**Robinson Secondary School PTSO General Meeting**

**Wednesday, March 10, 2021**

**Attendees:** Meeting was held virtually via Zoom. There were 21 participants.

**Meeting Called to order:** 7:00

A motion was made by Michelle Glicklin and seconded by LaShawn Brown to approve the February minutes.

**February minutes were approved.**

**PTSO President Report:** Susanne Oshry

Ms. Oshry welcomed everyone to the meeting and turned it over to Principal Phillips for an update.

**Administration Report:** Principal Tracey Phillips

We’ve welcomed 1575 students back to in-person learning. Some of those have since changed their minds and gone back to virtual. The learning curve continues with respect to in-class engagement of both in person and virtual teachers and students. Robinson is likely the only MS or HS with one lunch period, which has been very helpful with respect to communication and consistency when managing the various schedules across the four synchronous school days.

Senior events: On Thursday March 11, 2021 the leadership from the high schools plan to get together to discuss events related to the senior class (graduation, prom, ANGP). An update will be provided on Friday March 12. Currently the cap of 1000 people is a limiting factor for a class as large as ours. Eagle Bank Arena will be a Fairfax County vaccination site during the month of June, which will disrupt the typical Robinson graduation event planning.

Next year planning: Also this week the county leadership was going to release projections of students per school for next school year, which drives the planning for staffing levels. Virginia is expected to support a five day school week, but there was acknowledgement that there may still be a need for virtual/hybrid.

*Both items would likely depend on the Governor’s update, possibly at the end of the month, stay tuned.*

Thanks to the parent groups who have been collaborating to keep the students involved and engaged in the ongoing events. Sports, band, theater, Grad Party, and others are doing their best.

Testing update:

SOL - Middle school waived the English 8 written test and the in person Civics test. Juniors still need a math SOL to graduate. Algebra 1 in Middle School does not count toward High School requirement. Recently, some students were unable to take their SOLs because of technical issues (mainly FCPS laptops did not have the latest patches and updates). This has been addressed, and those who missed a required test will be deferred.

AP Exams will be given, some in person, some online. If a student cannot take the in-person, there is a way to defer that to a subsequent virtual testing period in June.

IB Exams: FCPS has a waiver that states no IB tests will be given this year. This places more emphasis on the IA.

Costs: The first six exams will be covered by FCPS, check payment status via SIS account.

**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.**

During the pandemic/virtual time frame, some members of the Robinson community had been using the grounds and tennis courts during the ‘school day’. Now that school is back in session, the community is being reminded that only students, staffulty, and approved visitors are allowed on the grounds while school and after school activities are in session. Staff will be speaking with those who are on the track, etc, and signs are being put up reminding people of these rules, and asking them to defer the activity to after the events are done, as it would be in a ‘normal’ school year. Robinson families are asked to be mindful of this, and to share the information in non-school forums as well, to help keep the school safe.

Ms. Phillips continues to be mindful of the cameras that are present when she is addressing the hybrid groups.

**Staffing Update:** See note above re next year.

**Graduation Update:** See note above re next year.

**Dean of Students Report:** Francesca Knight

No report.

**Food Pantry Update:**

No report.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Michelle Glicklin

No official report. Comments were made in support of other agenda items.

**VP of Administration Report**: Jim Witkop

No official report. Comments were made in support of other agenda items.

**Membership report:**

No report.

**Webmaster** : Jim Witkop

No report

**Second VP Report:** LaShawn Brown

**Vaccine Update:** The typical April 14 members-only PTSO meeting will be replaced with a community-wide presentation by the Fairfax County Department of Health with respect to COVID statistics and vaccination registration and preparation. It will be hosted by the school staff using Blackboard Collaborate. Ms. Wong will engage the admin staff to support the planning and running the meeting. There will not be an April Zoom meeting, this is considered a General PTSO meeting. It will be promoted and made available via school emails and recipients are encouraged to share it with other community members to promote awareness and engagement.

