**ROTON PTA EXECUTIVE MEETING**

**Minutes 9/06/2023**

**6-7 PM**

**Attendees:** L. Bechervaise, S. Bronner, C. Grey, L. Kelly, D. Pisani, S. Santoli, E. Singelton, B.Yallop

**Review May 31st meeting minutes and update/accept**

**Chinese Lantern Festival – 2/09/2024**

* Looking to make this a broader and school wide event. Considering setting up activity stations around the school that students can participate in
* PTA Involvement could be fund raising, but definitely need extra hands to help

**RCA Grant**

* D. Pissani has researched the purchasing and setting up of 8 TVs that are placed throughout the school that share info of the day (message can be synced or can be specific per TV)
* Also looked into companies that do manages the system. These are subscription based ~$30 a month $1200 set up fee.
* Plan is that the PTA uses the grant to purchases the equipment. The district will need to set up the electric. Each tv $600 w/mount. Going to ask for ~$7500.
* Darrin following up with Sue Powell

**Chromebooks**

* We were approved for the Verizon grant and all new Chromebooks next year (2024 – 2025)
* Putting off testing until 9/19 to address any significantly damaged Chromebooks to be replaced with a better ones.

**Band Uniform**

* Current band teacher has idea in mind will revisit once thru start up of school
* Can possibly utilize some of the band grant money to cover the cost of uniforms. In past the band uniform has been a T-Shirt which the student purchased.
* Darrin to follow up – Town, Grant & Fund-raising options to utilize for uniform and/or instruments.

**Mr. Devellis Retirement -** Roton staff is hosting a party for him on 9/20 from 4-7pm. PTA to vote on getting him a gift.

**Set PTA monthly meeting dates** - 1st Wed of the month

**Treasurer’s Report – Darrin**

* Ended Year with $59,864.44
* Spent ~$4,168.73 over summer from 8th grade dance and Bayley picnic.
* Deposits $461.71
* Ending balance $55,737.02
* Recommending:
  + The addition of ApplePay (easy install due to Stripe processor already in place)
  + No longer issue paper checks for reimbursement
  + Amazon Smile - Not seeing anything coming from it, believe Amazon has discontinued. Darrin to look into it

**Front of School Sign**

* Still interested in putting one up but will need to work with the town to figure it out. Need to find balance between effective and not intrusive.
  + 1st choice Electric Signage
  + 2nd Choice nice wooden sign, well lit with electric sign below (similar to BMHS)
* Singelton to follow up with central office.
* Darrin checking on price of signs

**Teacher Appreciation Lunch on Wed 9/13**

* Super Duper Weenie Truck or Colony Pizza
* 71 – 80 people
* 11 – 1pm timing
* Christine Grey will call and find out who is available, cost and Darrin can pay with Debit Card
  + ***UPDATE Since meeting:*** Super Duper Winnie Truck is confirmed for 9/13

**PTA Fundraising ideas & set dates**

* Parent Night at 314 Beer Garden on Wed 9/27, 7-10PM (Trivia Night)
  + Raffle at this event – buy ticket and drop tickets in box (buy packs of tickets so 1 person associated with 1 number)
  + 50/50 Raffel
  + Need to come up with ideas for prizes - Party for the class (ice cream & pizza party for class). Video game bus. Donations of Sky Zone passes, sports tickets donated
  + Need Promotion!! - Posters at Open House (Ms. Bronner will make a sign)

**Enrichment programs & field trips per grade/clubs –** Ran out of time so ended here and moved into General Session

**ROTON GENERAL PTA MEETING**

**Minutes 9/06/2023**

**Attendees:**  L. Bechervaise, S. Bronner, C. Grey, L. Kelly, D. Pisani, S. Santoli, E. Singelton, B.Yallop

G. Arce, M. Andrea, M. Carkey, M. Corliss, S.Demasi, R. Donald, P. Donaldson, M. Douglas J. Fuglestad, J. Gagliardi, A. McCarthy, J. Otero, M. Silvestri

**Principal’s Updates**

* Welcome! Have had a great start of the 2023 – 2024 school year
* 451 students enrolled. Continuing enrollments so numbers will be going up.
* 9/13 Back to school night – Mr. Golden 8th, Mr. McCleary 7th and Mrs. Miller-Haddock 6th have or will be communicating about it

