

**ROBBINSDALE SPANISH  
IMMERSION SCHOOL   
PARENT TEACHER ORGANIZATION**

General Assembly Meeting Agenda: February 29, 2024

Meeting is held in-person at the school (Media Center) and online via Zoom  
(<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88280637327>).

If attending in-person, please sign-in via paper sheet. If attending online, [please sign in here](#).

**(23 Attendees; In person: 22, online: 1)**

**Agenda:**

- Welcome (SueLynn Junkert) - 2 minutes
- PTO Board Member introductions - 2 minutes
- Introductions (Round table: please share name, role at the school/PTO and/or children names/grade. What's been your favorite moment of the school year so far?) - 5 minutes
- Days for Girls - Twin Cities presentation
  - Christy Michelli, 1st grade teacher and Lisa (Srta. Boone's mother), nurse
    - Days for Girls - [daysforgirls.org](https://daysforgirls.org)
    - International non-profit with goal to increase access to menstrual care and education
    - In many countries, lack of access to resources to manage their menstrual cycles causes girls to miss 30% of their school days, and be unable to participate in sports or other daily life activities
    - via Days for Girls, Christy and Lisa have helped make menstrual kits to be sent to various countries to help with menstrual care
    - Kits come in heavy and regular flow - includes a bag with a wash rag and bar of soap, reusable pad, and a card to help track periods- \$10 to make
    - Both have traveled to other countries to participate in health clinics- which provide valuable education to participants- help teach proper menstrual care and hygiene, sex education, and education on human trafficking.
    - Have personally brought over 700 kits to other countries. Intern Marlene is hoping to bring 30 kits home with her to El Salvador.
    - Invitation handout to help make kits on 3/4/24 - [Days for Girls- kit making 3.4.24.jpg](#)
- Intern Intro (Jose Carillo) - 5 minutes
  - [Jose.pdf](#)
  - From El Salvador, currently working with grades: 5th, 4th, 3rd, Kinder
- Update from the Principals - (Ken Habel) - 10 minutes
  - La Noche update - great community event and eventing. Thank you, La Noche Committee!
  - Spring Conferences are coming up: 3/4, 3/7, & 3/12
  - Kinder teacher, Sra. Carmona, will have other nights available due to scheduling conflict. Sra. Evans, kinder teacher currently on maternity leave, will be returning week of 3/18.
  - March is a busy month. Currently working with the district on next year's budget. District needs to cut \$17 million overall
    - Enrollment numbers plan to stay consistent at RSI

- Next year will be 5 sections of 4th grade, instead of 4. Will be looking for additional 4th grade teacher
        - Not a Title I school. Currently, 34% of RSI students qualify for free and reduced lunch. 50% needed for Title I status. RSI has more students that are free and reduced lunch than 7 of the other elementary schools.
      - Minnesota Comprehensive Assessment (MCA) testing happening after spring break and then looking ahead to end-of-year events
- Treasurer's Report (Morgan Wallace-Johnson) - 10 minutes
  - [2024.01.31 Treasurers Report.pdf](#)
  - Restricted funds- \$113,000. Excess reserves, at end of January: \$12,300
  - Grant proposals review and vote
    - Social emotional materials for Salon de Apoyo
      - Grant application by Collin Ernest, RSI counselor
      - Request for \$400; \$359 before taxes
      - Salon de Apoyo is for students who may need a break from the general classroom setting. Can be sent there on their own or escorted by staff to have a safe, staff-monitored, and calm environment to help students regulate and take a break
      - Money would be used to purchase puzzles, bean bags, ankle weights, fidgets and other items for distraction and deescalation
      - Motion to vote made by Sarah Taylor. Seconded by Steph Hanna. Motion passed unanimously.
    - Boy Scout Base Camp in Mpls - for 4th grade event
      - Grant application by Collin Ernest, RSI counselor
      - Request is for \$2000 - which would pay for all of 4th grade to attend (100 students)
      - On-site staff would lead kids in team building, leadership activities, and physical activities
      - Last year, 4th graders participated in an in-school Kindness Retreat
      - Request is for this year only
      - Event would be held on May 14th, 2024
      - Motion to vote made by Steph Hanna. Seconded by Toby Breuch. Motion passed unanimously.
    - Green Team - bark mulch for RSI entry area and grounds
      - Grant application by Sarah Meagher - Green Team Coordinator/PTO co-treasurer
      - Request is for \$500 for mulch - one time request
      - Current mulch is deteriorating
      - Green Team has yearly budget of \$250, which has been spent on other supplies
      - Sarah's family business, Bulldog, would install mulch and provide the labor for free.
      - Motion to vote made by Sarah Lynn. Seconded by Toby Breuch. Motion passed unanimously.
    - STEM Club
      - Proposal made by PTO Board
      - Sra. Bridge has been running an after-school STEM Club for 2nd, 3rd, 4th, & 5th graders this winter. 2nd/3rd grade met after school one day/week during February, and 4th/5th grade met one day/week during January

