

PTA Council Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, May 5, 2020

Attendees:

Laura Wise	Michelle Huber	Bev Redmond
Casey Braun	Suji LaBine	Anne Zimmer
Hilary Simonds	Dr. Moyer	Jennifer Beal
Rachel Olson	Nicole Braun	Jennifer Hall
Patti Berner	Elena Cutri	Alison Dondlinger
Vicki Marini	Angela Bagdasarian	Amy Sutton
Phil Fernandez	Karen Sienko	Angie Brauneis
Gwen Eisenmenger	Heather Giambrone	Carey Murphy
Laura Gibson	Bianca Parisi	Amy Belich
Carey Murphy	Kristin Grgyhas	Bev Ohcannon
Kristie Szejner	Mindi Kapole	Tracy Ries
Kara Caforio	Dena Fasheh	Jennifer Cello
Sean Cullen	Lucy Warenski	Michelle Werhle
Katharine Wagner	Mary Young	

Call to order at 7:07 pm by Casey Braun

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of meeting minutes from April 2020 by Nicole Braun and seconded by Suji LaBine.

Superintendent/District Update Dr. Moyer

Each school has been working with the district nurse, who has been working with the DuPage county Department of Health, and the school district's attorney to determine proper cleaning methods of the schools. In addition, we are working to get teachers back into schools to clean their rooms, and there are items that need to be returned to schools.

Information will be forthcoming very soon, hopefully by the end of this week, about end of year celebrations, milestones, transitions and recognitions.

Information about the high school, specifically graduation and summer school, should be out by the end of this week. We are coordinating with the City of Elmhurst to make May 17 as nice and special as possible for the graduating seniors. Information about a virtual ceremony, as well as a possible in-person ceremony, will be included. Realistically, an in-person graduation is going to be tough, but we will do the absolute best we can to make it happen. I can make no promises.

What about school next year? I am a unit school district representative to a Illinois Department of Education committee that has been put together to determine what is possible as far as starting school in the fall. The governor is adamant that contact tracing is imperative. Teacher unions are also included in the conversation.

We are unsure of how days of attendance will work in the fall. How will recess work? Building numbers? Etc. We cannot restart planning the fall every 3 weeks, it is too much work, and information is constantly changing. So, we will wait to dig into planning until after we have our spring and summer plans squared up. Unfortunately, I am not willing to commit at this time as to what the fall might look like.

Carey Murphy: Is there a target date to start school this fall?

Dr. Moyer: We are supposed to start on August 19. We are lucky that the state will not mandate a specific start date, they are leaving that up to the individual school districts. We are waiting to see how much flexibility we will get from the state.

Alison Dondlinger: California is going back to school mid summer, is that something that would be considered here in Elmhurst?

DM: I actually like what Europe is doing, as far as returning to school, more than what is happening in CA. We cannot assume that what is okay or works in one state is the best thing for our state. It is more a matter of when the medical community is comfortable with large gatherings. My best hunch is that we will not have a 100% regular start to the school year.

Laura Wise: Will half days be a possibility?

DM: If we have to open schools with social distancing, then we will have to look into altering the schedule. But, it is too early to determine what that might look like.

Anne Zimmer: Is there any guidance to help working parents?

DM: I think that will depend on how much flexibility we get from the State of Illinois. There are so many factors and frustrations for parents. It is like a puzzle. How am I going to put kids on a bus? How am I going to protect the students with special needs who are already so vulnerable? I'm going to have to protect the teachers too.

Hilary Simonds: Thank you to you and Bev for your excellent communication thus far. Please lean on us, the PTA community, to hear feedback from the community at large. I am happy to contribute to the conversation.

DM: Thank you and we will put together committees to help determine how all this will happen. Parents will definitely be included.

HS: What will middle school promotion look like this year?

DM: The likelihood of an in-person promotion is unlikely. I'm trying to be responsible when I say this is the tough decision that had to be made. In no way am I dismissive to those families and students. I feel bad that this is the reality right now. Right now we are focusing on acknowledging the graduating seniors and summer school.

District Communications Bev Redmond

There are still many students who need meals. We are continuing student meal services through the end of May at Churchville and York. We will be releasing June

and July meal dates as soon as those are available. We are working as hard as possible to make May 17 as special as possible for the Class of 2020. Look for communication about that soon.

