Minutes for General Meeting via Zoom

Boyce Middle School PTO

Wednesday, September 16, 2020

9:30 am

The General PTO meeting for Boyce Middle School was called to order at 9:34 am by the PTO President, Andrea Amorose, and recorded by the PTO Secretary, Natalea Oliverio. The meeting was held via Zoom.

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance – Andrea Amorose

Reading and Approval of Agenda and Minutes: The agenda has been posted for all to read. A motion was made by S. Eva Hills and a second motion was made by Yesha Katukota to approve the agenda. The agenda for today's meeting was approved. The Minutes from the General PTO meeting from March have been posted online for more than 30 days. There was a motion by Jennifer Schnore and a second motion by Sian Howell to approve the minutes. The minutes from the March General PTO meeting were approved.

Instillation of Officers – Gina Swanson: Due to the emergency closure of the schools in the spring, traditional nominations and elections were not held. Candidates for the offices of President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary (retention) volunteered for their posts. The candidates were presented to PTO membership via email. No other candidates stepped forward. A Google document was presented to the members to formally "elect" the chosen candidates. As there was no opposition, the candidates were elected/retained as posted. Andrea Amorose will be the 20-21 President. Amy Quevedo will be the Vice President. Melissa Waldron will be the Treasurer for 2 years. Natalea Oliverio will be retained at Secretary for a second year. Gina Swanson will be this year's Board Advisor.

Budget Discussion – Andrea Amorose: Last school year the PTO members approved the budget we were hoping to use this year. As an executive board, we have decided not to charge an activity fee or a PTO membership fee at this time. Since, we are not sure what the rest of the year will look like for events, we did not want to keep collecting money from the families to just have money in the bank. In January, the Executive Board will reassess any fee collection. If it is more likely we will be able to have events in the spring, we may ask for a reduced activity fee to help pay for the upcoming events. We will keep you informed of that as well. We will need a motion to approve that during these unprecedented times that we are currently in due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, that the PTO Executive Board will not be held to the previously passed budget. We will use the funds the best way we see fit, still fitting into categories of the budget, in ways that will benefit all the students and Boyce Middle School community. We will use discretion and be as transparent as possible with the use of previously collected funds. A motion was made by Gina Swanson to approve the budgetary discretion and a second was made by Amy Quevedo. The motion carried.

Statement of the Treasurer – Melissa Waldron: The beginning cash balance for the PTO account was $27, 151. 66 on July 1, 2020. Throughout the summer, the following checks were written:

$ 419.25	Check #1372 - Guidance Support
$ 279.38	Check #1373 - Boyce SHOP@USC supplies
$ 4,027.42	Check #1367 - Gift to School - flexible seating
$ 793.58	Check #1364 - STEAM Lab supplies
$ 128.93	Check #1368 - Team Enhancements

This leaves us with an ending cash balance of $21, 503. 10.

Correspondence – Natalea Oliverio: The secretary had no correspondence to share.

Reports:

- Teacher Representative – Matt Henderson: Mr. Henderson is again the teacher representative to the PTO Board. He is the STEAM/Design teacher at Boyce. He has no new information to share with the membership regarding the teaching staff. He and the rest of the staff are working "harder than ever" to keep the students engaged and to provide all the things that the students need. He is very glad to see the students and reports that the students appear genuinely happy to be back at Boyce. He thanked the PTO for its continued support in providing funds to help the STEAM program provide necessary equipment.

