



Cory Elementary PTA General Membership Meeting
11.5.2020
Via Zoom

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Cory Elementary PTA general meeting was called to order, via Zoom, at 6:30pm by Dana Schoonover (President). Alison Durnavich (Secretary) recorded the minutes.

2. ROLL CALL

5 Board Members were in attendance via Zoom: Dana Schoonover (President), Debbie Fimple (Treasurer), Anastasia Glennie (VP), Savannah Graham (VP) and Alison Durnavich (Secretary).

Cory representation via Zoom: Joan Wieser

Also in attendance via Zoom: See attached list

Anastasia Glennie moved to review and approve PTA meeting minutes from October and November at the December meeting. Motion was seconded by Stephanie Campbell. Motion approved.

3. PRINCIPAL UPDATE - Joan Wieser

- Plans for how to address social/emotional health for 3rd-5th graders going back to virtual school?
 - We know this is important and relationships are key. Cory is focused on making strong connections between students and teachers.
 - Cory is looking at whole child data and plans to bring back small groups of 3rd through 5th grade students; kids who are struggling to engage and connect remotely.
 - Will start small - capped at 45 students
 - Debbie Fimple asked what teachers will be supporting these small groups returning to Cory and will that affect the kids/teachers who continue to be remote learning?
 - Joan said they will use special education teachers, paras and specials teachers to support the kids brought back in. Kids will log into their remote teachers, but there will be adults in with the small groups to add extra support.
 - Seann Smith touched on the social/emotional issue and noted that there are a lot of tools out there to help kids and we need to be thinking outside of the box.
 - Joan agrees that we need to grow this.
- Joan has been pushing to get kids back into school as much as she can, but DPS has denied her proposals to do so.

- Brittney Frye asked who denies those proposals and Joan said that it's senior leadership in DPS. Charters work under different rules.
- Naurin Gilger asked about waivers - Could Cory obtain a waiver to run a hybrid option?
 - Joan said she will get more clarity around waivers - She didn't even know they existed until this week.
 - A waiver is possibly what Lincoln Elementary obtained to get its 3rd graders back in-person, due to it being a Montessori program and 2nd/3rd graders are grouped together.
- Jen Grumann asked if there is a way to develop a plan that will work with the remote plan or in person? Does Cory have any autonomy or flexibility to get all kids in the building at some point, whether it's certain days of the week, or reduced hours?
 - Joan says we have a hybrid plan - Just waiting for DPS to say Cory can implement it.
- When kids do return to in person learning, is there anything that parents can do to help teachers feel safer in the classroom?
 - Joan is looking into whether HEPA filters would help in classrooms - She will get more info.
 - Joan said all of the kids followed the procedures in place for Covid and felt that the teachers, staff and students were doing a great job keeping everyone safe.
- Dana Schoonover asked that any further questions be submitted to the PTA at coryelementarypta@yahoo.com.

4. COMMITTEE UPDATES - Anastasia Glennie

- CSC needs a parent representative - No other updates.
- Garden/Chicken Updates
 - Fall garden clean up on Saturday, November 7th at 10am
 - A few people have volunteered, but would like more help.
- Book Fair
 - Virtual book fair will be held the week of November 16th
 - All book orders will be delivered
 - Book fair will continue to raise money for Cory
 - Every child in need will receive a \$50 Scholastic gift card to spend at the book fair - This will be done confidentially.
- Friends of Cory - Travis Wanger
 - The campaign has raised approximately \$26,000 right now - The goal is \$60,000.
 - Committee decided to extend the campaign for an extra week (through 11/20).
 - We are raising money for when we come back - We want to come back to a Cory that is as strong or stronger as how we left it.
- Holiday giving for support staff
 - Typically only collect for support staff because room parents usually organize for the main classroom teachers; however, we are unsure whether there are room parents in each class this year.

- We could expand to collect for the main classroom teachers and just ask that parents specify which portion of their donation should go to a specific teacher.
 - This would help in cases where there is no room parent to organize holiday giving for main classroom teachers.
 - Idea will be communicated to Karla Hand, who is in charge of the Venmo account.
- Yearbook
 - Class pictures have been canceled for fall, but will happen in the spring, if we are back in person.
 - Document this unusual school year at home, in pods, etc. and submit those pictures for yearbook.
- Dine Outs - Erlen Marsh
 - Esters raised less than expected (\$200 as opposed to \$900 last time); however, it was a cold, snowy night, with no opportunity to dine outdoors.
 - Looking at Fire on the Mountain for November.
 - Committee might explore weekends for a dine out - We are open to whatever restaurants are willing to do.
- Arts Committee - Stephanie Campbell
 - The Arts Committee is just on hiatus until we are back in person.

5. **BUDGET UPDATE - Debbie Fimple**

- We have cut out a lot of expenses, just due to being virtual.
- Income is also down, but that is to be expected.

6. **MISCELLANEOUS**

- Mr. Conklin requested \$40 to get a street sign with Alison Walker's name
 - *Anastasia Glennie moved to use PTA funds to purchase a sign for Alison Walker. Motion was seconded by Stephanie Campbell. Motion approved.*
- If people are interested in working with Seann Smith or learning more about his ideas to support the kids' social/emotional wellbeing, please reach out to him at appleseedland@gmail.com.

7. **ADJOURNMENT** Meeting was adjourned by Dana Schoonover at 7:35pm.

Alison Durnavich

Secretary

Approved:

Date: _____

Attachment: Roll Call via Zoom

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