District 205 Board of Education Kara Caforio

The BOE is doing all of it's business virtually, which is difficult. After putting some things on pause for a bit, we now have to move forward and things are rapidly changing. Dr. Moyer and his staff are doing incredible work. The amount of time they are dedicating and putting into this situation is simply incredible. I encourage all of you to reach out to D205 staff to say thank you. The district is doing so well, despite the situation that we are in right now. May/June/July are typically the months that we start looking at the budget for the upcoming school year. We are making goals and reprioritizing to accommodate the situation we are in right now. We are making difficult decisions despite the heartbreak on the other end of those decisions. On a different note, we do have something exciting going on right now, and that is the construction that has already begun.

Patti Berner: Is there an update on the REACH program review?

Kara Caforio: It was initially tabled, but it will be on the agenda later in May.

Dr. Moyer: We have it on the agenda coming up in May.

KC: We still have to move forward on things, like the REACH review, despite the circumstances. It is in the best interest of our children and our school district to continue to move forward.

Laura Wise: Can we still submit requests for PTA purchases?

KC: Yes, as long as it's been previously vetted through the normal process.

Casey Braun: Thank you to Kara and the other members of the BOE. Remember this is not their job, they are not paid for their work, they are volunteers.

PTA Council Board Updates

Treasurer Mindi Kaploe

I hope everyone is staying well! Scholarship has been top of mind with regard to PTA Council - thank you to the scholarship committee for all they have done to provide 10 scholarships to recipients this year. We have heard from several scholarship recipients, whom I have been in contact with directly, on when to send their checks as they await details from their schools.

A reminder to everyone, please get in any outstanding receipts so we close the books for year end; I will be transitioning mid-summer to our new treasurer.

Thank you to everyone, you have been so great to work with this past year! And a huge welcome to our incoming presidents.

Corresponding Secretary Anne Zimmer

Forward your 2020-2021 PTA Slates to Anne Zimmer at anneczimmer@gmail.com when approved by your membership. Also, it is very helpful if you include your REACH, SERG, Summer Rec and Reflections chairs. Name and email address will suffice.

Recording Secretary Laura Gibson

Nothing to report.

VP Scholarship Kristi Szejner/Beth Diviacchi

Eight scholarships plus one VFW scholarship. Note, we only present the VFW scholarship, we do not decide the recipient.

Casey Braun: When you have the list of names for the recipients, can you please share that with me? I will forward it along to the other PTAs so they can share it with their memberships. It is fun to see the grade school and middle school that each recipient attended.

VP Programs Rachel Olson

Nothing to report.

President Casey Braun

Thank you for a wonderful year. I especially want to say thank you to the group for the amazing response to the call for help when the Community Impact Fund was launched, and I am very grateful to you for that.

PTA Council Chairperson Updates

Reflections Michelle Werhle - looking for a replacement chairperson

D205 Reflections celebrations at Judith B Salon have been put hold for the time being. The salon has been very flexible and will let us showcase the work when we are ready and all is safe. The theme for next year's Reflection contest has been announced "I Matter Because" and students are allowed to work on their entries over the summer.

REACH Patti Berner - looking for a replacement chairperson

1. 2020-21 REACH Reps
 - a. (9) Schools Confirmed
 - b. (2) Needed (*no representation yet*): Bryan, Lincoln
2. 2020-21 Leadership (*no change from April's report*):
 - a. Confirmed (3): Chair, Patti Berner, Treasurer, Carrie Kaufmann, Website Administrator, Eric Krietsch
 - b. (2) Requested: Chair-Elect, Social/Social Media
3. Status of meetings/activities:
 - a. CANCELED: 1:30 Thurs 4/16 meeting

- b. TBA 8:30 a.m. Fri 5/15 meeting; I am awaiting a response from Leslie Weber, REACH Coordinator and Director of Curriculum to learn:
 - i. Impact of testing suspension on appeals (presuming no change to a student's status) and
 - ii. Program Review & Analysis details, if available
 - iii. Other messaging she (D205) wishes to communicate to our REACH parents.

