



Travell Home and School Association

Friday, December 6, 2019

9am

Attendance: D. Ryan, C. Malloy, K. Nakasone, M. Romero, L. Anghelone, C. Morbelli, B. Garcia, S.Kapadia, M. Cho, K. Park, E. Sory, J. Tesseyman, M. Agatep, J. England, L. Henky, C.McHugh, J. Pasquenza, J. Chohey, D. Byrne, D. Yela, Dr. Leininger

1. President's Report: C. Malloy welcomes everyone and calls the meeting to order.
2. The Federated report starts with the mobile directory. In years past we never mentioned "dues" in regards to directory but we were the only school not to do it. We changed our wording to be more in line with the other schools. Directory funds have been going down over the years. The app is great. The directory could be a way to communicate information about the school. M. Agatep mentions that moms text her to ask for class list for birthday parties and all of this information would be available on ones phone should they subscribe to the directory. Mobile Arc directory subscriptions are \$30. District wide mobile arc is not doing as well as expected.

D. Ryan says the Wizards game will be moving to two nights because the show sells out so fast and it will be January 23 and 24th. This is the Federated HSA's biggest fundraiser and it funds the speaker series. Dr.L will be playing, Mr. O, Mr. Freitaug, Ms. Lauro and a student teacher from Mr. Schick's class. Our new Tiger's Costume will be available for that night.

Mrs. Manahan is retiring after 9 years at Travell and the HSA would like to congratulate and celebrate her.

3. Principal's Report: Dr. Leininger

-We have a replacement for Mrs. Manahan. The replacement will overlap with Mrs. Manahan for a couple of days before taking over her duties.

-Mrs. Feuilly and Mrs. Tracy will be back at the end of January.

- The tiger costume is coming.

-We've been working on anti-bullying. We always talk about it in open circle. We have books we've been reading to reinforce our anti-bullying initiative.

- Eileen Head is now working on finishing up the gift cards for Social Services. Thanks to everyone who donated.
- Pajama day and Bagel day were very successful.
- Family fun days have been going great.
- Report cards grades dec 17th.
- Winter concerts on Dec 19th, 1:15 not 1PM, for 4th and 5th grade.
- Dr. Fishbein wants a green team for each school to start a recycling initiative.
- Guidance counselor has been to each classroom and is getting to know each class
- Drama Club is underway. 80 kids have enrolled and we needed 60 to make our contracted quota with Porchlight. This year's performance is Shrek.

4. Officer's Reports:

-Vice Presidents: Laura Anghelone:

Bagel day went well with 53 kids attending. We had extra volunteers for bagel day for crowd control.

Spirit Wear hoodies were a big seller. TICTOC went well. Cartooning is the next collection. Marisol put together a new committee. Men's night

-Treasurer's Report: Christina Morbelli

*Events are staying on budget. 53 for directories is lower than last year but hopefully sales continue to roll in.

*Basketball is up, bagel day is doing great and Amazon Smile money is consistent with last year.

*Catchy made \$358, School supplies made \$1461, Scrip is to date just over \$2000, Circus concession made money this year.

-VP's Enrichment: Min Hee Cho:

December is a busy month already so we didn't schedule enrichment activities. Reading assembly with Simon Mandel coming up. He's a magician with a mission to inspire young people to read. A math magician will also be hired to come later in the year. Lorna Oates the Somerville principal recommends the Catskill puppet theatre via Dr. Leininger. Min Hee Cho is in communication with Somerville Enrichment chairs to share that information.

-VP's Fundraising : Meghan Agatep give Auction report as the fundraising chairs were finishing up chairing Book Fair.

-Auction committee is very organized and starting early.

-They need to communicate to families that donations are still needed and that many families may have a connection to a corporation that donates. L. Henky also men-

tions that many families are working for companies that have items to donate and people just need to ask.

-The Auction will be using ClickBid this year which is new for us and will take a little time to get used to. We're hoping the use of technology makes the experience easier for the customer and the volunteers working the event.

5. Committee Updates

D. Yelp reports on International Expo that things are moving along. We thought maybe we would do a video but there was not a lot of interest after parents were surveyed so the idea has been scrapped for this year. A link will be sent out for practice slots in the near future.

6. New business/old business/open forum

B. Garcia asks will continental math club come back? Dr. Leininger informs that the club will be back in the winter.

A request is made for a Games and Food Chair for Mayfair. Jim Chohey volunteers and will cover chairing food.

A request is made for Grade level Art Chairs for Auction for Kindergarten, 1st, 3rd, and 4th grade. Deidre Byrne asks what the job entails and volunteers to do first grade. Min Hee Cho and Kate Park volunteer for 4th grade. Still need volunteers for Kindergarten and third grade.

7. Special Presentation from the Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Assessment: Stacie Poelstra

-S. Poelstra is working on shaping Ridgewood's strategic Plan, working with Dr. Fishbein to shape our education for the future.

~A strategic planning process has been implemented and includes a committee representing stakeholders across the district, collaboration with consultants from TMI facilitated this process, there will be an information session for all in April, the committee met for three sessions to develop district goals.

~The essential questions the committee wants to address: "What trends will shape our student's futures?", "What skills will they need to succeed?", "How can we shape their education accordingly?"

~the committee thought that the students need excellence, flexibility, adaptability, resilience, critical thinking, empathy, creativity, communication, interpersonal skills amongst other skills

~ in answer to “how can we shape accordingly?” The committee came up with more questions, “what does our data say about our district?” “How does our vision align with our reality?”, “Where are we doing well?”, “where are the opportunities for us to improve and enhance student experience?”, “what is the relationship between our data and the trends impacting the future?” , “What goals should be set in light of this analysis?”
~The committee developed goals for learning, teaching, culture, governance and community.

~ Learning Goal: Expand student skills in foundational academics while infusing the development of lifelong skills of critical thinking, creativity, empathy and resiliency to positively impact students’ contributions to school, their future workplace and society.

~Teaching Goal: Build a professional culture to advance teachers’ content knowledge, and their capacity to create innovative learning environments that engage students to solve problems, work collaboratively, develop leadership skills and pursue their passions.

~Culture Goal: Promote a learning culture that embraces passion and perseverance while fostering a spirit of empathy that develops socially and emotionally resilient learners.

~Governance Goal: Address the need to upgrade district facilities and systems to address present and future needs, and create a supportive environment for students and staff to pursue “moonshot thinking”.

S. Poelstra defines moonshot thinking as “out of the box, big, reach for the stars ideas”.

~Community Goal: Forge partnerships with community members and organizations to harness skills, life lessons, and knowledge that will enhance the educational experiences of district students.

S. Poelstra takes questions from those in attendance. A few parents have concern over the amount of time spent dedicated to phonics in the classroom and wonder if we can achieve these bigger goals without first taking the time to implement the basic foundational skills? S. Poelstra is aware of the concerns and Ridgewood does consider altering the programs based on research but is never quick to jump from one trend to the next. In education there are trends and for teaching reading now the pendulum seems to have moved towards the middle which incorporates “look to the picture” approach combined with phonics. It’s difficult to find a “perfect” method to teach reading to every student as so many students learn in different ways. The teachers do a great job of differentiation in the classroom to reach each student. Over \$200,000 has been spent to provide teacher training on reading in the district in the last couple of years.

Meeting is adjourned at 11am. Minutes respectfully submitted by Kelly Nakasone.