

TRE PTSA Meeting  
October 13, 2020  
Meeting started: 9:02

Attendees: Buraq Amin, Hillary Bobys, Megan Bonafonte, **Virginia Brown**, Erin Chimento, Roger DeBell, Colleen Emmons, Tom Guner-Kremers, Tiffany Moore-Corteville, Ivana Nadler, Rachel Nichols, Katie Pulumbo, Liz Ruder, Teague Ruder, Marianne Schreyer, Sadie Szrama, Andrea True, Emily Waller

Thank you and Welcome to everyone. We are excited for the activities coming up this month. Including the Super Sale Trail and Light the Loop.

**Roger Debell:**

Good Morning, welcome and thank you to everyone for attending. Now that we are into the middle of October we are getting comfortable with the routine and consistency of the school day. His big hope is that everyone is happy to be back and school and he is so appreciative of being able to see parents and kids at pick up/drop off. Roger is hopeful that we will remain active and open.

There is a case that has just been reported at Mendon High School at this time the school has not received any notification that our school will be affected in any way as the result of that at this time.

Teachers & staff are getting contingency plans in place when/if we need to switch over to remote learning. Hopefully we will not need to use that. We are one of the few districts that have been able to offer in-person opportunities for our students.

**Treasurer Report: Liz & Teague Ruder**

Some of our traditional fundraisers are unable to happen this year so we needed to take a good look at the budget for this year.

Budget was shared.

There are a lot of unknowns in the budget right now. If you have not paid your membership dues please do that. The school receives an allotment of \$4.75/student and we have 415 students at TRE.

We will be able to do a Scholastic Book Fair but it has to be online. In the past we have received cash revenue into our budget from this. This year we will only be able to receive Scholastic Dollars.

Also, Box Tops have been transitioned almost exclusively to online/app we haven't seen too much of a dip in these dollars so please keep submitting these.

Can Kings have been one of the bigger revenue drivers and will continue to be operational this year. If you have cans and need Liz to bring them in for you let her know.

Reindeer Lane (holiday shop) was a bigger fundraiser and can't/won't happen this year.

There is a line that is in the budget that says "Winter Festival/Sock Hop" is a line in the budget that we utilize to track the Basket Bonanza. We don't know if this will be able to happen this year and it may need to be replaced w/ online option.

**Expenses:**

Take-Home Folders

Arts & Cultural Events

International Day

Library Donation

Beautification (flowers around building)

Summer Reading - gift card donation

Student Directory

Visiting Author

Teacher Appreciation

Other - slush fund

Small reimbursement funds - postage, etc.

Gifts to School - This year suggested Ipads (12) for kindergarten classes. There may be regulations that would make this not allowable expense. Roger also suggested that if it is allowable that maybe we could do 50/50 with the school. The cost would be all inclusive- device, case, software, etc. \*items purchased can't be for "instructional" and the expense needs to be purchased for all students.

Past Years we have purchased stage curtains, mats for gym was one item that we were going to donate to however Mr. Debell was able to secure funding from another source. Chrome books were purchased for After School Enrichment in the past.

*Question in chat:*

I think Andrea has a great point in letting people know where the PTSA money goes. I believe it would increase membership and is of interest to the community to know what is being funded. I know there is some information on the PCSD site but I think making a graphic organizer or a short video and sharing it on social media would be helpful.

*Question in chat:* What is the difference between teacher appreciation and new family hospitality. It was clarified that in the past there have been new-family meetings and the PTSA has provided snacks for these meetings which is what that new family hospitality line is used for.

Today was the presentation of the budget, there may changes that need to be made to it. At the November meeting anyone w/ paid membership to the PTSA will be able to vote to approve the budget.

*In chat:*

Rachel Nichols says that there was money from Science Action last year that was not used. Teague advised that we may be able to pull that forward.

International Day Passports are not currently in the budget but parents said that kids really enjoy those. The cost of these books is pretty high as they are currently being done but we can revisit options for this once we get closer to the event.

### **Roger DeBell:**

There is a lot of interest in generating activities to raise positive feelings around school. Student Council is not currently up and running. Discussed the possibility of doing a monthly school spirit days.

