

JRE PTSA Meeting

Wednesday, Sept. 21 — 7pm — JRE Cafeteria

ATTENDEES

Amy Connell
Annalise Johnson-Smith
Carolyn Linehan
Danielle Shannon (via phone)
Dr. Leah Kedley
Erica Miller
Jamie Feingold
Jesse Schenendorf
Kara Ricotta
Kara Cannarozzo
Karen Wilson
Katie Ward
Kendra Breen
Kenni Caraballo
Kim Cufari Chin
Lindsey Yu
Marni Kleper
Megan Williams
Michelle Kostick
Rae Zhou
Sara DeLaurentiis
Sheila Greenhill
Tori Starr

MEETING MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER — Kara Ricotta
2. ESTABLISH QUORUM — Kara Ricotta
 - Quorum established.
3. INTRODUCTIONS
 - All attendees introduced themselves with their kid(s)'s names and grades.
4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES — Kara Ricotta
 - June 8, 2022: <https://www.jre.pittsfordptsanet/meetingsfinances>
 - All responded yay. Minutes approved.
5. BUILDING UPDATE — Dr. Leah Kedley
 - We've had a successful and smooth start to the year -- made easier no longer having to rearrange everything for Covid rules.
 - Kids are loving lunch structure. Kids have assigned tables but no assigned seat.

- There are 6 lunch and recess aides. 3 with each grade and they stay with them for both recess and lunch. Mary, Nadia, Don, Ed, Sue, Kathy
 - 5th graders have been showing maturity with seating at lunch and in October, seating will be opened up even more so they can sit anywhere (this only applies to 5th grade, all others will continue to be able to sit anywhere at their teacher's assigned tables.)
 - 4th graders embraced each other and making sure everyone is included for seating, creating a welcoming and affirming environment.
 - Kindergarten teachers set out lunch bags. Allows for mixing up groups for socialization.
 - Lots of learning activities going on.
 - 3rd grader's caterpillars going strong. Great hands-on experience.
 - Appreciate efforts to fix up the courtyard, it is looking great.
 - Building is clean ready for the kids!
 - Learning lots of new things, getting back to things she didn't experience because of Covid.
 - Getting back to basics. 'Show me Five' posters are everywhere, including buses to ensure consistent expectations.
 - Making sure everyone understands consequences, important for everyone to feel safe in this environment.
 - Feel free to call or email anytime. Still learning a lot 1.8 years in and is trying to be as transparent as possible.
 - We can problem solve together, deal with any issues early with conversation.
 - All contact is well received and wants everyone to have an amazing school year.
 - Would love any ideas, welcomes brainstorming, won't say no if we don't have to.
6. CO-CHAIR UPDATE — Kara Ricotta
- Jeff Road's parents are very special and thankful for everyone's efforts and for putting the time in.
 - There were about 25 or so people at Crayons and Coffee, lots of K and 1st grade families, which was great!
 - Looking for anyone interesting in co-chair position, it's a lot of fun. It's a 2-year term so Kara and Danielle are done at the end of this year. If someone is interested, would be great to shadow this year.
7. FINANCIAL REPORT — Michelle Kostick
- Put together budget with District PTSA Treasurer, Kim Huels.
 - The draft budget is being presented today, will be updated for feedback and then we'll vote in October whether to accept it.
 - Trying to focus on spending down. Due to Covid, not as much could be spent even though fundraising continued. This is a non-profit so money needs to come in and go out, not hold on to it.
 - Art and field trips – In order spend down, each school will take more of the cost so there is money available for field trips. Field trips will be allowed again, need to consider walking field trips and virtual field trips as well. Any busing has to

happen between 9:30-1. More discussions district wide as to what field trips might look like.

- Steam and international day switch years, so steam is up this year.
- The pond used to have fish and ducks in it. Kim would like to do some things but quotes were super high. She's still working on it.
- TV's were purchased for the cafeteria to show slide shows. Nothing yet, waiting for tech dept to assist.
- Balance right now would be 11K so there is a little room if programs need a bit more funds.
- Kara will send out the tax-exempt form to the committee chairs to use when purchasing items. Keep your receipt and provide to Michelle and she will reimburse you. TBD if another form is needed to get reimbursed.
- Reach out to Michelle for any changes to the draft budget.
 - i. We want to get the budget as close as possible for the vote. We can still move things around after that, it just requires a vote.
 - ii. Dr. Kedley will find out what field trips cost before Covid (and then we likely need to at least double for cost increases)
 - iii. Also, 2 years ago we added 100 students, so budget needed to increase. Still figuring some of that out with the new normal as it happened right before Covid.
- School directory – Membership tool kit is \$450 vs what was listed.
- Some ideas thrown out for fundraising
 - i. Tour the town \$5 donation, get to know families and visit village businesses. Can't encourage alcohol at any event per NY state PTA guidelines so bar crawl is out. Note: There is a section on fundraising in the guidelines that might help guide fundraising ideas.
 - ii. Hair styling. Ask salons in village to donate haircuts, charge \$25, use sign up genius to sign up for dates/times.
 - iii. Monthly raffles for parents. Ask families with businesses in the district to donate gift cards. \$5 to enter into raffle to win.
 - iv. When planning for fundraisers or anything else we should always be thinking of activities that include everyone.
 - v. Light the loop, vote for best grade level by putting money in, another school did something like that last year.
 - 1. Note: Katie looking for Halloween decorations, depends on walking or drive thru, like inflatables. Ideally reusable items so may be able to put something in the budget this year.
 - 2. Tori suggested maybe each class could do something creative with a poster board pumpkin. Create some excitement with the kids.