**Let Me Run - John Ward**

* John Ward presented and requested help subsiding the “Let Me Run” program for RMS boys. Programs mission is to build character in young men thru running. It is an 8 week program that meets 2x a week for an hour, Monday & Fridays at 3:15pm. Concludes with completing a 5k altogether, planning to do the Veterans run in Westport.
* Program will start 9/18 and the registration process will being week of 9/11. Goal is to get as many engaged as possible. Looking to enroll 16 – 16 boys per cohort.
* $125 enrollment fee per participant and the 5K Fee. Asking for PTA subsidies. Has secured scholarships from Darien Running Company (4) & Let Me Run (1/2 of 3). Looking for $500 (4 Scholarships) from PTA.
* Possible sponsorship form Dental Office in Westport <Name>.
* Board will discuss and get back

**After School Enrichment program - Audrey McCarthy**

* Requesting to re-launch Rowayton Academy here at Roton.
* Want rebrand and relaunch the program with new list of offerings.
* Have created a survey that would go out to all the parents and get a level of interest in existing and new offerings. Also includes an invitation to parents with special interests to volunteer to run a program
* Funding would be a combination of – Parent Volunteers, Grant Writing, and fund raising from private organizations. Looking to build a team to create an endowment fund that will continue to fund these activities. Goal is for these to be free or almost free for most kids.
* PTA has a budget for existing programs and there is some funding from the district for these initiatives. Need to determine the gap to determine how much fundraising is needed to support the proposed enhanced/re-branded Enrichment program
* Discussed establishing a PTA Liaison/Committee for Enrichment to help move this forward
* How is enrichment different from RAMS? RAMS program is a Carver Center program that is housed here at Roton, teachers are contracted with Carver Center
  + Kids in the RAMS program can participate in the after-school activity or sport in addition to participating in the academic support of RAMS
  + RAMs is 3 – 5, and Enrichment is 3-4pm.

**PTA Fund Raising Overview**

* Last year was first full year of fund-raising post Covid. Events included…
  + PTA due fund raising – up’d dues
  + School Spirit wear
  + Amazing Roton Race (twist on the amazing race with kids competing in minute to win it style activities throughout the school). Last year was the first year so learned a lot and returning students are excited for it this year
  + Pancake breakfast.
  + PTA funds have been utilized to improve the school facility itself (Library/Gym etc)
* Upcoming Events PTA Fundraising and School Events
  + Parent night at 314 Beer Garden on 9/27. 15% of sales w/ Raffel

*Full list below was not provided at the meeting but sent to attendees following the meeting*)

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **PTA fundraising** | **STUDENT fundraising** | **8th GRADE fundraising** | **SCHOOL Events** | **PTA Initatives** |
| Amazing Roton Race | winter & spring dance | popsicle sales (multiple) | penny war for breast cancer research | stock the staff room |
| Swag Sales | bake sales for various charities | ice skating night | Multicultural night | teacher appreciation lunch(es) |
| Yearly membership |  | raffle | Chinese New Year | Award fulfillment (e.g. pizza parties) |
| Kahoot/Pizza kits |  | valentines lollipops | Dodgeball tournament | Lockers of Love |
| Mr. Frostys |  | christmas candy canes | Play/Concert Bake Sales | Teacher grants |
| Sky Zone |  | O'Neils Night | thanksgiving food drive | Enrichment programs |
| Pancake breakfast |  | Carwash | Book fair (2x) |  |
| Restaurant nights |  |  | Invention Convention & GT Projects |  |
| Krispie Kreme Donut |  |  |  |  |

**2023-2024 PTA Board & Members**

* Membership is 32 people, **please join** [**ROTONPTA.ORG**](http://rotonpta.org/)
* Gillian de Haan will be replaced with Katie Turnbull as co-secretary.
* Josh Homewood is co-Treasurer and does the Web Site
* PTA – what positions are available.
  + PTA Co-Chair needed
  + Fundraiser Liaison - Julie Gottsegen interested in running events and fundraisers
  + Social Media Liaison - Improve Facebook and Instagram post QR codes around school
  + Enrichment Leader
  + PTOC rep from all schools meet monthly. Each school has a PTOC rep - needed
  + Will need to recruit board members to replace Barb, Darrin, Christine, Leslie and Liette because they will no longer have students at Roton in 2024-2025 school year
* Please help promote PTA Events via word of mouth encouraging people to come!

**Next Step**

* Exec board meet/re-group
* Establish committees and get nomination process going
* PLEASE JOIN THE PTA - [**ROTONPTA.ORG**](http://rotonpta.org/)