

RC Hinsdale PTA
General Membership Special Meeting
Thursday, November, 21, 2019

Present: President Jackie Schlotterbeck, Vice President Membership Tiffany Strah, Vice President Fundraising Sara Thompson, Secretary Jenny Bunnell, and Asst. Principal Mr. Chevalier. Ashley Mitchell, Stephanie Scully, Shannon Klaene, Mary Ball, Thelma Post, Aimee Brown, Beverly DeMoss, Jessica Kriger, Toni Kluck, Danielle Reinhart, Stacey Cammack, Jasmine Akers, Nathan Dickow, Amanda Tritschel, Lisa Proffitt, Nikki Siebert, Elisabeth Chiang, Emily Shipley, Jule Watkins, Jami McQuerry, Dave McQuerry, Jessica Schabell, Kristen Smith.

Meeting called to order at 7:06pm.

Classroom parties and special events request

It was explained that any school activity that is fundraising needs district approval. Since we're gathering financial donations for classroom parties, it's technically a fundraising event. PTA encourages a 3:1 ratio of fundraising events to non-fundraising events.

Aimee Brown is a pod parent and explained that the pods organize 3 parties – Christmas, Valentine's Day, and the end of year party. Pod parents usually ask for \$5 to cover all 3 parties. It is typical for pod and classroom parents to make the request for \$5 and have a signup genius for additional supplies.

Elisabeth Chiang is the Room Parent Coordinator. Since she's been at RCH, they've always sent out a letter requesting money for party donations. She pointed out being aware of the expenses involved with the parties, and an effort to minimize expenses and utilize signup genius for supplies. She pointed out that the parties are a PTA sponsored activity.

Jenny asked for clarification on the intent of the meeting. It was communicated that the meeting was being held because the deadline was missed to seek School Board fundraising approval, and as a result \$3000 was being requested to cover the cost of the classroom parties. The discussion was leaning toward the PTA funding the parties permanently. Jackie responded that yes, after discussing the issue with others, the intention did change. Instead of asking for money from parents, the PTA can use the class parties as a non-fundraising event.

Stacey asked for clarification regarding collecting funds through the school and getting district approval. It was explained that any time money is collected, there needs to be prior board approval. Those meetings happen the first week of the month. The deadline for getting this item on the School Board agenda for the December meeting has passed, so getting Board approval for this is not an option.

Jami McQuerry talked informally to some teachers about this to get some opinions. Some grades thought the money was plenty, and others were concerned with the expectations of

Kona Ice, pizza, etc. the money collected isn't enough. Some teachers reflected that they would rather see \$3,000 be spent on other necessary items instead of classroom parties.

Elisabeth recommended a \$5 amount per child, since some grades are larger than others. Classroom parents could still do signup genius to cover additional items.

There was further discussion about the PTA paying for additional events such as Donuts with Dad, Muffins with Mom, etc. Tiffany pointed out her concern with lumping all the activities together and those items adding up financially. Each event may not be costly on its own, but lumped together, is it something we can financially sustain. How are we addressing all of this long term?

Jackie said tonight we could just approve funding for class parties for the 2019-2020 school year. The PTA will discuss funding additional events and plans for next school year at a future meeting.

Sara pointed out that some families may give more financially to the fundraiser if they don't have to give for every item throughout the school year.

Additional financial information regarding other PTA events was requested, such as Donuts with Dad. Donuts expenses were about \$1000. Lisa estimated that Donuts with Dad and Muffins with Mom are approximately \$2000.

Elisabeth Chiang motioned that the PTA sponsor \$5 per child for classroom parties for the 2019-2020 school year. Aimee Brown seconded. **The motion carries.** The total will be approximately \$3000, at \$5 per student.

Reminder of Color Me Mine next Wednesday, the 27th.

Candy Cane Corner is the 16-20, Mary will send out a signup genius. Mr. Chevalier said there was a meeting today, and the shopping will be during art class, but in the music room. He will send Mary the schedule. Mary asked for help next year, looking for 3 or 4 parents to help her. She is wanting to form a committee to do Candy Cane Corner; she wants to help next year, but is not wanting to do it all. Mary asked for volunteers to sign up, and she will also be using some 5th graders to volunteer as well. Volunteer signups will go out after Thanksgiving break.

The next PTA meeting is Tuesday, Dec 3 for fundraising conversation. Boosterthon will be here to discuss all of our options. Meeting at 6:30 in the library. Sara asked that any questions be sent to her prior to meeting.

Elisabeth Chiang motioned to end the meeting. Lisa seconded. **The motion carries.**