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS — Committee Chairs

- Super sale –
 - i. Raises 50K, 60% of PTSA operating costs.

- ii. Think garage scale but in Mendon high school gym. Last 2 years were more of a sale trail because of Covid, while fun, lost a significant source of revenue. Want to restore the greatness of the tradition. Need lots of help.
 - iii. In terms of donations, gently used items only. If you wouldn't want to buy it, don't donate it. Anything requiring a license, we can't sell. Invite friends to donate and shop.
 - iv. Complete a shift 10/15-17, receive a coupon to use at the sale. Presale on the 18th for volunteers and school district staff. Wed 19th open to public, 50% off sale and bag it sale on Friday the 21st. Donation drop off day starts date 10/15 9-5, 16th 9-3, you will get all this information via email.
 - v. No consignment that she is aware of, furniture can be picked up go to super sale. Go to the website and the email to contact is there. Any items left get donated to charity.
 - vi. \$5 a Bag sale might be good to donate to the school for recess opportunities. They can't take expensive things but crayons, less expensive items would be great for the kids.
- 5th grade transition – No update
 - Art ambassador – Hinda has ideas ready to go, coordinate with steam day
 - After school enrichment – Kara coordinated for Fall, Sheila to take over going forward. 4 offerings for Fall. All filled quick. We were able to offer a second session of art and emailed people on waitlist to start. Winter we can offer more.
 - Bike to school day -No update
 - Birthday board – New board, right outside the main office, looking great!
 - Book fair – No update
 - Box tops – No update
 - Community service – Ingathering in Nov, carries Pittsford Food Cupboard through the winter. Work with student council, give updates daily, reward if they hit their goal. Now that not everyone fits in the auditorium, we still do assemblies, just split K-2 and 3-5. For final reveal, can steam to younger kids classrooms that line the auditorium. Girls on the run community impact. Happy Birthday Cha Cha Cha, we will collect donations. Rise Against Hunger is every other year.
 - Courtyard – clearing out and cleaning up. Looking great, hope to see before and after pictures. All wondered if she needed anything.
 - Cultural arts – fields trips allowed again
 - Diversity & Inclusion – 4 book talks, movie night, enews has more details
 - ENews – Sign up if you haven't already. Goes out Thursday morning for JRE. If you want anything included, send to Kara by 9am Wed.
 - Family fun night – volunteer or donations will be needed
 - Instructional Leadership Team -last meeting canceled.
 - Ice Cream Social – Will be in the Spring with the Open House and Art Show
 - International Day – N/A this year

- Light the Loop – covered earlier, date is 10/29. Flyers come from the district, more to come.
- Membership – Join if not already. 161 members, 2nd highest elementary school. Joining doesn't mean you have to volunteer, even though it is also welcome.
- Parents on the playground – Starts in October. Must be available the whole recess period. See ENews for more info.
- Read to Success – January Danielle F
- Room reps – Remind parents in your class to take pictures and offer to collect for the yearbook. Trying to utilize the room reps more but let the teacher drive what they need or want. Making copies or calendars might be appreciated if offered. Carolyn is working on documenting what rooms reps are allowed to do vs not.
- School directory – Talking about other options to save the expense as it is underutilized.
- School pictures – Jill 10/12 with 11/17 as make up day. Handful of volunteers needed.
- School supplies – All went well, signed up for next year. Great feedback from parents how easy it was!
- SEPTA – Still looking for a liaison. Inclusive schools week 12/7.
- Spirit wear – Usually done Fall, Winter and Spring. Currently available for ordering. Room reps sent to classrooms. Would be great to get XS available for K and perhaps samples for next order, hard to determine sizing. Might be nice to establish a parent exchange for wrong sizes etc. Would also be great to get some other little items as it gets to be a lot ordering same things each time. Things like scrunchies or small items. Not sure what's available for the various vendors but Dr. Kedley forwards anything she gets.
- Square 1 Art - K mom volunteered to chair. Karen working with all the classes in creating their art work. This is a big fundraiser for us.
- STEAM day – Gathering donations, Wegmans.
- Teacher/Staff appreciation - Getting rid of little snack days to do a New Year's brunch the first Friday after break. Dr. Kedley to get roster to them. Total staff count is 82.
- Webmaster - No updates. Kara would love to transition off if anyone is interested.
- Welcome back picnic - cotton candy, shaved ice dj will be back, rotary highschoolers will be here to run games, ordered proxes, selling water and lemonade, pizza slices and preorder by Fri, needs volunteers, email Kim Taylor, bring blanket or chairs, didn't feel welcome that was new, encouragement
- Yearbook – Reprints went out to students. If younger sibling here, sent home with the younger sibling. Otherwise send some to Calkins. The Office has some left if they were not received. They have the list of who ordered.

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- None

10. NEW BUSINESS

- None

11. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Welcome back everyone, excited for the year. Reach out with questions or concerns.
- Everything gets shared back with teachers if you have anything positive to say, please feel free to send it along. Just another way to show appreciation.

12. ADJOURNMENT (*by general consent or motion*)

- Meeting adjourned.