

Rogers Elementary PTA Meeting Minutes

April 6, 2021

Call Meeting to Order

- Meeting called to order by Katie Blackburn, President at 7:03 p.m.
- 14 in attendance (+1 guest speaker)

Presidents' Report – Katie Blackburn

- Welcome
- Instead of Family Dance this year the PTA hosted a virtual Family Bingo Night. 70 families participated and we had 12 winners with the final game of the evening ending with three winners.
- Founders' Day was celebrated virtually this year with Vince Gigliotti doing a nice video message. Congratulations again to our Rogers winners Amy Bluhm, Andrea Halas and Natalie Hill.
- Our Dine to Donate with Fresh Collective raised \$325 which will be used for a memorial for Gail Ward.
- With the quick return to school, parents wanted to help teachers and by word of mouth raised money to purchase meals to feed teachers while they worked to get their classrooms ready. The teachers' lounge was stocked with fruit, snacks, and coffee. Breakfast foods and lunches were purchased for Thursday and Friday. There are still funds available to purchase lunches this Friday and perhaps two more times this year. If any families would like to contribute funds to continue lunches for teachers they may contact Katie Blackburn.

Special Guest Speaker – Jennifer Johnson

- Jen Johnson is the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Outreach Chairperson with Michigan PTA. She is also a Berkley Mom with children at Norup and BHS.
- She came to speak with us about Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion and how Rogers PTA can make sure everyone has a sense of belonging, feels respected, valued and seen for who they are as individuals.
- She was very complementary and pointed out many ways Rogers practices inclusion already with things like yearbook cover contests, read to feed events, and installing our buddy bench.
- During the past year many PTA's have helped families with digital tech issues and passing on information through all means possible to families about what is available. PTA's have also helped by sharing resources for food banks.
- A thought that arose was kids needing multiple clean masks and a mask drive would be a good community event to sponsor.
- There are several schools with Diversity Chairs in the area, however, there are none currently in Berkley. It would be wonderful if we could explore the idea of adding a Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Social Justice Chair to our PTA Board.

- She also noted that the National PTA has a Schools of Excellence award that Rogers would most likely qualify for if all these efforts were cataloged and reported.

Treasurer's Report – JoAnne O'Connell

- We paid expenses this month for Family Bingo Night, Meals for Teachers during Conferences, and 5th Grade virtual camp with Storer Camps.
- We received \$908 in picture day commissions.

Principal's Report – Beth Meacham

- Thank you to the PTA and families for all the support you have shown during the quick transition back to in-person learning as well as all the food for our staff.
- Thank you to Dad's Club for all the work in the courtyard.
- Thank you to Smart Fellers Tree Company for donating wood to be used for outdoor tables and chairs and to Mrs. Halas for organizing the construction.
- Thank you to all the volunteers for our lunch recesses. With the quick return to school our regular lunch aide staff has not all been available and we have had many parent volunteers as well as Central Office staff coming together to make it work.
- Thank you to all the families who have sent kind words of support.
- Thanks to the BEF for funding that allowed us to purchase three Conscious Discipline calming centers which will be placed around the school where students will learn self-calming activities.
- If anyone knows a family with children who will be starting kindergarten this fall please remind them to register now for next year. It is important that families register now so that we will have accurate numbers available when looking at staffing needs for the fall.
- The State has mandated that we administer the M-Step this year for grades 3-5. 5th grade will begin testing on April 19th and must be taken in-person. Students who are in virtual classrooms will be invited to attend in-person for testing.
- May 5th is bike to school day and all students are invited and encouraged to ride bikes or walk to school that day.

Membership's Report – Katie Blackburn

- No change in membership - total is currently 99.

Public Relations' Report – Melissa Hammond

- No Report.

Secretary's Report – Amy Bluhm

- Approval of March 2021 PTA Board Minutes
 - Motion was made by Katie Blackburn and seconded by Amanda Rohda, motion passed and minutes were approved.

Teacher Delegate's Report – Andrea Halas

- Echoing all the thanks as stated by Mrs. Meacham to Dad's Club, Smart Fellers and all the families. We are very well fed!

PTSA Delegate's Report –

- Information included in President's Report

Nominees for the 2021-2022 PTA Board were read by JoAnne O'Connell:

President: Rachel Mendoza

Vice President: Abby Watteny

Treasurer: Lamia Banyai

Secretary: Annie Stransky

Public Relations: Meghan Sanborn

Positions that remain open include:

Membership

Council Delegate

Legislative Delegate

If anyone is interested in running for any of these positions they should contact JoAnne O'Connell as soon as possible. If more than one member should wish to hold any office a vote will be held. The new Board will be appointed at the May meeting.

School Laminator: A discussion regarding replacement of the laminator was held. It was previously believed the laminator would be replaced using sinking fund monies, however, the furniture company which items were purchased through discontinued sales of laminators and a new one was never purchased. The old laminator stopped working suddenly and is a vital machine in the school and needed to be replaced immediately. Teachers laminate many varieties of items such as classroom posters and printable game boards so they will last longer as well to creating writing and math practice sheets that students can use with dry erase markers. The replacement cost for the laminator was \$1,954.36. There is a possibility that BEF Grant money could be used to pay for this and the matter will be tabled until next month at which time we will discuss whether or not the PTA will reimburse all or part of these funds.

Kindergarten Bags: A discussion was had regarding the PTA paying to add a Rogers logo to the kindergarten bags which are given to each student at Kindergarten Roundup and which the students then use to bring rest items back and forth during the school year. Many parents stated that they did not feel the quality of the bags and vinyl logo proposed would justify doubling the budgeted funds.

Memorial for Gail Ward: The plan is to use the funds from the Dine to Donate, as well as other cash donations received from friends of Gail, to freshen up the flower garden at the parking lot door with flower bulbs and plants that will attract butterflies. A garden pole will be special ordered in memory of Gail and students will be invited to paint rocks which will border the plants. Families who were unable

to participate in the dine-to-donate but would like to contribute to the memorial may send donations to the office. However, the funds which have already been raised will cover the garden pole and plants. Any funds which are not spent on the garden area will be donated to a local charity in Gail's name.

5th Grade: Discussions were held regarding the end-of-year activities to celebrate our 5th grade students. A motion was made by Katie Blackburn to use \$1,500 of the 5th Grade Camp Storer budgeted monies for these end-of-year activities. The motion was seconded by Melissa Hammond. There were no objections and the motion passed.

Yearbooks: Mrs. Meacham will investigate whether it will be possible for students to sign classmates yearbooks this year and what safety measures would be necessary for that to happen.

Meeting adjourned at 8:34 p.m.