



**Cory Elementary PTA General Membership Meeting  
5.12.2020  
Via Zoom**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Cory Elementary PTA general meeting was called to order, via Zoom, at 7:00pm by Kristine Hawthorne (President). Alison Durnavich (Secretary) recorded the minutes.

**2. ROLL CALL**

5 Board Members were in attendance via Zoom: Kristine Hawthorne (President), Debbie Fimple (Treasurer), Anastasia Glennie (VP), Marti Freeman (VP) and Alison Durnavich (Secretary).

Cory representation via Zoom: Joan Wieser, Amber Bourgeois

Also in attendance via Zoom: See attached list

**3. PRINCIPAL UPDATE - Joan Wieser**

- Distance Learning Update
  - We are seeing good engagement (95%-98% attendance), and work completion is in the 80% range for literacy and math. Specials are much lower.
  - Feedback has been all over the board, ranging from Cory's approach being too much for families to manage to it not being enough.
  
- Potential Scenarios for 2020/2021 School Year
  - DPS is exploring many options, all depending on the current state of COVID-19. We won't know what August will look like until July.
    - Joan is hopeful because we are looking at other countries and how they are handling the reopening of schools.
    - Joan and the Cory staff are planning on being in school in August, but one possibility could be starting in person, and moving to distance learning, or a hybrid model.
    - Worst case scenario is starting the school year with distance learning, whereby expectations will be much different.

- There are 3 options, with respect to distance learning:
  1. Option 1: Packets of paper passed out to students, with no teacher engagement or online component.
    - Concern was expressed that Cory would be forced into this approach, based on equity within DPS. However, Joan does not believe this option would happen.
  2. Option 2: Teachers would record and post lessons online, leveraging online platforms.
    - Cory chose this option for the current (Spring 2020) distance learning, based on capacity.
  3. Option 3: Live lesson component.
    - Very similar to option 2, but with a live lesson component. Possible that Cory could blend options 2 and 3 for fall distance learning.
- Cindy Schatz questioned whether there will be a budget shortage for DPS?
  - Joan said at this point, they don't know what the potential impact on the budget will be. Best case, DPS is down \$20 million. Worst case, DPS is down \$60 million.
    - Susana Cordova says the top priority will be no cuts to staff or buildings.
    - Joan doesn't feel at risk of losing staff, but is concerned we could lose experiences.
- Skeeter Buck asked if Cory teachers received Personal Development (PD) around distance learning before it was implemented? And, if not, is there a plan to get the teachers that support?
  - Amber Bourgeois said that yes, they did receive some PD re: online platforms before transitioning over to distance learning.
  - Joan requested that people give very honest feedback to DPS about what is working and what is not re: distance learning.
    - Amber Bourgeois agreed and said to continue to send emails to DPS letting them know what we are concerned about and what we want to see happen in the fall.
- Anastasia Glennie asked if all teachers are on board with coming back to Cory in the fall, even if we are doing distance learning?
  - Joan said that this has been difficult on the teachers, as with distance learning, they are missing out on a special part of their jobs. That being said, she feels that the teachers are doing well and morale is hanging in there - All teachers and paras are planning to return, even if distance learning is taking place.
- Marti Freeman questioned whether DPS has given a timeline for when it will make a decision re: the fall?
  - Joan said that Susana Cordova will be providing a timeline and will be communicating that towards the end of May.

#### **4. COMMITTEE UPDATES - Anastasia Glennie**

- CSC - Amber Bourgeois
  - Most of CSC is on-hold, with a meeting to be held later in May.
  - Elections will be held at some point in the future.

- We are still looking for a person to be a PTA/CSC - Facilities liaison. It is a priority to fill this position.
- Garden/Chicken Updates - Summer Griffin and Skeeter Buck
  - The garden needs volunteers to get the large donation of plants from Bonnie Plants in the ground. Incoming 2nd grade parents, Scot Kreider and Amy Perfect, will help now that Summer and Skeeter will no longer be at Cory.
  - The calendar is open for Coop volunteers over the summer.
  - The Garden and Chicken Coop have been dedicated to Summer and Skeeter for all of their hard work - A plaque recognizing them will be placed on the Coop.
- Dine Outs - Erlen Marsh
  - We raised almost \$8000 before COVID-19, most recently received \$100 from our Servant Coffee fundraiser.
  - Gwen Campbell (former Cory parent and with Globe Hall) has some ideas to raise money for Cory, but we want to focus on the upcoming Auction at this point.
- Cougars & Cowboys Virtual Auction - Naurin Gilger
  - Auction will be held virtually, via Zoom, on May 23, 2020.
  - While we likely won't be able to reach our original fundraising goal, Naurin is optimistic that we will do well.
    - We currently have \$80,000 in silent and live auction items.
  - Buy-a-Shares and Teacher Treasures will be on sale throughout the summer, as many dates and themes are TBD.

## **5. Budget Update - Debbie Fimple**

- We are in good shape for the 2020/2021 year in terms of our budget commitment for specials/paras, which we pay in advance out of the 2019/2020 budget.
- We should be developing the budget for the 2020/2021 school year at this point, but that will be delayed until August, when we see how much we raised from the Auction.
- The 2021/2022 school year could look different if we are not successful at the upcoming Auction and Friends of Cory 2020.
  - We need to raise about \$100,000 at the Auction, as the amount to fund specials/paras for 2021/2022 school year is anticipated to be much higher (possibly up 20% from \$180,000 for the 2020/2021 school year).

## **6. MISCELLANEOUS**

- Debbie Fimple noted that the 5th grade parents want to do something nice for the graduating 5th graders.
  - Joan said that the 5th grade team is meeting on Thursday (5/14) to discuss plans and will then communicate that to families. Safety is the top priority, but they want to have something fun for the kids to celebrate.

- Anastasia Glennie said that while we've had to cancel several school events this spring, we are still planning for events to take place in the fall.
- Yearbook sales for the 2019/2020 year were a huge success.
- Facilities has resurfaced the parking lot between Cory and Merrill.
- EduKits are moving forward, but much smaller in scope.
- PTA Board for 2020/2021 School Year
  - There are up to 3 board positions open
  - Request a 2 year commitment
  - Will hold elections in August for most effective transitions

7. **ADJOURNMENT** Meeting was adjourned by Kristine Hawthorne at 8:15pm.

**Alison Durnavich**

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Approved:

Secretary

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Attachment: Roll Call via Zoom

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