**People’s Choice Awards:** This annual event is a chance to recognize people in the Robinson community for their contributions. Anyone can nominate anyone within the Robinson family! A committee will review the nominations and the award recipients will be invited to a hybrid event in May. Ms. Wong will engage the admin staff to support the planning and she volunteered to host the event! It may be held in the Theater to allow spacing for safety of the in-person participants. Plans are being developed, more information will follow. Note: It was not held in 2020, which is a factor the restriction that you cannot win again within three years.

**Teacher Appreciation week (May 3-7, 2021)**: The staffulty appreciated the snacks which were provided for returning to the building. PTSO will again support an event in some way. Funding is lower than in years past in the PTSO account and the school teacher appreciation budget line item. Principal Phillips reminded the meeting attendees that teachers don’t need a big dollar amount item, they always appreciate the appreciation. Discussions are ongoing. If anyone has connections to local businesses for donations or deals on food items, please send them to [president@robinsonptso.org](mailto:president@robinsonptso.org)

**Math Boot Camp/Ramping Up:** There is a possibility that these programs may happen this summer. Ms. Phillips noted: other HS/MS programs are currently being discussed to be held in-school for this summer. If we have faculty sponsorship, the PTSO has the tools to help register, so we may be able to run these fundraisers like we did in 2019. Discussions are ongoing.

**Secretary Report:** JoEllen Windsor

No report this month

**President’s Report**

The PTSO funded the February Reading Challenge for 26 middle school students.

**Scholarship Committee report**: Nicole Ferguson and Shelley Smith

The web page is ready and the Committee is standing by. Eileen Doyle will promote it. So far, we have received one completed application and one letter of recommendation without a competed application. Seniors will be reminded that this competitive program is available in upcoming newsletters.

**Marketplace Committee report**: Shelley Smith

The event is part vendor fair, part raffle, part silent auction and is a main fundraiser for the PTSO in the Fall of each year. We did postponed the 2020 event and some refunds were issued.

The event was rescheduled to the Spring of 2021 but that is now TBD, may not happen this year due to the uncertainly of being able to gather in the main hallway at school and the lead time involved with planning the event. When a decision is made, current vendors will be notified and asked to use their payments to hold their spot for a Fall 2021 event. Refunds will be issued to vendors who wish one. The committee is awaiting the Governor’s announcement to help determine aspects of the Fall event.

We currently have no plans to offer an online only version this year. If someone is willing to bring that in and run it, please email [marketplace@robinsonptso.org](mailto:marketplace@robinsonptso.org)

**SAT Prep with Jen:** Jen Lu

Next test is scheduled for March 20 and there will be one more in May.

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

This month’s event at George’s Steak-N-Things was going well, at the time of the meeting. Not report yet about last month’s Villa Bella contribution. The coordinators are still working on an April restaurant.

**Communications Coordinator**:

No report this month

**Fundraising Update:** Jim Witkop

Amazon Smile deposited $203.31 for the last quarter of 2020, thanks to our supporters for remembering us during the holiday season!

**Special Education Liaison Update:** Joanne Walton

No Report

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

No Report

**New Business:**

**PTSO positions for next year:** The Nominating Committee (Susanne Oshry, Michelle Gilles, Elaine Sullivan) have identified two individuals interested in the open board positions for the 2021-2022 school year- Hamid Munir would like to be the VP of Administration and Shelley Smith would like to be Treasurer. Voting will take place in accordance with the bylaws for a transition before the end of the school year.

**Old Business:**

**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.

**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:** Plans on hold pending Governor input. Buy mulch! <https://Robinsonangp.com>

**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 April 14, 2021 at 7:00 pm via Blackboard Collaborate.** A link will be sent out to the school community and all contacts in the PTSO database prior to the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Submitted by,

Jim Witkop

PTSO VP Admin

For

JoEllen Windsor

PTSO Secretary