**Robinson Secondary School PTSO General Meeting**

**Wednesday, February 10, 2021**

**Attendees:** Meeting was held virtually via Zoom. There were 25 participants.

**Meeting Called to order:** 7:03 pm

A motion was made and seconded to approve the January minutes.

**January minutes were approved.**

**PTSO President Report:** Susanne Oshry

Ms. Oshry welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted that Ruth Azimi was available for translating for the Spanish speaking members as needed.

Ms. Oshry attended the last meeting with Laura Jane Cohen, the school board representative.

**New Parents on the Block:** Ms. Oshry would like to include a video or pamphlet with information for “New Parents on the Block” and distribute it. Ann Wong will assist with connecting her with the correct support for the project.

**Summer Programs:** Ms. Oshry was made aware of FCPS summer camp programs available in radio production and special education programs. She will include the information in the PTSO newsletter. Suggestion made by a member was to check with Ms. Doyle who puts out this information for Robinson so she can send it out to for more exposure.

**March 14th Pie Day:** In the past has the PTSO done anything for Pie Day? Answer from members: the math department/Club usually takes care of this. PTSO will not be doing anything then.

**Math Boot Camp:** Can we hold Math Boot Camp and other summer programs this summer? Ms. Phillips answered: We are slated to have summer programs, but we are not sure how it will be happening.

**School Calendar:** There currently three versions for next year’s school calendar. Members should look on line and be aware of the various versions.

**Patrick McGuire’s Passing:**

Total donations so far is $1,920 there are two outstanding donations and one is for and additional $5,000. Ms. Oshry is going to contact Mr. McGuire’s family regarding whether all of the money received in his name should be utilized this year or spread over future years.

There is a donation button on the PTSO page for donations. The link to donate is:

<https://robinsonptso.membershiptoolkit.com/form/m/14178>

For all donations please add a note that it is in Mr. McGuire’s memory.

**Administration Report:** Principal Tracey Phillips

Right now our focus is on the “nitty- gritty” on how things will work when the students come back to in person instruction on March 2nd. Our biggest issues are revolving around transportation right now. Note that Kiss and Ride will open at 8:00 am and not any sooner. Parents will not be allowed to drop off students earlier than 8:00 am. Now is also a busy time because counselors are busy scheduling for next year’s classes.

There will be a new bell schedule that starts next week. Students will be allowed to eat in classrooms which will allow for one lunch period which greatly helps with decreasing contact Ms. Phillips is planning on putting out and example of what a lunch will consist of in the cafeteria. It will be a cold grab-and-go lunch with limited options. Many students may want to bring their own lunches.

Ms. Phillips plans to put out a video at the end of the week with details about returning to school. On March 22 there will also be a live Q&A where parents can ask further questions.

**Comment from the membership**: Some students who have chosen to stay all virtual are feeling left out over the hype of some students returning to in-person. Ms. Phillips said she would make a note of this and try to me more inclusive of all students.

**Question from membership**: How often do parents need to complete the Health Screening form? Answer: The form needs to be completed just once and then will be on the honor system that parents will follow the guidelines and not send students to school if they meet any of the criteria listed on the form.

**Vaccine Update:** Most teachers who wanted the COVID vaccination have received it and “We are in a good spot.” The names of teachers who will not be returning to in-person instruction will NOT be released to the public.

**Building Update:** **We are still in need of sanitizing wipes and we are asking the community for donations which can be dropped off at entrance one during school hours.**

**Staffing Update:** Still hiring room monitors.

**Sports & Clubs Update**: For indoor sports, 25 spectators total are allowed in the gym. For outside sports two family members per athlete are allowed. There is no option for students to attend unless they are granted a family spot. There are no fees to attend sporting events. Extracurriculars like band and drama are starting to meet in small controlled groups. After school clubs will remain virtual.

**Graduation Update:** The seniors this year will have new and improved gowns. No further updates about graduation. George Mason is still holding the stadium for our use.

**Dean of Students Report:** Francesca Knight

No report.

**Food Pantry Update:**

No report.

**Treasurer ‘s Report:** Michelle Glicklin

There is currently $4,700 in special projects. This line item was initiated as a catch all due to the uncertainty of this year and gave us more flexibility when giving out money. In reference to the requested $1,000 to support the Robinson Mind Matters project we can give the entire $1,000, no official voting is required, but it is suggested that the board take a vote because of the amount that is being requested.

