

Minutes: FR PTO Board Meeting
03/14/23 • Randall School • 5:30 - 6:45

Attendees: Ann Sydnor, John Wallace, Emily Powers, Colleen Manner, Soumya Palreddy, Erin McMillan, Claudia Santana, Ashley Russel, Colleen Moss, Mary Rihani, Mickey Willis,

Called to order: 5:32 **March Minutes:** Ashley motions to approve. Erin seconds. Minutes are approved.

Principal reports:

Franklin: Emily Powers:

- In touch with Sylla (former Principal) getting background information on the playground. More to come.
- Per the vendor, there are a lot of options for us. They recommend we correct drainage first. Will meet with building services to get information on how to move forward.
- the 4K playground is scheduled for the week of Spring Break, weather permitting.
- Next Friday - rescheduled "Read your heart out" celebration. Volunteer list will be re-sent
- Working to figure out a creative way to use the sub fund - more to come.

John Wallace: Randall:

- Challenges have caused us to adapt - but it unifies us.
- Systemic challenges for next year - deadline is approaching for figuring out budgets. Ms Vias and Ms Streeter are retiring. There will be a 4th grade teacher opening.
- Class placement will be put together soon - parents will be asked for input after Spring Break.
- 5th Graders have been visiting middle schools in preparation for moving up.
- Forward Exams are starting

Question: What is the district's view on job sharing? JW: usually that is proposed by the teachers who have schedule needs. John has seen times when it's allowed or not allowed.

Question: Calendar has a new change that was not announced. Says "mid-day release" on April 13th. Principals confirm 10:35 release. Families do not know this. Emily will contact after school programs.

Treasurer's report:

- \$1,200 Fall Fundraiser donations came in. Revenue from GlowBall was added.
- Glow Ball was self-funded... Committee solicited donations. Shout out Sarah Levin, Kaitie Hurtz, Mickey Willis
- Hat Sales were added
- Box Tops- Amazon has ended this program
- Sign up genius for Teacher Appreciation Lunches will be coming for conference day
- Income is now over budget due to fall fundraiser and Glow Ball exceeding expectations. Many expenses are still coming so no projections to share yet.

Randall Garden:

- There is a very active and amazing garden at Randall. Amy Roundtree - One of the oldest school garden's in Madison - put together in the late 90's / early 2000's. UW Design School built this garden. It has a fence, gravel paths, and beds that are still in great shape, and a shed with tools. It's a great learning space.
- Plans to make one of the raised beds entirely milkweed for butterfly classroom units
- The garden is super well maintained by two volunteers. (woodchips, weeding, etc) Would love to have more people feel like they can be involved.
- Proposition #1: Get-Together 4/22 - could make it a garden work day?
- Proposition #2: We have 3 fruit trees (2 apples and a pear) and all have gotten to be about 20 feet high - it's hard to pick them because the tree is so big. Randall could use a savvy tree primer. Perhaps someone that has a pole saw who feels comfortable working with fruit trees. Reduce the height. It might be a multi year project so the trees will produce better and to make it more reachable for kids. Ideally this work would be done some time before April 15th, before things start budding.
- Call for volunteers - Would families want to fill bird feeders or help weed in the Spring and over the summer? There is the most need for volunteers in the summer.
- Ideally PTO can find a liaison to help with coordinating volunteers for the garden
- PTO is planning two events for recruiting ... Garden Earth Day event can also have PTO recruitment for those interested in learning more
- Specifically we can ask second grade families to attend, as it helps them feel connected to Randall ahead of their transition into Randall.

Grants:

- Soumya and the grants committee have developed a process and recorded their tasks and outreach that we can carry forward in future years - thank you!
 - There were 13 applications - 4 from students. There was great representation from both schools
 - 3 of the 4 student-led requests were for clubs. Committee recommends that all student clubs have a standard amount that gets funded: \$150. Can this be a budget item moving forward, as a standing line item?
 - \$6,493.43 is the total requested. The amount was \$1,000 per proposal. \$6,000 was our budgeted amount.
1. Franklin Kindergarten Teachers - materials for literacy / letter projects \$1000
 2. Fabulous Falcon - support for printing photos to award kids - \$120
 3. Gardening Improvements on Franklin Playground \$1000
 4. Shovels for Franklin students to help shovel - \$500
 5. Franklin Necessities for winter basics in coordination with Social Worker and School Nurse - \$569.75 (For next year - PTO will revisit the social justice fund in the budget) PTO should also discuss how to facilitate donated winter gear and clothes to schools
 6. Arts Integration / Franklin - \$525.05
 7. Franklin Randall's Budding Friendship and Fun Group - co-signed by F/R families. Eliminates social barriers for students with and without disabilities after the Covid years

\$1000

8. Instructions Coaching needs / Franklin : \$318.83
9. Exploring Issues of Food and Housing Insecurity - aligns with First Grade social studies unit \$289.80
10. CLUBS: Books n' Baking, D&D Club, Film Club \$150 X 3
11. Venom the Book - a copy for each 4th grader - \$720

Motion: Colleen makes a motion to fund these grants as proposed by the grants committee. Ashley Seconds. Unanimous approval. Motion passes.

Proposed PTO Budget Updates:

Music Equipment (\$2,871.70) - a Mac laptop used to create monthly "Randall Way" videos, edit audio for grade-level music performances, assist with audio production for other performances at Randall (talent shows, assemblies, etc.), and more.

Randall Substitute Teacher Funds (\$3,500) - which can not currently be used are requested to be repurposed to fund extended employment for teachers to come together during non-school hours (over the summer). When they come back in the fall they will be better prepared to teach. Footnote: Due to circumstances, board has voted to use the usual budget line item differently this year. Used for summer teacher pay for instructional planning.

Randall Snack Pantry funds (\$750): Request that the Snack Pantry funds be moved to the social justice funds. A need has come up for a family to help with rent. Randall requested that this line item go to an account at MMSD to streamline book keeping.. But the money in these accounts can not be used for rent. So they can not access these funds. The solution is to use the snack pantry funds because they haven't used those yet this year. This is a one-time use.

Motion: Ashely Motions to make the above described budget updates. Mickey Seconds. Unanimous approval. Motion passes.

7:08 - meeting is adjourned.