

Franklin-Randall PTO Board Meeting
10/17/23 5:30-7:00 p.m.

Call to order – 5:35

Attendees: Mary Rihani, Lisa Hawk, Ashley Rose, Ashley Russell, Ashley Check, Caitlin Voegele, Samip Kothari, John Wallace, Emily Powers, Katie Hoerz, Colleen Moss, Beth, Amy Rountree. **On Zoom:** Sarah Levin, Kate Freedman.

Meeting minutes: Colleen Moss motions to approve May and September, seconded by Lisa. Motion carries.

Introductions: Samip Kothari – here to talk about Super Science Saturday; Katie Hoerz – parent and previous Glow Ball organizer.

Principal updates, part 1:

John Wallace – the Raccoon Rally raised \$21k for Randall, great day and a lot of fun. Student Success night/open house was very well attended. Randall t-shirts have been ordered and will be arriving soon. Reflex Math has been well received by teachers and students. Took out a few students to pick up bird seed, fill feeders, give them a break and a new way to engage/connect.

Co-President update, part 1, Mary Rihani:

October 29th Halloween playdate, Mickey is organizing. Parent survey follow up, please respond to request for comments. Ashley Rose has plan for small survey after Community meeting.

Principal updates, part 2:

Emily Powers – Franklin open house had a great turn out. First assembly will be next Friday, will introduce Golden Falcon Fearthers. Staff professional learning day is on Friday – looking at literacy data and how to support students. Conferences coming up – great way to celebrate 1st quarter being done and set goals for the rest of the day. Volunteered for parking – it was fun!

Co-President update, part 2, Mary Rihani:

Latino PEG (Parent Empowerment Group) met, next meeting is November 9. Recap from John about meeting, which included a lot of families new to Franklin-Randall. End of year party – reserving Brittingham Shelter on Friday, May 31, pending confirmation from Julie at Randall.

Annual Fundraiser update, Ashley Check:

Fall fundraiser about to kick off. Fliers will be going home in folders. Colleen has been working on video with teachers to discuss how they use funds.

Discussion on Raccoon Rally fundraiser (which was by and for Randall) and need to distinguish it from the PTO fundraiser. John communicated that the Rally was for classroom furniture and technology, plans for it to be a sustainable annual fundraiser. However, it may not have been clear that it was not a PTO fundraiser.

New Hmong BRS (Bilingual Resource Specialist) started this week, she is at both schools. Can hopefully get the Hmong PEG Group going again.

Parking Fundraiser update, Mary:

Last two games went well Gillespie Middle School showed up to help, very excited to get the giveback funds. Will use a bus for a field trip at the end of the year.

Lakeview Elementary is next give-back school (11/11). Plans to use funds for outdoor garden/forest.

Had to tow cars out of playground after. Accidentally towed a teachers car. PTO agrees to pay for the tow. John will make sure to let staff know not to park in the lot on a game weekend.

Samip comments we are undervaluing the parking lot. He thinks \$45/car is market rate. Increased to \$30 three years ago. Will likely increase to \$40 next year. Mary and Colleen have been surveying about parking.

Discussion on selling parking for other UW athletic events, volleyball games in particular. The challenge is staffing for volunteers to stand in the parking lot at night and on week days. Has considered talking to UW Athletics to lease the lower lot, would need to be an MMSD contract. Would be possible if someone could find volunteers for it. Not possible to sell pre-sale spots on playground, which is leased from the city park. PTO needs to be on-site and take responsibility. Cannot sub-contract the park.

Discussion of alternate payment methods and signage with QR code to support the schools. Discussion will continue in smaller group.

Directory update, Ashley Russell:

Volunteers have been great, final info being collected this week. Hoping to get it into backpacks before Thanksgiving.

Grants Committee update, Soumya:

Grants in progress, but have not received any applications yet. Volunteers ready to go.

Community Engagement update, Ashley Rose:

November 14 is the first community meeting, which will focus on literacy with Beth Callies from Franklin, Lisa Hepburn from Randall. Will give an overview of curriculum, then discuss the learning brain and how to support at home. Will get a save the date out soon.

Super Science Saturday, Colleen Moss and Sampi Kothari:

History of Super Science Saturday. All schools pick a day in March or April (not all the same day) so presenters can attend multiple events. Samip was organizing for 2020, but it was cancelled due to covid. Get different organizations to commit and show up to present to students. Food gets donated. Event is typically 8am-12pm, open house style with stations set up in hallways.

Samip will organize this year with help from Colleen Moss and more. Will figure out the costs and budget offline and bring it back.

Other Events:

Discussion on Super Science Saturday date and possible conflict with Glow Ball. Katie has planned Glow Ball previously, which does not have a set date. Pre-pandemic, was usually close to Halloween. Glow Ball committee will look at dates in February.

Sarah will connect with Mickey on a movie night at Randall. Last year was November 18. Will try to do a similar date this year, keeping in mind middle school is off 11/17.

Discussion of other past events: Marvelous Math morning, Super Science Saturday, Carnival. Colleen Moss will look at historical events to share with group.

Other Ideas:

Discussion on making PTO meetings more welcoming and inviting.

Adjourned: 7:02pm.