We will consider a virtual meeting for May (likely change to an evening too) during this uncertain time.

4. Virtual Summer Enrichment Program(s), IMSA (Illinois Mathematics & Science Academy), Aurora (approx. 30 min. drive.) Grades 3-9. Mon-Fri, 9-noon (3 hr) programs. June 15 or June 22 depending on interest/grade. \$150 (financial assistance available.) Although... currently ALL sections have WAITLISTS but... FREE TO REGISTER for waitlist AND they hope to offer more sections based on interest and staff availability. See schedule and register [HERE](#).

SERG Mary Young/Elena Cutri

Parents are voicing 2 concerns:

-ESY Instruction

Lots of students and parents are struggling with keeping our kids on task. Looking to ESY, parents are worried about the lack of direct instruction for their students. Working with Dr. Volpe in the last few months before his retirement to continue streamlining the remote learning experience over the summer.

-Construction

A few questions about the student experience when students move from Lincoln to Bryan or from Field to Edison. There are questions about student learning, inclusion, transitions. Dr. Moyer has confirmed that there are plans to bring small groups together including teachers and parents to plan for all students. If, as Presidents, you hear questions from your school's parents, please loop in Mary, me and the school's SERG rep.

Summer Rec Open House Jill McCall - looking for a replacement chairperson

Save the date - February 2, 2021.

Unit Presidents Updates/Questions

Hilary Simonds: A tip for everyone, we moved our PTA meetings to the evenings in an effort to allow more parents to attend. We figure that many parents are working and helping children during the daytime.

Alison Dondlinger: D205 Foundation update; \$55K-60K has been raised and put directly into the community so far. We received an anonymous donation of \$20K!

Over 1300 gift cards were purchased during the Impact for Education teacher appreciation campaign. That results in \$26K back into local community businesses and \$6.5K to the D205 Foundation.

Casey Braun: Welcome to all of the new PTA Presidents! I encourage all of the outgoing Presidents to share advice with their incoming Presidents. My advice is, there will always be drama, because this is Elmhurst. The best response is to take a deep breath and take a day to respond :)

Installation of New Officers

2020/2021 Slate of Officers

- Executive Board

President	Michelle Huber
President-Elect	Laura Gibson
VP Scholarship	Kristie Szejner/Dena Fasheh
VP Programming	Rachel Olson/Casey Braun
Treasurer	Jennifer Cello
Recording Secretary	Suji LaBine
Corresponding Secretary	Anne Zimmer

- Committee Chairs

SROH	Jill McCall
Reflections	Michelle Wehrle
REACH	Patti Berner
SERG	Elena Cutri/Mary Young

Casey Braun: Are there any nominations from the floor? (none)

Can I have a motion from the floor to approve the slate as presented?

Motion to approve the slate from Nicole Braun and seconded by Karen Sienko.

Casey Braun: Please show a thumbs up to approve the slate as presented.

Are there any objections? (none)

Thank you the slate has passed.

Short ceremony read by Casey to install the officers for the 2020/2021 school year.

I can now pass the floor to our new President, Michelle Huber.

Michelle Huber: Thank you Casey for your outstanding leadership and dedication this year. We've had many accomplishments this year including the sharing of ideas, streamlining of efforts, and we will certainly miss your leadership.

Thank you to all of the outstanding PTA Presidents. I appreciate your dedication to your schools. Welcome to all of our new PTA Presidents. I'll be in touch soon.

September 8, 2020 is our first PTA Council meeting for the new school year. Please mark your calendars. Finally, thank you to Dr. Moyer and the D205 administration, Kara Caforio and the D205 Board of Education, Bev and the communications team, and all of our wonderful D205 teachers and staff.

Dr. Moyer: Before we go, I would like to announce that I nominated Casey Braun for the Illinois Association of School Administrators Award, which has regional divisions across the state, and due to its size, one of them is DuPage County. Each year at the April meeting, districts can put forward people for recognition who go above and beyond to serve their communities, and this year I nominated Casey. Due to current circumstances, she will be recognized next year.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Alison Dondlinger and seconded by Suji LaBine.

Meeting adjourned at 8:18 pm by Michelle Huber.

Respectfully submitted by Laura Gibson, Recording Secretary