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February 3, 2021

Stokes PTA

Meeting Minutes

On February 13, 2021, the Stokes (Brookland) PTA met via Zoom.

Kristine called the meeting to order at 6:16pm. 26 people were in attendance.

Officers Present: Kristine Erickson, Jillian Jarrett, Wahi Chisolm, Erin Argueta, Alexis Tyndle, and Laura Alexander

Minutes: There was discussion of approving the minutes of the January 13 PTA meeting. Because the minutes had not yet been posted, approval of the minutes was tabled until the March meeting. The January 13 minutes were circulated in the chat and the board said they would also be posted on the website. A suggestion was made to read the minutes of the prior meeting at the beginning of each meeting. Laura said she would provide an overview, as the minutes are too long to read verbatim.

Treasurer's Report: Wahi reported that the PTA account has a current balance of \$7,500. The PTA received \$200 in donations outside of the read-a-thon, and had a carryover of \$1,000 in credits from last year.

Read-a-Thon: Alexis reported that the reading portion of the event is complete, but that donations will be open until February 7. 80% of the money raised will go to the PTA and 20% will be retained as a fee by the company. To date, the event has raised \$6,027.58, and the kids read for a total of 16,604 minutes. Prizes and participation bookmarks will be awarded, with plans to announce the awards to the kids during Friday or Monday line up.

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Next Fundraiser: Kristine and Alexis discussed plans for next fundraiser. It will be held at the end of April and will be pandemic-friendly but also designed to build community. Current plan is to hold a walk-a-thon in combination with a mask fundraiser. The mask sales will benefit the PTA and the Equity Team equally. Alexis shared templates for the masks, which were favorably received. Alexis is finalizing logistics, including whether to work with a company to run the event and whether to sell the masks through the PTA website or have families order directly from the company.

Fundraising Goals: Kristine introduced a discussion of what goals the PTA should be raising toward. She reported that the survey results favored, in descending order: playground; families in need; technology; and connecting to Spanish-French culture. One concern with the playground is that it is a project that is beyond the means of the PTA and extends beyond a single year. Families in need seems like a way that a small amount of money could have a big positive impact. While the primary technology needs from the past have been met by the school's Chromebook distribution, one idea is to use funds towards supplemental software or a robotics club once in-person learning resumes. Communications needs may have been addressed by Parent Square, but it is hard to know what exactly survey respondents intended. Kristine opened the floor to discussion:

- Catherine Stratton Treadway noted that she has been involved in playground for a long time. The PTA has over the last few years raised the money to design a new playspace. The project is at a point where fundraising would be within and without the school to raise money to get it done. The hope is that 10-15% of the fundraising would be in-kind donations.
 - Carrie Hubbell Malgarejo noted that the playground process has been contentious. Mutual Aid is about lots beyond material goods. Concerned about burnout of PTA members. She asked what about the needs for staff/building to reopen?
 - Jillian noted that outdoor classroom space is a good idea.
 - Caroline Hutton noted the school just got a grant from DOE to renovate outdoor classroom—the renovations are underway. A shelter could be a good addition to that space.

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- Taylor Beis suggested a cleanup/fix-it day could also go a long way. Caroline Hutton noted that the school was about to launch a renovation of the upper outdoor space (in partnership with UDC and a local non-profit) when COVID delayed it. The UDC group just reached out again. Taylor indicated he would be willing to volunteer to work on that project.
- Others noted that the family need objective seems really pressing.
 - Sra. Donado noted that the school cannot share names of families in need, but does have a fund for helping people. School fund is called the Sunshine Fund.
 - Catherine Stratton Treadway suggested more swaps and other mutual-aid events that build community and help community members, along with dedicating some portion of our fundraising to the Sunshine Fund (a.k.a. Family Aid Fund).
 - Kristine noted that there is a need to figure out what to do with leftover stuff. Victoria Wigodzky noted in the chat that a 2S parent is the Executive Director at Martha's Table and might be able to help.
 - Sra. Donado noted that the school has done a flea market/garage sale during pancake breakfast in years past—people could buy a table for \$5 and then sell whatever they wanted.
- There was an inquiry about organizing or funding a trip for the 5th grade classes.
 - Kristine indicated that the PTA would like to help with money for trips, but parents should work through room parents to organize. The PTA is also looking to fund an outdoor/virtual performance. Jon Wadsworth remembered tht PTA contributions to 5th grade trips in the past was around \$2,000, but varied with the size of the group.
 - An idea was raised on doing a 5th grade gift basket (which was seconded in the chat).
 - All agreed that any trip/celebration should also include last year's 5th graders.
 - Meron suggested a mobile stage or something else to help the kids feel celebrated, and Zina suggested a caravan with cheering. It was also noted that some sort of in-person or drive-through graduation might be an option.

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- Wahi included the following excerpt from past notes in the chat:

Study Tour

The school financed \$3,000 worth of scholarships for the recent 5th grade study tours to Panama and Martinique. The PTA has historically made a grant to the school to cover some portion of the study tours. Caroline Hutton moved to recommend approve \$2,500 for the study tour to go back to the Stokes account, seconded. Wahi Chisholm moved to amend the motion to approve the full \$3,000 that the school financed, seconded. Note: We did not reach quorum for a vote (would need 40 members to vote for a majority of our 79 paid members), but the vote carried unanimously to recommend the \$3,000.

New Business. Kristine opened the floor to new business.

- **Garden:** Caroline Hutton needs someone to manage the garden. It does not need to be someone with a particularly green thumb; anyone can help.
- **Parent Task Force:** The parent task for sign ups will be open for registration until Friday. Those chosen will be notified Monday.
- **5th Grade Exhibition:** Rebecca Courouble announced that volunteer mentors are needed to support groups of 5th graders working on their final projects. The positing will require a background check. The mentoring will take place in May or June. Email Rebecca with questions: rebeccac@ewstokes.org
- **Equity Town Hall:** The Equity Team town hall will take place on Thursday at 9:30. Participants are asked to log on by 9:15.
- **Social Events:** The next PTA social event will be a paint-and-sip. Jillian asked if there is any preference for pickup of supplies at the school versus ordering direct from the Amazon store. Concerns about direct ordering from Amazon included whether the PTA would be able to raise funds through Amazon and whether it would be better to buy in bulk. All seemed to agree that having multiple pickup locations around town was the best compromise. The group seemed to support having a school art

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teacher lead the painting. As far as timing, it was noted that there is a 5-day weekend in March and a school event already scheduled for the last weekend in March.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:21.