

General Membership Meeting September 22, 2021

Executive Committee Members present: M. McFarland, J. Soussa, C. Dujoux, J. Soussa, H. Gatenio, A. Park, N. Barker, M. Heery, and A. Reynolds

Late:

Absent: M. DiMurro, L. Ryan, A. Tunno & Jen Abbey

Opening and Welcome

A meeting of the general membership of the Rye Neck P.T.S.A. was held on Wednesday, September 22, 2021 at 9:18 am, the President being in the chair and the Recording Secretary being present.

The President thanked the general membership for being here and explained that this is the first of four General Membership meetings this year. It is our first in person meeting since March of 2020! At this general membership meeting the budget for the year will be presented and voted on.

We are hopeful that this year will be more normal than the last year and a half. Covid rules change daily which makes planning difficult, but the PTSA is planning events and is ready to pivot as necessary. The budget presented today is based on what we know now and if changes need to be made then we will amend the budget. There will be as many in-person events as possible! Playdates, RNIC, in person book fairs, clubs and many more events are back on the calendar.

The PTSA budget has increased about 35% from last year.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made to approve the amended minutes from the May 4, 2021 General Membership meeting. Debbie Holt pointed out that her concern about the Social Justice Books given to FEB as part of the EOY gift was not included in the proposed minutes. By motion, the proposed minutes under "New Business" were amended to include the statement that, "Debbie Holt raised a concern about the social justice books being proposed for FEB. The president advised that

she would make sure that the books proposed by Mr. Scarentino were approved by the superintendent as an appropriate extension of our curriculum before giving the final go ahead.” The motion was seconded and approved.

PTSA Budget

- The PTSA revenue was about \$60,000 last year. While a few events raised more than expected, a few made significantly less. The largest loss was the DiCiccos receipt program.
- We planned to spend \$69,000 but ended up spending \$89,602. This difference came from needing to spend about \$4,000 more for the Rye Y due to increased lunch times to allow for social distancing at FEB and remaining items from the end of year gifts from the previous year. The money for this came from our reserve fund.
- This year we expect to bring in \$95,247 and to spend \$95,247. This covers all the amazing events that we work to bring to the schools.
- Melissa went through the proposed budget and explained where money will be made, where money will be spent and the changes from the 2020-2021 budget.
 - A question was raised about what we are doing about the DeCicco's receipt program. Megan shared that we keep going back and forth with DeCicco's to try and come up with a plan. We have also learned that other groups are also upset about the considerable change in the donations. We contact DeCicco's often and are trying to work with them to come up with a better system. It was suggested that we ask them to just make an outright donation or sponsor something. Megan will follow up with Laurel to see if that is an option. It was suggested that we send out an email on how to register DiCicc's cards. If we include the loss of revenue from them, it may help motivate people to register.
 - It was suggested we do a fundraiser night with Chipotle, Anthony's Deli and/or Sedona. Megan will follow up with NYS PTA to see if that is something that we can do under the PTA charter.
 - It was suggested that we reach out to North Shore Farms to see if they would do a rebate program similar to the DeCicc's one.

- A question was asked about the end of year gifts from May 2020. Megan went through the list of about \$25,000.00 worth of goods that we gifted to the schools. Last year we donated about half of that amount.
- A question was raised about what Advocacy covers. Megan shared that it is a program spearheaded by Mindy Wintermantel and EJ Flynn to work on advocating for the schools at the state level.
- A suggestion from the floor, made by a new community member who moved from Hasting, was made that we could create a community cookbook and a pizza voucher. For the pizza coupon fundraiser, we would work with a local pizza place and sell coupons for \$20 (or some amount) each when the actual pizza costs \$12 and the PTSA would earn the difference.
- A question was raised about the difference between MS Affairs and MS Social Programs. MS Affairs works with all three grades and MS Social Programs is grade specific and primarily focuses on the 8th grade dance.
- A question was asked about the typical budget versus this year. Two years ago, it was about \$110,000 versus this year at about \$95,000.
- A question was raised about the end of year gifts line item. It was shared that there is no line item because the amount of money donated is based on what we have “leftover” at the end of the year. There was concern raised about giving gifts when we don't have the money to do so.
- A question was raised about the STEAM budget, specifically that the elementary schools have more money than the MS/HS. It was shared that it is easier to get programs into the lower school and harder in the upper schools because the students are so busy with core classes.
- A question was raised about health and wellness and if there should be a representative for the MS to help have programs focused to the needs of the MS students. It was also suggested that an increased budget would help. Megan shared that we do have a MS Health and Wellness CH and we try to divide the money evenly but if more people support the PTSA and donate as they can, we can do more.
- A question was raised about the “rainy day” funds that we used last year and if we were going to try to start to refill it. Megan shared

that yes, we want to replace those funds and that happens as we raise more money.

