

Minutes: FR PTO Board Meeting
02/14/23 • Randall School • 5:30 - 6:45

Attendees: Ann Sydnor, John Wallace, Emily Powers, Colleen Manner, Claudia Santana, Soumya Palreddy, Christina Hanzlik, Mickey Wills, Mary Rihani, Ashley Russel, Colleen Moss

Called to order: 5:35 January Minutes: Typos corrected on names. Mickey motions to approve. Soumya seconds. Minutes are approved.

Principal reports:

John Wallace: Randall:

- Today was “Read Your Heart Out” day. UW athletes, head basketball coach, and some Alumnis were all here.
- Celebrating Black History month at Randall and Franklin
- Putting a strong finish on this year and preparing for next year. Received allocation for next year - no major changes - the number of classes will remain next year as of now. Would ideally have an additional 4th grade but this is what we have for now. Two vacancies next year so will work to fill those.

Franklin: Emily Powers:

- “Read Your Heart Out” is next Thursday - Maria, Rachel and Brittany (psychologist) working to find community members to volunteer. Some family members will participate.
- This Friday is an all-school assembly. There will be a surprise!
- Budget and allocation process has a similar outlook as the start of next year (4 sections per grade)... Will continue to monitor those numbers. K - 1st grade have smaller maximum class sizes than second grade.

Treasurer’s report:

- Income is complete - right on Target with our budget (not line items, but overall)
- Glow ball - Could fund itself in the future but not this year - a lot to coordinate donations, etc so the goal was to just get it back up and running. Sign up genius will go out.
- Three new line items from last meeting have already been used: Read Your Heart Out Lunch, Bayview Summer School Program, MMSD Black Girl Magic conference donation.
- Social Justice Fund- paid out to Randall in lump sum
- Franklin was able to support a family that had job loss and a car payment
- Forecasting: Expected expenses will probably be about \$12K under our budget. Our expected deficit of \$16,000 is now only going to be about \$4,500. Deficit is covered by reserves.

Grants Program Update - Soumya

- We have 13 applications - some are small amounts. Some are student led.
- Meeting this weekend to review and will present recommendations at the next board meeting.
- John Wallce - exuberant response from student body. So many requests were for clubs based around certain interests. Learned a lot - that the kids want to be together around

certain interests. Much of this would just need sponsorship and perhaps small costs. Opportunity for the PTO to sponsor more clubs in the future. Always in the name of equity - we want to make sure any child that wants access can access - which sometimes includes transportation and considerations for time of day.

- Bylaws state that it is the board's job to recommend grant applications to the Membership. Ann proposes that whatever comes out of the Grant Committee is the Board's recommendation, and then next month at the Membership meeting we will vote to approve grants. All agree.

John Wallace - Music Equipment request from Mark Harrod

- Mark is using his own device to make Randall videos and the equipment is outdated. Would PTO support new equipment for Mark to continue creating these videos. About \$2,000 so he can continue to make the videos with the students.
- Would this be a grant request? JW: It exceeded the amount, so they decided to approach the board separately.
- Max is \$1,000 per grant. The submission language said that if you have an idea that exceeds this amount, to contact the board directly.
- This expense was approved by a former board, but then Covid came and they held off on purchasing because it wasn't going to be used. Every board has to make its own decision.
- Would this come from the Capital budget vs Grants program? We should set the precedent for the grants program at where we think it should be in the future and look at this separately.

Capital Reserves:

- Capital budget gets approved by members, recommended by the board.
- Emily Powers: Playground at Franklin: Has heard feedback for the need for playground improvements. Prior to Covid there was a robust plan. Emily has reached out to building services and is collecting historical information from past principles and PTO members.
 - Would be a phased approach using Flash Dash money and hopefully PTO funding
 - Goals: More Green space, inclusive play for children with sensory needs and mobility needs. What pieces can we remove that are outdated or continuously broken.
 - Esser funds paid for the sun shades, the drainage and the 4K playground.
- PTO was able to fund things as needed during Covid (desks and standing teacher desks for distancing) and now we are coming out of the Covid years with reserves. How can we put these to good use?
- PTO Forecast total: \$54,428. At the start of a calendar year, we need cash on hand to fund events and to kick start fundraising.
- Ann suggests that \$20,000 in reserves is a nice number to have at the start of the year.
- Leaves about \$34,000 of extra reserves to go into the Capital Fund budget. The \$2,000 for Music Equipment and a portion of the playground equipment could come out of this.

- Randall will be purchasing new desks for everyone. About 35K for desks for 3rd grade. Looking at all sources of funding. If we need help from the PTO, will ask for it.
- JW: Franklin Playground is a priority and a long time coming.
- Goal would be to have this excess reserves designated by the end of the board term. JW is requesting that Franklin would receive the lion's share of that funding because that Playground needs to be addressed. Lets keep this on the agenda in upcoming meetings and keep the conversation going.

During the March meeting, we will make a motion to fund the equipment for Randall School music teacher Mark Harrod to purchase new equipment. This needs to be done at a Membership meeting per the bylaws.

Public Service announcements:

Need to think about recruiting for next year. Should have a nominating committee by March 1st.
Ann Sydnor - sabbatical for one year in Germany.

6:45 - meeting is adjourned.