School Spirit Days: In addition to school pride Friday designate a special day once a month at the end of the month starting w/ Halloween. Allowing kids to be dressed up for school, teachers can do special activities. More information will be sent out by the end of this week.

Oct. 30 - Halloween/Costumes could be worn to school as long as they can still wear  
Nov. 24 mis-matched day  
Last day before Dec Break - comfy-cozy day  
On Monday January 4 - TRE turns 50!! 70's day

Remote learners are encouraged to participate in this as well. Gina reminded everyone to take pictures for the yearbook!

The little things can really make a big difference in the experience and memories of school. We need to keep things fun despite all of the regulations/guidelines.

### **Super Sale Trail**

This Saturday (rain date = Sunday) make sure if you have the time to stop through some of the sales. There is a fun youtube video that one of the volunteers put together - check it out if you get a chance. This is a \$50,000 fundraiser that they are trying to plug the gap that not being able to do this sale will leave.

There is a whole week full of fundraising opportunities including Spirit Wear, coupon cards, restaurant night w/ multiple restaurants participating. At the end of the week Colleen Eamons share idea Light the Loop it started as a TRE idea that was expanded to include all of the elementary schools.

**Colleen Emmons - Light The Loop** - things are moving along quickly. It started as a TRE idea and then Gina shared it at a district meeting and it was decided to expand it to include all of the elementary schools. Save the Dates are out and a flyer will be released by the district for the entire fundraising week and that will include the registration flyer will be released virtually and w/ a flyer is student backpacks.

Talk to you neighbors and get kids excited to participate! Promotion is a big deal and especially because this is new and we are putting together under such a crunch deadline. Roger will include this with the morning announcements.

We will need volunteers:

- Set-up 4:00 on Saturday
- Moving traffic through the loop

At the September Meeting we talked about trying to revive the Star News monthly newsletter that comes out from the school. We have the weekly Starburst eblast so it seems that this is enough of a channel and Gina reached out to the special teachers to see if they would like to contribute. Brief discussion about what else we can include in the eblast to add interesting content.

### **Diversity & Inclusion:**

Sadie & Emily Waller

Utilize ASE to diversity & inclusion opportunities. Suggested sign-language as a possibility.

Ivana - if the teacher would be paid they would need to provide their own insurance. She will send the requirements.

In person - two unrelated adults, for zoom we don't know if we need have a chaperone and there is also a question re: whether they would need to

Art Club? Park Road offers art and Ivana can share that contact information for that teacher.

TRE doesn't currently have any ASE other than the Butterfly Yoga virtual opportunity.

A book recommendation list is in progress and they will start submitting once a week, may include read-along.

**Book Discussion:** Talked about setting a book discussion for parents Nov. 18th at 7:30 first book "The Hate You Give" (there is an audio-book and also a movie). They will submit to Eblast and will create an event on FB. Will assess a sort of schedule (monthly?quarterly?)

**Potential Fundraiser - Book Pack:** If there is a Scholastic Account that we can use they were thinking of putting together a book pack that would have a set of 8-10 books that parents can

choose from. Include discussion questions and home activities. Gina suggested that maybe we could use some of our scholastic dollars to purchase these books?

The Book Fair is scheduled in November and will run for two weeks. We may be able to piggy-back off of this to help promote the book packs.

**Colleen Emmons:**

Re: Newsletter - obviously there is a lot of information that needs to be shared through the newsletter is there any way to get kids involved with the newsletter, suggested riddle of the week and if kids get these can be put

Card my yard and parades have been really popular with COVID. Possible fund-raiser idea could be to have STAR sign that can be purchased for their yard.

**Yearbook Update:**

Yearbook theme will be **Shine Like A Star**, yearbook cover contest will be announced soon. Gina will be reaching out to teachers and families to have them share pictures to be included in the yearbook.

Gina is reaching out to people who aren't listed into Membership Toolkit to request that they go in and populate their information. If Gina can see that they were active in the past and were marked inactive at the end of the year she is reactivating them and reaching out to have them update their teacher assignment.

**Meeting adjourned 10:40 AM**