- Request is to pay Sra. Bridge for her time in running the club. \$35/hr x 20 hrs = \$700.
  - Funding this club was discussed at the April 2023 General Assembly meeting but was ultimately deferred to a later date as the PTO was still awaiting final accounting for excess reserves and funds available
  - If voted upon tonight, would be as a retroactive grant. The PTO board and principals realized that an unintentional error occurred and funds were never formally allocated for the club prior to its start
  - Funding for other extra curricular activities discussed. Math Masters and Chess Club are currently funded by the district. Most elementary extracurricular activities are music related and also district funded
  - No current STEM extracurricular are funded by the district in any of the district elementary schools
  - Will consider adding this to the PTO's yearly budget moving forward, and can discuss at the April GA meeting when the '24-25 budget will be discussed in great detail. A May GA PTO meeting was added to this year's schedule, as we realized after April's GA meeting last year that it was difficult to vote on budget when final accounting was not available yet due to ongoing events & fundraisers
  - Motion to vote made by Steph Hanna. Seconded by Amanda Houge. Motion passed unanimously.
- Program/Fundraiser Updates & Volunteer Needs - 10 minutes
  - La Noche Sin Niños Recap (La Noche Committee - Kristi L., Mariah M., Toby B., Steph H.)
    - Exceeded goal as a community-building event
    - Revenue: \$20,952.40, which is similar to last year
    - [La Noche 2024 Financials.pdf](#) - see for detailed outline of financials
    - Lower tickets sales compared to previous year.. 100 less than last year. Although a higher staff attendance rate this year
    - Feedback:
      - Different cocktails requested
      - childcare would be nice, teachers have heard the lack of childcare was a barrier to attendance
        - Committee discussed efforts made this year to address childcare. No volunteers were found to help coordinate
        - Venue requirements- (no outside food/drink) also make this costly and more difficult
        - Could childcare be held at RSI?
  - Scholastic Book Fair & Conference Dinners (Tiffany Knudsen)
    - [Book Fair](#) held during Conference nights - 3/4 , 3/7, 3/12 from 4-8pm in Room 13
      - A portion of all purchases made in-person and online will return to RSI
      - [Volunteers still needed](#) to help run the cash register (students love to help with this!) and help needed to pack up the books on 3/12.
      - Suggestion: can teachers make a wish list of books?
        - Sra. Michelli reports in past years, teachers used to fill a box of books they would like, and students/families could remove the book from the box and purchase (sticker added to the book with "This was donated by: ")
        - Toby to discuss this with Book Fair Coordinator, Christine
    - Conference dinners - 2 nights of catered meals and pizza night planned

- New coordinator, Amanda N., has secured community donations for pizza and supplies. No SignUp planned for individual items this year.
    - [Families can contribute by making a monetary donation](#) towards purchased meals
  - [Gertens Spring Plant Sale](#) (Sarah Meagher)
    - [Gertens Plant Sale flyer English](#); [Gertens Plan Sale flyer - Spanish](#)
    - Sale runs now through March 25th. Pick-up will be on May 4th at RSI from 1-3pm
  - Dine to Donate - [Chuck E. Cheese](#) (Toby Bruech)
    - 3/21 from 3pm - 9pm. 20% of all food, play points, and merchandise sales go to RSI
    - [Chuck E. Cheese 3/21/24 flyer - English](#); [Chuck E. Cheese 3/21/24 flyer - Spanish](#)
    - Upcoming Dine to Donate in April - Red Robin in Plymouth on 4/9
- PTO Board Roles & Key Volunteer needs for '24-25 (SueLynn Junkert) - 15 minutes
  - [PTO Board Roles presentation and overview](#)
  - Currently 8 board members, co-roles for all 4 positions- president, vice-president, secretary, and treasurer
  - Board role nominations occur at next month's GA meeting in March, and PTO board is voted upon at the April GA meeting
    - All roles are open! New members are welcome and encouraged!
    - Please reach out to [rsispto@gmail.com](mailto:rsispto@gmail.com) with questions or to seek further details
  - Several coordinator positions will be opening for 2024-25. Please see the [PTO SignUp page](#) for current openings
- Open Floor (Anyone) - Remaining time to 7:30 pm

### **Upcoming Events:**

- |              |  |
|--------------|--|
| ☆ 3/4        | Conferences/Staff Dinners/Scholastic Book Fair                           |
| ☆ 3/5        | No School - Staff Development  |
| ☆ 3/7        | Conferences/Staff Dinners/Scholastic Book Fair                           |
| ☆ 3/12       | Conferences/Staff Dinners/Scholastic Book Fair                           |
| ☆ 3/19       | March PTO General Assembly Meeting, 6:30-7:30, RSI Media Center & online |
| ☆ 3/19       | Lost and Found Clean Out   |
| ☆ 3/21       | Dine to Donate - Chuck E. Cheese - Maple Grove                           |
| ☆ 3/25 - 4/1 | No School - Spring Break   |

\*\* Friendly reminder to please check the Lost and Found (at the main entrance of the school) for any items your student(s) may be missing!

**All are invited to join us for an informal social gathering  
at Schuller's in Golden Valley following this meeting**

### **2023-24 RSIS PTO Board Members**

Jessica Chapman & SueLynn Junkert as Co-Presidents  
Toby Breuch & Tiffany Knudsen as Co-Vice Presidents  
Morgan Wallace & Sarah Meagher as Co-Treasurers  
Amanda Houde & Mariah Messer as Co-Secretaries

### **Have questions or want to get involved?**

Email: [rsispto@gmail.com](mailto:rsispto@gmail.com)  
Facebook: [facebook.com/RSISPTO](https://www.facebook.com/RSISPTO)  
Website: <https://rsi.rdale.org/families/pto>  
Volunteer Interest & Current Needs:  
<https://signup.com/Group/32702953766093000/>  
Online Store: [squareup.com/store/rsispto](https://squareup.com/store/rsispto)

