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05/04/2022 PTA Meeting Minutes

Meeting started at 7:03 pm.

Heather (president): overview of the agenda

Bruce Katcher (FON volunteer leading the library project): Library update

- The library shut down in March 2020 has not yet re-opened. The room on the 4th floor that used to house it was converted to classrooms, and the library material was packed to room 102 in random fashion. This fall, the volunteers embarked in a major effort to reorganize the library in less space. A lot of the collection was very old and there was no reason to keep those books that were not used by students or were in poor condition. Also, 400 books were checked out and not returned. Decided not to go chase them and leave them in the hands of the students. Applied for grant through the PTA and Debbie Stewart, replaced books and bought additional ones. Last shipment was just delivered. It will take some effort to reshelve them, Bruce will figure out how and when we will do that.
- Bruce had a meeting at the school today with Principal Townsend and Ms Pomrink, which was very productive. A room that was being used for other purposes will be emptied by the end of May so we can move the books in storage in his basement the first week in June and start shelving the books. Will have access to the entire room in the fall. The Principal indicated she has additional funds that she can use to buy more shelves. The plan is to reopen programs in the fall with Kindergarten and 1st graders: read aloud, library intro, courses on how to use the library, and other fun activities. Then gradually add 2nd and 3rd grades, then programs for 4th and 5th grades to come in independently to check books out.
- Bruce will gather volunteers and schedule in late Spring to prepare for next school year
- Silvia (secretary) asked how we find and recruit volunteers. Bruce explained that West Philadelphia Alliance for Children (WePAC), which helps establish volunteer groups to run libraries in the school district and is branching out to other areas of the city, can help. Bruce will reach out to former volunteers. Other ideas proposed: parents to invite

friends and neighbors; publicize this volunteering opportunity through the PTA newsletter and social media channels; QVNA and BVNA newsletters (we could also write a short article about the library project to submit to these newsletters. Carrie, VP elect, has contacts.)

Tom Rosenthal (treasurer): budget update

- The Spring Fundraiser was a great success: We made \$15.7K, our total expenses were \$6.4K, so we netted \$9.3K.
- The Annual giving campaign so far has received more than \$7K
- The combined amount raised from both initiatives totals more than \$16K
- Call for volunteers for the audit before school closes

Latrice Jackson (SAC committee): upcoming event updates

- May 12, Kindergarten virtual open house
- May 20, middle school open house
- June 8, zoning meeting on proposed project to build a bank with drive-through at 934-944 Passyunk. The SAC is looking for a parent who can attend as a representation of the school
- Electrical upgrade at the end of July to be completed in August (the electric system is very old and outdated and the reason why we don't have air conditioning)
- May 6, luncheon for teachers and staff appreciation week. Latrice needs help unloading the lunches in the morning
- Field Day at Sacks playground is happening, the teachers are looking for a DJ and will probably need volunteers.

Heather (President): update

- The middle school lockers were installed.
- Introduced next year's Board elect:
 - **Tom Rosenthal**, treasurer, staying on the board. Has a child in 3rd grade this year, one who will go to Kindergarten next year, and a 1 year old baby.
 - **Silvia Licciulli**, secretary (currently serving as interim for this year). Has a child in kindergarten this year
 - **Kristin Roger**, VP for elementary school. Has a child in 2nd grade this year and one in kindergarten next year
 - **Nicole DeJessa**, VP for middle school. Has a child in 4th grade this year
 - **Carrie Ruddell Maria**, general VP. Has a child in kindergarten this year
 - **Alyn Turner**, president. Has a child in 2nd grade this year
- The current board is in charge until the end of the school year (the elected officers will assume official duties on July 1) and will support the transition to the new board.

Margarette Perazzo introduced herself as an active parent who supports the PTA activities and represents the autistic community

The meeting was adjourned at 7:43 pm

Minutes prepared by Silvia Licciulli, interim PTA Secretary