

General Membership Meeting January 11, 2023

Executive Committee Members present: M. McFarland, R. Homberg, F. DiMaggio, C. Dujoux, E. Colagiovanni, M. Lane, M. Heery, A. Reynolds, & L. Ryan,

Late: J. Abbey

Absent: A. Park & N. Barker

Opening and Welcome

A meeting of the general membership of the Rye Neck PTSA was held on Wednesday, January 11, 2023 at 7:04pm, the President being in the chair and the Recording Secretary being present.

The President thanked the general membership for being here and explained that this was the second of three general membership meetings that will be held this year. At this general membership meeting we will listen to the audit report, reports from committee heads and appoint the nominating committee.

The final GM meeting will be held on May 9th and new officers will be elected.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made to approve the amended minutes from the September 20, 2022 General Membership meeting. The motion was seconded and approved.

Audit Report

- Debra Cunningham and Sarah Atherton completed the audit this year. They examined the records of the treasurer of the RNPTSA for the period of August 1, 2021 to July 31, 2022. The audit committee for this year:
 - Verified the bank balances reconcile to the respective bank statements.
 - Verified the beginning cash balances correspond to the ending balances from prior year.

- Compared detailed general ledger activity to the Actual Income and Expense Statement.
- Reviewed monthly bank reconciliations. No unexplained items noted. Verified all checks require two authorized signers. Bank reconciliations to be reviewed on a quarterly basis by the PTSA President to maintain proper checks and balances.
- Reviewed insurance documentation noting coverage appears reasonable in comparison to prior years.
- Reviewed tax document Form 990 EZ for fiscal year ended 6/30/22.

*A motion was made to adopt the audit committee's report. It was seconded and approved.

Committee Head Reports

Clubs - Sarah Atherton:

- Registration for winter clubs at both elementary schools started January 9th and ended on Monday. Flex offered 21 clubs at Daniel Warren and 18 clubs at FE Bellows. Enrollment was good and there is a great mix of clubs from sports, to sewing, theater and STEAM
- Unfortunately, we will likely have to cancel some clubs because we did not meet the enrollment minimum, but we are still waiting on final decisions from our club vendor.

Advocacy – Christi Young

- This spring Advocacy is working with the MS and HS on an in-school age specific educational display to support wearing bike helmets. This will extend to FE Bellows and Daniel Warren if possible. This may be paired with after-school events in conjunction with the Village of Mamaroneck Bike PD to discuss the importance of helmets and biking safety.
- A bike rodeo is being considered for inclusion at the spring Panther Party.
- A sidewalk chalk blitz will be included with the next Walk/Bike/Scout to School Week to incorporate safe practices.
- Overtime, the goal is to work with the VOM for improved safety for school commute and bike lanes.

DW: Environmental / Recycling - Lindsay Reitzes

- The Coat Drive ran from November 28th to December 16th at both Bellows and DW. Over 20 bags of coats were collected which were immediately distributed to local families via the Sharing Shelf. Lindsey and Rachel volunteered at the Sharing Shelf for a few hours to help sort donations. The Sharing Shelf was very appreciative and noted that they needed coats for elementary school age students, this year more than ever.
- The compost volunteer program is ongoing, and the kids are doing a great job with it.
- There will be a Book Drive coming in February.
- Walk/Bike/Scoot to school week went well in the fall. Traffic was significantly reduced. The spring event will be timed with Earth day.

DW: Health and Wellness - Kristelle Hanquier

- Since the start of the year, there have been 3 playdates: At the start of the year there were two, one for the kindergarten and the second for 1st and 2nd grades and then a K-2nd grade costume exchange playdate in October.
- The Halloween candy drive collected a lot of candy, two car trunks were filled! It was donated to Rye Smiles Pediatric Dentistry who distributed the candy to local non for profit organizations and first responders. Our donation won 2nd place, which awarded us \$150 from Rye Smiles
- Upcoming events include:
 - Family Fitness night on March 23rd;
 - K-2nd grade Sports Exchange / playdate in March;
 - 2nd "Walk to school" event in April; and
 - RYE Y coaches are in gym classes at DW this week.

