is being shared with Michael Pero to see if some of the other schools could utilize/benefit from this program.

Roger shared with many people at the district level and they were blown away by the thought, preparation and detail that went into the development of the program. Special thank you to Rachel for all of her hard work on this program.

First grade is a definite Go and she is in communication with third grade.

Diversity & Inclusivity:

We had a great book club activity recently. It was a success, great discussion and really fun. Thank you to everyone who attended. There were some new faces which were wonderful to see. They are working on figuring out the next book hopefully for January book club.

We are trying to get ASE opportunities to offer sign language however the teacher doesn't have the required liability insurance which is the roadblock right now.

District D&I activity is happening tonight.

Book recommendations have been included in recent Eblasts.

Teacher Appreciation:

Megan went to BJ's after our November meeting to buy drinks and snacks to stock the teachers lounge. A few days later we had signs on the cars and drop off/pick up and both of these were greatly appreciated.

Roger - These small things are what really make a difference and also makes us feel connected despite the social distancing. He said that he feels more connected to the school community now more than ever because of the efforts being made to reach out and it really makes a difference.

Gina - Question re: teacher conferences, the Zoom conferences provides an opportunity for some parents who have never been able to attend a conference before to attend.

Eram Haroon is working to coordinate a collection to purchase thank you gifts for professional staff that have been so helpful with the drop off/pick up.

We will continue to stock the teacher's lounge with staff and drinks through-out the year.

Yearbook:

Cover contest went amazing. We have never had so many submissions. 38 covers that met all criteria. Gina created a Google shared album and the teachers are currently voting, deadline is Friday.

We will try to put all of the submissions on a bulletin board. Also, may try to share them digitally on the sign in the lobby. May be able to create a slideshow that can be shared with the eblast/FB.

We are trying to get more pictures from teachers. They are receiving some submissions but it is coming in slow. Concern was raised that we don't have equal representation of students in the yearbook based on who is submitting pictures and who haven't.

We will try to figure out how to get teachers to submit pictures on a more equitable scale. Gina will be reaching out to the grade leaders to find out what the block is on getting submissions. If we don't get anything from there Roger said that he can assist with speaking with individual teachers that we haven't heard from.

Closing:

Thank you to everyone for your hard work and we will continue to push ahead. If you need anything please reach out.

Meeting Adjourned: 10:08 AM