**Robinson Secondary School PTSO General Meeting**

**Wednesday, October 13, 2020**

**Attendees:** Meeting was held virtually via Zoom. Twenty-four members signed in.

**Meeting Called to order:** 7:02 pm

**PTSO President:** Susanne Oshry

A motion was made to approve September minutes.

**September minutes were approved.**

Ms. Oshry welcomed everyone an introduced herself and the board members and addressed the question of if the PTSO meetings can be recorded. Due to privacy concerns, the PTSO meetings will not be recorded. The minutes will continue to be posted in a timely manner to the website.

Ms. Oshry will attend a meeting with Laura Jane Cohen, the school board rep, at the end of October to ask what other PTSOs in our area are doing for fundraising and student involvement during this time of COVID.

**Equity:** PTSO wants to make sure all families of Robinson are represented.

**Questions asked:**

Do we need to implement different times for meetings so shift working parents can attend?

Do we need to have a Spanish spoken PTSO meeting in conjunction with the current meetings?

How can we get our underrepresented groups of Robinson more involved so their voices and concerns can be heard and addressed?

How can we increase our PTSO membership of underrepresented cohorts?

\*Due to time constraints the above questions were posed but were not resolved and will need further discussion.

**Administration Report:** Principal Tracey Phillips

Ms. Phillips acknowledged and addressed the issue of teacher and student anxiety and workload. She mentioned that during one of the recent meetings, Superintendent Dr. Brabrand interviewed students and addressed their concerns about the amount of time they are spending on their computers. Also during that meeting teachers were told that it was “okay” for a student to take a “break day” if he/she was caught up on all the class work. During the student interviews, it was acknowledged that teachers are working overtime and the students appreciate all their hard work, but students are finding that there is an imbalance of workload. These issues will continue to be addressed.

FCPC is currently working on a phasing in certain students to a hybrid of in class and virtual instruction. The first group of students who will participate are category B students which include those with special educational needs. It is planned to start on October 26, and the students will be in small group settings in school. Other groups that will be phased in are ESOL, Criminal Justice 2, and Auto Tech students. Transportation for these students and the issue of concurrent instruction are still being worked out. Group 8 includes all regular students and there is no plan to do in-person teaching to those students until after the semester. This is an ongoing issue and will be evaluated frequently. At the end of the semester, parents may have a chance to change their original choice of in-person or virtual school for their children. More information on that to come.

Sports update: Football is currently practicing. The plan is to move forward with modified sports starting in December.

**Dean of Students Report:** Francesca Knight

Ms. Knight is working on several initiatives. Her main focus is to support students, parents and the community so everyone has a voice. She is concentrating on increasing the voices of those from underrepresented cohorts. She is working on starting a Student Voice Circle and wants to improve two-way communication and improve equity. Ms. Knight is building an Equity Team and is looking for student ambassador leaders as well as parent and staff team members. Another initiative is a peer to peer mentor program which will be monitored by an adult and will focus on targeted interventions.

**Food Pantry Update:** Francesca Knight

The food pantry that is currently located on the Tot Lot side of Robinson School, and will be available 24/7 to those in need. The pantry now has a volunteer who will monitor it.

**Treasurer ‘s Report:** Michelle Glicklin

The PTSO funded the library’s summer reading program. Six students were awarded $20 Barn’s and Nobles gift cards and the winner of the drawing picked up the E-reader this week.

Currently we have raised $4,654 by selling Senior Signs, which will be split equally with the All Night Grad Party committee. Thank you to all who supported this effort!

**VP of Administration Report**: Jim Witkop

Mr. Witkop is shadowing a new person who will take over next year. Currently working on the webpage and committees and behind the scenes work for Google suite.

**Second VP Report:** LeShawn Brown

No Report.

**SAT Prep with Jen:** Jen

The event last Saturday and all went well. The online testing was seamless. She is planning another event in November and will announce it on the Ram page.

**Volunteers update:** Susanne Oshry

Restaurant Coordinator Thank you to Shaunda Trimner and Denise Walker for stepping up for this position. There is already a restaurant night scheduled for Chipotle on 4 November. Flyers and more information will be sent out closer to the event. We also have a restaurant night with George’s Steak -N-Things on Tuesday, November 24, watch for more information later.

It was noted that the coordinators will try to set up at least one restaurant night a month and will need to cross communicate with other Robinson organizations so the community is not saturated with restaurant nights.

Webmaster Thank you to Libby for stepping up. She is currently shadowing Jim to learn the ropes.

Communications Coordinator Thank you high schooler, Samrawit Yemane who will be helping with Facebook and Twitter.

**Communications Update:**

Per Ms. Phillips, if a group or committee wants to get information out to the entire student body they can send the information to the office to be distributed in the Ram Page and the Ram Blast which is sent out every Monday. It can also be added to the Robinson School Facebook page.

Per Ms. Oshry, a message went out today to all the staff today asking for more teacher support in the form of PTSO membership. We also want to increase our student involvement in the PTSO.

Of special note: There is a Google translate button on the bottom of the PTSO website. This is very helpful for our non -English speaking Robinson community members.

**Fundraising Update:**

Senior sign selling is almost over. It will continue until the end of October.

Suggestion from a PTSO member was to sell some kind of computer related item like Robinson mousepads and to possibly hold a virtual Marketplace. Other suggestions are to sell stocking stuffer type merchandise like socks and beanies. One suggestion was to check with Burke Sporting Goods Store (Jake) about pricing and ordering.

**Update: Ms. Oshry is exploring this topic**.

Coke Fundraiser Update: JoEllen Windsor

New opportunity for FREE MONEY!! Coco-Cola has a new program that gives money back to schools when you enter codes on their website. We are currently working on setting up electronic funds transfer so every quarter the money raised will be automatically deposited into the PTSO account. Go to the PTSO website to learn how to sign up and donate. We currently have $22.27 in our account.

Other proposals for fundraising discussed were selling poinsettias.

**We need more ideas about future fundraising during this crazy time, send ideas to** [president@robinsonptso.org](mailto:president@robinsonptso.org).

**Virtual activities for Students:**

Again we need ideas please sent to the PTSO president at the above email. Please note that no in person events can be held on Robinson School grounds.

**Special Education Liaison Update:** Joanne Walton

The special education teachers are very strapped right now with preparing to bring these students back into the classrooms. There has not been time to plan other outside meetings, but will try to set up a meet and greet in the future.

**New Business:**

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

Ms. Caley has been heading up the program to offer this award to Robinson students since 2014. It is an award that can be earned yearly by students who go above and beyond the required community service hours for county or state awards. Students apply for this award by proving their hours of service as recorded in the x2Vol program. In the past students paid for their own awards, but the program has now changed and to be a certified organization the students can no longer by their own awards. Ms. Caley is proposing the PTSO become the certified organization and pay for future awards. She has agreed to stay on as the committee coordinator if the PTSO agrees. It is estimated that the awards would cost between $250 - $450 per year depending on how many students apply.

**The proposal was presented and agreed upon, to be funded under special projects in the budget.**

**Gift Cards for the Holidays**: Elaine Sullivan

Looking into how to collect gift cards to be distributed during the holidays to those in need.

**Next meeting scheduled for Tuesday, November 10, 2020 at 7:00 pm via Zoom. (**Note this is day change due to Veteran’s Day on Wednesday. )

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm.

Submitted by,

JoEllen Windsor

PTSO Secretary