DW: Garden Club - Jessica Fitzpatrick

- DW students and parents put the garden to bed in November with a record number of attendees. Over 300 bulbs were planted to bloom in the Spring.
- The introduction of the new rock garden will occur next month and students will participate in collecting and painting river rocks to add to the garden.
- The parent volunteer recess program will continue again in the Spring.

DW: STEAM - Gina D'Amore

- Gina is waiting for the district to give the final approval for the Chinese Cultural center to perform a dance in honor of Chinese New Year later this month. There will be two performances to accommodate all grades.
- Also, in the works is RN alumni, Mario the Maker Magician. He will visit this spring and perform for all Daniel Warren students. Mario makes all the props in his show, including a robot monkey!
- Bash the Trash may perform an Earth Day inspired program.

DW: Book Fair Activity Night - Camie Tobias

- The Fall Book Fair Activity Night was held on November 30th. There were three crafts available, gingerbread people stickers and snowperson magnets. Tara and Ms. Kowalchick were there reading winter stories. Turnout was lower this year, probably in part due to the rain.

FEB: STEAM ---

- In the Fall, the 3rd graders kept the beat with Path to Rhythm and learned about the Djembe drum as part of their international studies.
- In January, 5th grade students will spend time in the SkyDome, a portable, pop-up planetarium to cap off their exploration of the cosmos.
- In March, there will be a brand-new program for the 4th graders that ties into their studies on New York history: Ellis Island: Gateway to a Dream. This is a 1 hour musical about the journey of immigrants through Ellis Island.
- In the spring, the STEAM committee is partnering with the Bellows library and Author Visits to bring an off-Broadway puppet show, Addy & Uno, to the entire Bellows student body.
- At least two more programs are in the works for the Spring.

FEB: 5th Grade Affairs

- The circus fundraiser was a lot of fun and the baskets were very well received.
- Holiday parties were successful.
- The yearbook is underway, candid photos and clip art is already being placed. This month, a notice was sent home for the cover contest, and questions for the students' bios will be sent out shortly.
- Subcommittees for end of the year 5th grade activities will meet this month to get a head start on planning.

FEB: Environmental / Recycling

- DW and FEB have worked together for both Environmental events thus far this school year: Walk/Bike/Scoot to School Week and The Winter Coat Drive.
- For the Walk to School Week in October, pictures of sneakers were sent home to color, cut out and post and then “tickets” were given out to students that they could submit for each day that they came to school in a carbon-free method. There was great participation, particularly from the classrooms where the teachers made announcements and helped collect the tickets.
- The Coat Drive began immediately after Thanksgiving. By the end of the drive on December 16th, between FEB and DW there were two completely full carloads of coats, boots, hats and gloves to deliver to The Sharing Shelf!
- The next scheduled event for the environmental committee is Earth Week.

FEB: Health and Wellness

- Family Fitness Night will be in the spring.

FEB: Class Parents

- Valentine’s Day parties are in the works and planning is in the early stages for Field Day.
- Mr. Scarentino shared that the fields are not used as often as the children like because they are often wet which can cause safety issues or track mud into the classrooms.

MS: 6th Grade Affairs

- The Thanksgiving Feast will become even more of an international harvest feast this year.

MS: MS Affairs

- The Spooktacular was in October and was well attended. There was a DJ and a photo booth.
- Activity night is next Friday. The Rye Y will lead STEM activities and there will be a DJ, pizza and an ice cream bar.
- The 8th grade dance will be in the spring.