**VP of Administration Report**: Jim Witkop

Would like to thank Dr. Turner for putting on events for seniors. There will be one every month the first is call “Snow Party”.

**Membership report:**

No report.

**Webmaster** : Jim Witkop

Newsletters are now able to be translated with google translate. Mr. Witkop is planning on building a page for links with information about things specific to Robinson and will organize them in chapter format.

**Second VP Report:** LeShawn Brown

**Equity Update:** This past Monday was the first meeting which included students, staff, and parents. This meeting was the start of setting up goals and the mission of the group. Questions that are being asked and worked on are “What is equity?” “What can be done so equity can be seen across Robinson?” The group plans to meet again at the end of the month. Ms. Brown received informational documents from Ms. Oshry on PTSO and equity to review. A member volunteered to share links on equity at Thomas Jefferson School.

**Secretary Report:** JoEllen Windsor

Our current Coca-Cola balance is $32.08. Ms. Windsor has been in contact with Ms. Tryon to get the codes off of products from the drinks that will be given out to staff during the welcome back event.

**Scholarship Program:** Nicole Ferguson and Shelley Smith

The applications and website have been updated and are now active and available. We have forwarded all of the information to Eileen Doyle and she will forward it to the Seniors. The information has also been forwarded to Susanne Oshry to be put in the PTSO newsletter. A discussion regarding the amounts available for each scholarship needs to be done.

**SAT Prep with Jen:** Jen Lu

Next test is scheduled for March and will be the last one for the year.

Question was asked if Jen applies authorized special accommodations for the SAT for students who need them so the student and parent know what to expect during the official SAT. Jen stated that she can work with these students on a one on one basis to address their needs, but currently Khan Academy (which the practice tests are through) allows special accommodation settings for the test.

**Restaurant Coordinators**: Denise Walker and Shaunda Trimmer

Villa Bella restaurant night was this week, we are waiting for total amount raised. Next restaurant night is George’s Steak-N-Things on March 8 &9 hours are 4:00pm to closing.

**Communications Coordinator**:

**Fundraising Update:** Jim Witkop

Karen Williams will be taking over grocery related fundraising.

**Special Education Liaison Update:** Joanne Walton

No Report

**President’s Volunteer Service Award**: Barb Caley, Social Studies Chair

No Report

**New Business:**

**Robinson Minds Matter:** Christyn Levy

Ms. Levy is requesting $1,000 from the PTSO to help set up a relaxing space for students to step away from daily pressures and get calm. The space will be open 3-4 days a week and monitored by and emotional support adult. The space will be available for use after COVID restrictions are lifted. The request is in addition to the money received from grants.

**Teacher Appreciation:** Entered by Tracy Phillips

Teacher appreciation is in May. Will the PTSO be supporting this event? If not we need to know so other arrangements can be made. One suggestion is to provide boxed lunches. Usually 350 lunches are ordered. Issue tabled until next meeting.

**Old Business:**

**PTSO positions for next year:** There are two board positions for the 2021-2022 school year- VP Administration & Treasurer we have volunteers, but a nominating committee is needed to finalize the nominations.

**Student Business:** Tabled until next meeting

Ms. Oshry received an e-mail from a student who has a student business “Stickers Speak” which promotes mental awareness. We need more information before we can promote the business. Ms. Brown will follow up with the student.

**The Peoples’ Choice Awards:** *Not discussed this meeting*

These are done at the end of May, we need nominations by April early May timeframe.

**Virtual activities for Students:**

No further discussion this meeting.

We need ideas please sent to the PTSO president at [president@robinsonptso.org](mailto:president@robinsonptso.org)

Please note that no in person events can be held on Robinson School grounds.

**ANGP update:** No update

**Social Media presentation:**

Can Robinson put on a presentation along the lines of the Netflix documentary “The Social Dilemma”. – Needs further discussion, ideas are welcomed.

*Not discussed at this meeting.*

**Next meeting scheduled for Wednesday, March 10, 2021 at 7:00 pm via Zoom.** A link will be sent out to members prior to the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Submitted by,

JoEllen Windsor

PTSO Secretary