- A question was raised about the Rye Y at the elementary schools. Every day, we have Rye Y employees at the lower schools during recess. They teach and facilitate games and activities during lunch periods. The Rye Y also gives back to us by donating their time to run evening events like Cardio Boot Camp, Zoomba and the MS Activity Night.
- A motion was made to approve the 2021-2022 Rye Neck PTSA budget. It was seconded and approved.

VP Reports

- High School -
 - October 12th is spirit week in conjunction with the Booster Club homecoming festivities.
 - The RNIC will have their annual potluck dinner next week.
 - On September 9th, the HS students saw a presentation about 9/11 by three speakers who helped clear debris afterwards.
- Middle School -
 - Organize Your 6th Grader was last night and at least 60 people attended.
 - Steps for Success starts on Monday and will run through the middle of December.
 - There will be a MS activity night in January.
 - STEAM is bringing back some of the successful programs from years past and some new ones to add to the repertoire. Black Boy will be performed for the 8th graders after they read the book in English class. A 2-year marshland program is being considered with Dan Moy.
- FE Bellows -
 - DW and FEB work together on a lot of programs.
 - Class parents and ECs are being worked out. A meeting is scheduled for October 6th. In class parties, will have pre-packaged food. TBD if parents can go into the classes.
 - 5th grade affairs is working closely with Sue Combs to plan special events and programs for the students.

- The 4th grade circus is in the works. Circus stunts will be learned in PE classes and the final event hopefully be in person, but virtual options are being planned. Either way, 5th grade affairs will be selling concessions.
- Walk / Scoot to school will be October 15th to 22nd. There may be a shoe drive at the same time and donations will go to local families affected by Ida. This is a community building event.
- Photos take place on October 19th
- The first book fair is coming up.
- Daniel Warren -
 - Head class parents and two EC for each class are being put together. There will be four class parties this year.
 - STEAM programming is underway and hopefully in person! Programs will be in classrooms or outside, but will not be large group presentations in the auditorium.
 - Walk / Scoot to school week is October 15th and will coincide with PTSA Spirit Week
 - The Playdate/Costume Exchange will take place on October 7th
 - Volunteer opportunities in the Peace Garden will be available this year. Arts and Crafts and gardening projects will take place.
 - We Future Cycle, the recycling program, is back. Once the children are trained in recycling, garbage and compost, parent volunteers will be needed.
 - The coat drive will be at the end of November.
 - The book fair will be in December, hopefully in person.
- SEAC -
 - The SEAC represents a group of parents whose mission is to represent the concerns of students with special needs in the Rye Neck. It supports parents of students who receive special services at Rye Neck by sharing experiences, local resources and creating a comfortable atmosphere to talk about special needs and learning differences.
 - The SEAC committee is made up of 4 representatives. The representatives this year are Morgan Lane, Nicole Alvarez, Tricia McNiff and Leslie Meyer.
 - The first of the quarterly meetings will be on Tuesday, October 12th and the presenter is Kathleen Brigham, a local consultant and expert

in learning differences. She's also a mom of a special needs child. A district wide email will be sent out with details and rsvp to receive the link.

- Special Projects -
 - Please join the PTSA and encourage your spouse and friends to join. There is a QR code on signs around town and you can use those or the PTSA website.
 - The RNIC is led by Laura Steeves. The next meeting will be on September 30th at 9:15 in the FEB Annex.
 - Heard in Rye has their first meeting of the year on September 29th and is focusing on demystifying executive functioning. Please register online. Heardinrye.org.
 - Rosa Ferrante is leading the theatre club again. Yay!
 - Meegan Lawlor is leading the Book Club again this year.
 - Welcome baskets were delivered to the staff in each of the schools to say welcome back on the first day of school.
- Fundraising -
 - Please consider signing up for Amazon Smile!
 - Ribbons for Rye Neck is underway! October 8th is the last day for donations so please consider donating if you haven't already. Ribbons will be hung on October 15th.
 - Photos are coming up!
 - Book fairs will be in person and virtual this year.
 - Social Committees are working hard to create social opportunities for parents. There are two nights out, one in November (more casual) and one in February (more fancy). There will be sign up parties available at both.
 - We are hoping to have a catalog fundraiser up and running in the next few weeks.
 - There was a question about what a Sign-Up Party is. Celine shared that it is a mini party that someone or a small group host. It could be a Parent's Bingo and then community members could sign up for and pay to attend.

Announcements

- Thank you so much for being here today!

- There is a BOE meeting tonight in the MS/HS Dining Hall. The agenda is on the website if you would like to look at it.
- The next PTSA meeting will be in the MS/HS Community Room on November 16th.
- Please read the emails from the PTSA.

Meeting Adjourned: 10:51

Respectfully Submitted,

Allison Reynolds