MS & HS: STEAM

- Completed (September to December of 2022)
 - The PTSA helped fund a Field Trip to Bronx Zoo for 9th grade students in October.
 - Jason Carmel presented on brain function for Grades 10 and 11 in December
 - Rob Marciano presented on Extreme Weather for Grades 8, 9 and 10 in November
 - There was a virtual interactive learning presentation on Observing the Sky from the Smithsonian for Grade 6 in December
- In Progress/Planned
 - A virtual interactive learning session on Ancient Egypt for Grade 6 in January
 - A virtual interactive learning session on Ancient China for Grade 9 in February
 - A virtual interactive learning session on American Art for Grade 7 in January
 - There will be Shakespeare Live performances of Macbeth and Midsummer Night's Dream returning for Grades 10, 11, 8 and 9 in March.
 - Judith Altmann spoke on zoom about the Holocaust to 8th - 11th grades.
 - Glass Castle will be performed for the 12th graders in March.
 - The Metropolitan Museum of Art is returning to the 7th grade in January with a virtual presentation of "American Art".
 - Susanna is still working to confirm a presentation on Ancient Egypt for the 6th grade later this month.

MS: Health and Wellness

- In November, Tony Hoffman, a former Olympian presented to 7th - 12th graders on mental health.
- The JCK Foundation will present to both MS and HS this winter. They were well received last year and will focus on being a positive member of the school community this year. There may be a virtual presentation for parents as well.

Special Projects

Author Visits - Kristen Lindberg

- A poet/author will speak at Daniel Warren in April for Poetry Month. Either another author visit or a puppet play will likely be scheduled as well.
- Jenna Gavigan and Bonnie Gleicher, a lyricist, will speak and perform at FE Bellows right after the February break. They wrote an off Broadway play and we are trying to bring it to both DW and FEB.
- Darren Sardelli will present for the students at Daniel Warren in April.

Newcomers - Jocelyn Langus

- This is a new committee this year. An event was held in November and another one is planned for February.

RNIC - Mariana Reis and Yoko Kawai

- Monthly meetings have been taking place as well as events such as the potluck in the fall. Farrah DiMaggio attended the first meeting, Patrick West the second and Joe Ceglia the third. Look on the PTSA website for full calendar of events.
- 170 people attended the fall Potluck.
- There was a college event to share the opportunities to attend University abroad.
- The RNIC has also done several translations for both the PTSA and the schools.

Membership - Allison Bray and Bevin Falk

- So far, we have 571 members with a goal of 600.

Theater - Rosa Ferrante

- Heather and Peter Capelle will once again work with our students to produce a musical. The show will be revealed in late winter.
- 1st and 2nd graders will participate as part of our ensemble and 3-5 graders will audition and will have lead and supporting roles throughout the play. Over the course of the show, each scene includes different students who comprise the lead and supporting roles giving many more students the opportunity to participate and of course shine.

- To cover costs, a fee of \$175 for 1st and 2nd graders and \$210 for 3-5 graders will be charged to each participant.

Fundraising

Ribbons for Rye Neck: Georgia Bell & Michael DiMurro

- \$38,000 was donated this year between RN families and 49 businesses.

Merchandise: Jennifer Lindenbaum & Mary-Anne Van Rojen

- The Merchandise Committee completed two online pop-up spirit wear shops so far this year. The most recent Holiday Shop had gross sales of \$3,277 (PTSA received 10%). The PTSA and Booster Club did a joint advertising campaign for the spirit wear fundraiser.
- The ongoing Yeti Store has sold approximately seventeen items this year.
- The third web-based pop up shop is tentatively planned to coincide with the arrival of merchandise in time for the Spring Event. The Merchandise Committee plans to sell mugs, etc from the ongoing Yeti and More Store at the Spring Event.
- Volunteers are always welcome!
- Next year, we will consider using a new vendor - our current vendor has limited stock and slow delivery. Any new vendor recommendations are greatly appreciated!

Ongoing Fundraisers: DeCicco's, Box Tops & Amazon Smile

- DeCicco's has a digital card system to support RN PTSA. Please register online to use your store card. Once registered, you can also use your phone number at check out if you do not have your card with you.
- Box Tops & Amazon Smile are also ways to generate support with a percentage of purchases being donated directly to the Rye Neck PTSA. Information on how to register for these programs can be found on the PTSA website.

Square 1 Art Fall Catalog Fundraiser: Morgan Lane

- This Fall DW & FEB participated in the Square 1 Art Fundraiser, where the students' artwork could be purchased as miscellaneous custom keepsakes. It was tremendously successful and well received by the Rye Neck community.

