

PTSA General Membership Meeting

Thursday, January 14, 2021

Meeting Minutes

Shivani Bhana, Co-President

- **Vote in Nominating Committee**
 - The nominating committee helps PTSA to vote in the elected members of the board for the next school year. Cascade Ridge PTSA amended our standing rules to allow for five members for the committee this year. The PTSA members that have agreed to serve on this committee are Sandra Vanderzee, Qibo Fan, Rebecca Duffy, Liza Landry and Radhika Sehn.
 - Tiffany Parker made a motion to elect the PTSA members listed above to the nominating committee, Claire Raphael seconded. The motion was approved with 16 votes in favor of accepting the motion. There were no votes against the motion or abstentions.
- **Approve October minutes** – Kerri Shek made a motion to approve the October general membership meeting minutes, Chandra Polisetti seconded. The motion was approved with 15 votes in favor of the motion. There were no votes against and one vote to abstain.

Q & A with Jennifer Sehlin, Principal

- **Principal Report**
 - January has started off strong with the exception of the wind storm Wednesday. Last week was materials distribution and it went well. All materials have been picked up. Jennifer is currently working on the school improvement plan and this year the school board has asked them to focus on student engagement and student social and emotional support. Typically, the focus of the school improvement plan is academic and based on SBA data. 142 parents/caregivers completed the recent student engagement survey and 3rd-5th grade students completed an engagement survey as well.
 - A second questionnaire came out last week for the return to learning for K-5. They are currently making plans for when K-1 will return. The date is still TBD, but all the plans are coming together and they are making it as safe as they can.
 - It is Jennifer's understanding return to in person instruction is a rolling start. K-1 will start and then 2-3 will return after a certain period of time afterwards. There may be teacher changes, depending on what families and teachers choose, but they are committed to keeping the changes as minimal as possible.

- Parent Questions
 - Some school districts have started moving students preemptively into their new classrooms, based on remote vs. hybrid choices. Will ISD do this? Jennifer hasn't heard anything about this from the district.
 - What safety precautions will be taken when students are in class? All movement will be controlled, lots of signage, hand sanitizer, parent attestations, temperature checks, etc. There will be a full parent handbook for parents that chose hybrid learning that goes home with all procedures and safety measures prior to starting in person learning.
 - What is the update for vaccinations for teachers? Is it voluntary? Jennifer doesn't have any additional information other than what is currently in the news.
 - What kind of celebrations can we do for students in classes? Valentine's day for example. PTSA is going to have a gratitude/love wall during this time.
 - Can we get an idea of busing service? Cascade Ridge doesn't have busing service, even for the Science Tech program.

Lorna Gilmour, Equity and Family Partnership Specialist

- Lorna presented about her background, her experiences with learning and understanding the US school system and her work in ISD for equity and family partnerships. There are many services available to families. Translation services are available for conferences and information from the district and school can be translated. Lorna also works with teachers and school staff to build cultural understandings. She also manages the FACE committees in PTSA and works with parents in parent panels. The equity team also provides resources and support for understanding and talking about equity issues.
- Parent questions
 - What is the district doing in terms of having a diverse teacher community? Lorna said the board created a directive, EL16, a few years ago recognizing the need for equity in the district. One of the points in the directive is to find and retain teachers of color. HR is responsible for hiring and they have changed the way they interview and some of the interview questions to reframe them to be more equitable.
 - What resources do you provide to white families to be understanding and welcoming to diverse families? She works with PTSAs to talk about culture and race with their communities.

Executive Vice President – Sandra Vanderzee

- FACE committee update

- Sandra works with Lorna to ensure that our programs and events are all equitable and accessible for families. We have community connection meetings each month. This month the PBSES coach, Mrs.Ackley and the counselor Ms Janelle will be there to talk about social emotional learning.

Treasurer – Kerri Shek

- Budget review
 - Reviewed the budget
 - Didn't bring in as much money as budgeted for fundraising. Donations are always welcome.

Communications – Claire Raphael

- Howler
 - The Howler will be quarterly this year.
 - We changed the distribution list we use and how we send the newsletter, so look for PTSA emails to come from the CRE Outlook email.

Community Relations – Andrea Obert

- Talent Show – upload a video of your child's talent to our Flipgrid by January 25th. A link was sent out in the Howler. You may also find the link to the Flipgrid on the PTSA website.

Amy added that planning is underway for the Science Fair and Festival of Cultures which will take place in the Spring, so if you have any interest in volunteering your time and sharing your ideas, contact PTSA through ptsapresident@cascaderidgeptsa.org or community@cascaderidgeptsa.org.

Q & A

Meeting adjourned 7:40pm