

## **PTA GENERAL MEETING MINUTES SEPTEMBER 9, 2020**

Welcome by PTA President Rohini Singh and introduction of new Co-President Sheree Weingarten and executive board members Anna Bakalis, Fariha Ahmed, and Jessica Sternchos

### **Remarks by Superintendent Hank Grishman**

- Everyone is happy to have the kids back at school.
- Thank you to all of the teachers and staff for their hard work in planning for the reopening.
- Thank you to all of the parents for their support.
- Some procedures are being fine-tuned as school progresses.

### **Committee Reports**

Unfortunately, due to COVID-19, the number of committees has been reduced, but hopefully as we're allowed to add more events/activities post-January, we will revisit the committees and add as needed.

**Membership** – A google form has been created for membership so it's all paperless. We will be setting up Member Hub to use for PTA dues. An email will go out when it is ready for use.

**Seaman Connect (Nancy Lin)** – There are 15 new students (12 new families) in grades 1-5. Zoom Virtual meet and greets were held for the kids and families, and a separate one was held for new 5<sup>th</sup> graders.

**Fifth Grade Virtual events (Amy Pahlavan and Vanita Mudgil)** – They are currently considering ideas for exciting events similar to last year's Virtual Puzzle Break. Please email them with any suggestions.

**Fifth Grade Yearbook (Robyn Mermelstein)** – A call with the yearbook company will be happening shortly. Parents of 5<sup>th</sup> grades should start thinking about pictures to use for the yearbook.

**Fifth Grade Fundraising (Kevin Shields)** – The committee is looking at virtual platforms for events like the plant sale and Thanksgiving pie sale.

**Class Photos** – The date is September 23<sup>rd</sup> for in school children and September 24<sup>th</sup> for remote children. Retake date is November 5<sup>th</sup>. The pictures will be taken outdoors and parents will be able to pay/select packages online. Instructions will be sent by Irvin Simon a few weeks post photo day with an online code for ordering. There should be a flyer going out soon.

**Sweatshirt ((Marni Rubin/Jami DeVellis)** – The committee has been hard at work over the summer to design the great items that we will be selling. More information will be sent out to parents shortly.

**Boxtops/Amazon Smile/Shoprite for My School (Stephanie Richman)** – Parents will receive a flyer showing all three easy fundraising initiatives (Box Tops for Education), Shoprite for My School, and Amazon Smile). Head room reps will also discuss at Meet the Teacher Night. No physical Box Tops will be collected this year.

**SEPTA (Vinita Malik)** – Information on SEPTA was sent to all parents by Dr. Sherman. Meeting dates and topics will be released in the coming weeks.

**Treasurer (Emily Wachtel)** – Both the general PTA and 5<sup>th</sup> Grade PTA budgets are in good standing. Due to issues with Venmo, all membership dues will be collected via MemberHub (information will be sent out soon).

**Secretary (Stephanie Richman)** – Thank you notes were received from our two PTA scholarship recipients Nicole Galu and Matthew Lecher. We also received a thank you from Mary Leissing, our recently retired school secretary, for her retirement present, and from Miss O'Neill, our science teacher, for books purchased by the PTA for the STEM lab. An updated PTA guide for parents will be posted on [robertseamanpta.org](http://robertseamanpta.org) this week.

**Funky Monkey Fundraiser** – Funky Monkey will be customizing masks, mask kits and hand sanitizers through September 30, 2020 with 10% of sales going back to Seaman.

#### **Remarks by Dr. Sherman**

- Thank you to Melissa Mancuso for the great welcome sign. It is going to be hung up in the front of the building.
- The reopening of school went very well and everyone is happy to be back.
- Many levels of protection have been added to make school safe for everyone.
- The arrival and dismissal procedures are being tweaked and an updated email will go out on Friday.
- The school is 100% nut-free this year.
- There are several new teachers this year, along with new aides, lunch monitors, etc.
- There are 17 classrooms this year versus 13 last year.
- Introduction of Jericho High School librarian Samira Salzberg for her presentation on virtual learning.