Daniel Warren Photos: Valerie Haggans

- Photos went smoothly.

FEB School Photos: Stacy Brenkovich

- Photos went smoothly.

Middle School Photos: Christina Gori

- Photo Day and Retake Day went well again this year! The team at Irvin Simon continues to be very responsive and helpful.

Daniel Warren Book Fair: Karen Mormile & Kara Fox

- This year's Scholastic Book Fairs ran successfully at DW & FEB. Total sales for the fall fair were \$8,876.00, of which we will earn a portion. Online sales numbers are not available yet. This is a nice increase from last year.
- DW Spring Book Fair dates are set for 5/3 and 5/4.

FE Bellows Book Fair: Lisa Vaught & Aubrey Hirsch

- The fall book fair raised \$2,000.00. There were a few technical glitches but overall it went very well.
- The Spring Book Fair Dates are scheduled for 5/24 & 5/25

MS Book Fair: Kathryn Mahony

- The MS Spring Book Fair is scheduled for 5/24 & 5/25 with Main Street Books. Summer reading books will be included in the merchandise.

School Supplies: Gabriella Danza - DW, Diana Reilly - FEB, & Valarie Kelly - MS

- The School Supply Chairs are currently working with EPI on kits, supply lists and pricing for next year. An email will be sent in the early spring with additional information on ordering for the 2023-24 school year.

Social Committee: Amanda de Vault & Erin Lange

- A sign-up shopping/styling party at Love Bella was held on December 6th and it was a great success. Our total with ticket sales and 10% donation is \$1,195. We are looking forward to hosting another in the spring.
- "Fire and Ice", a formal/fundraiser, will be held at Mamaroneck Beach & Yacht Club Saturday, February 11 from 7-10:30 pm. The committee is

currently soliciting donations for the auction and raffle, as well as sign up parties from the community.

- Tickets will be \$105 to cover costs for dinner and full open bar. Invites have been sent and ticket sales are now open and can be purchased online on the PTSA website.

Spring Event “Panther Party” & Fun Run: Jackie Caldwell & Erin Hagstrom

- The Fun Run and Spring Event will be held on Saturday, April 29th.
- Planning is underway and we a Fun Run permit from the Village of Mamaroneck.
- Volunteers are needed!
- There will be 4 food trucks at the event.

SEAC

- SEAC meetings are back to being in person this year and about 20 people attend each of the first 2 meetings.
- Oct 18, 2022: Meet and Greet with Wil Siegel, new Director of Pupil Personnel.
- Dec 6, 2022: “Feeling Frazzled? How to Help Your Family Cope with Heightened Emotions, Anxiety and Discomfort in our Post-Pandemic World” by Dr. Jennifer Abbey, Rye Neck Mom and Local Psychologist. She shared her slide presentation with everyone who attended.
- Feb 9, 2022: “The Launching Project: How to confidently send your child to college without going with them” presented by Kim O’Connor. Rye mom, clinical social worker and psychotherapist. Kim also teaches at Columbia. In this presentation, parents will learn practical, concrete strategies to help emotionally prepare their children for college.

Nominating Committee

- The PTSA bylaws require that there be five members on the Nominating Committee - two EC members and three from the General Membership. The members elected to the nominating committee are charged with finding the best possible candidates to run for election for open officer positions in our PTSA. They will also help identify people who are interested candidates to serve as committee heads.

*A motion was made to elicit Nikki Barker, Melissa Heery, Elizabeth Gillespie, Heather Harvey and Pamela Levine to the 2023 - 2024 nominating committee. It was seconded and approved.

Housekeeping

A question from the floor was have we considered including some of the principles of DEI in the PTSA, such as encouraging international families to be class parents.

A question was asked about where money comes from for activities like the Spooktacular. It was shared that each child pays for to attend the event.

A question was raised about the \$20 for class dues at the beginning of the year and if it could be increased.

Announcements

- Tickets are on sale for Parents Night Out: Fire and Ice.
- MS Activity Night is next Friday. Get your tickets now.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:25pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Allison Reynolds