- Executive Committee
    - President – Andrea Amorose
        - Unfortunately, we were not able to give the graduating 6th graders a party in June. We still wanted to make sure they knew that we are thinking of them, wish them the best, and just another way to let them know that we are all in this together. We had a nice response to pick up on Friday and Monday evening. However, we still have about 130 students that have not picked up. I will be outside my house this Saturday, September 19th from 9 am-11:30 am. I am in the directory from last year, or send me an email for my address, in order to pick up. These are for the 6th graders who graduated last year. I am mentioning it here, in case you also have a 7th grader at home.
        - Our Display Case committee did a wonderful job decorating this year, as always. These pictures are also on our PTO page.
        - Yearbooks have been delivered. If you have a paid order with a confirmation, and have not received it, please contact Gina Swanson. Also, to be on a waiting list IF we have any extras, also contact Gina.
        - PTO Sign up. Although all of the families are honorary PTO members for the 2020 — 2021 school year, we are still asking for families to register through PTOffice. We will be sending out information via email and would like to make sure everyone has access to it. If your family was a Boyce last year and if you are a family from Streams, you will already be in the system and you can add your child's name to your family contact. If you are new to Boyce and have not signed up with PTOffice before, please sign up using the link on this form I am sharing. This form is also on the main page of the PTO website. Please contact me with any questions.
        - In efforts to get information out to families without sending a lot of correspondence, Natalea will be creating a monthly newsletter filled of upcoming information that you need to know. We do not meet every month for a general PTO meeting. Registration links will be included in the newsletter for you to register!
        - PTO meetings will be held remotely, for the foreseeable future. Prior registration will be necessary, but all Boyce families are welcome to join!
        - The PTO Executive board has agreed to partially pay for a new decal for the hallway with this year's theme: We Are All in this Together. We also have approved recess equipment for each team and bins for clean and dirty, so we can sanitize items for the students before and after use. We are also looking at funds to keep the Panther Paw Program, recognizing students.
    - 1st Vice President – Amy Quevedo – Welcome everyone. Amy had no report at this time.
    - 2nd Vice President – Dan O'Rourke
        - Mr. O'Rourke welcomed everyone and gave a detailed presentation on how the start of school is going including explanation of schedules for each cohort; Hybrid A, Hybrid B, and full Remote.
        - Mr. O'Rourke also explained the drop off/pick up procedure and how to make sure it is done efficiently and safely. Please take a look at the Boyce Website for a detailed diagram for proper routes.
        - There are thorough cleaning processes that happen on a consistent basis throughout the day. When one student leaves their desk, it is disinfected before anyone else uses the same desk. They are using hand sanitizer throughout the day and keeping things as clean as possible. The health office is set up differently as well. There are two separate areas for the students depending on what symptoms the student is having, or why they are visiting the nurse's office.

- This information went along with a PowerPoint presentation.
    - Slide 1: Boyce's Theme: "We are all in this together"
    - Slide 2: Mission Statement: To provide students with a world-class educational experience that supports their academic, social and emotional growth within an environment that is safe and comfortable.
    - Slide 3: Thank you to the PTO for continued support and to the community as a whole. He noted that the students seemed happy and excited to be back in school.
    - Slide 4: Quote: "Pressure can burst a pipe or pressure can make a diamond." Robert Horry
    - Slide 5: Celebrate Success: Boyce has earned several recognitions
        - Schools to Watch
        - No Place for Hate by the Anti-Defamation League with an Equality Award as well
    - Slide 6: Boyce Nutrition Center/Hallways/Classroom pictures
    - Slide 7: What the schedules look like?
    - Slide 8: Student Drop off/Pick up procedure
    - Slide 9: Leadership Quote
    - Slide 10: Welcome Back videos posted on website

- Board Advisor – Gina Swanson: She welcomed everyone and thanked Mr. O'Rourke for a seamless start to an unprecedented school year. She also announced a reminder that there will be a meeting of the full PTC via zoom tonight at 7pm.

- School Board Representative - Jen Schnore:
    - Jen has been involved with the Boyce PTO for many years. She is a former Vice President, President and most recently a board advisor. In January, a seat on the USC School Board opened up and she was appointed the position.
    - She has reported a lot of positive feedback from parents so far regarding the start of the school year. She has many thanks for the teachers and staff at all buildings for their tiring work. She is grateful to the have so many parents with positive attitudes and flexibility during these first few weeks.
    - Future plans from the board include work to get the students back to school 5 days a week. This will be done by reconvening the committees that have been working all summer to get the school year started initially. These committees focus on Curriculum, Facilities, and the Health and Safety of all.
    - At the last voting meeting, 26 "Super-Sub" positions were approved by the board. These substitute teachers will be fully licensed teachers, working in the buildings 5 days a week to support the teachers. This will provide students with uninterrupted learning. 20 teachers have been hired so far.
    - The District is currently offer FREE breakfast for ALL children in the district whether they are enrolled in USC schools or not. Students attending hybrid (in school 2 days) receive 3 breakfasts and lunches, others receive 5 of each. In order to participate, families must sign up prior so that the appropriate amount of food is available. If you do sign up, please remember to pick up. Food not picked up will be wasted and the district will have to pay for it. Families can sign up through the district website.
    - She thanked Mr. O'Rourke for all the work getting the schedule done so efficiently and for his continued positive attitude.

Standing and Reporting Committees/Reporting Organizations

- Scholastic Bookfair – Natalea Oliverio: The Scholastic Book Fair will be held virtually from 9/28 to 10/11. More information will be out via email next week. All orders will be shipped to homes. Book orders over $25 will ship free.
- Spirit wear – Kris Jenkins and Val Franks: The committee is looking to do a sale in mid-October for delivery before the holidays. New items will be available.
- Family Welcome Day – Andrea Amorose: Even though the PTO was not able to host an in-person Welcome Day, there are videos on the website for families to view.
- Staff Appreciation – Gina Swanson: This will look much different that in year's past. We may need to ask for more contribution from families as the budget as a whole is much less. Be on the lookout for more information.
- Boyce Pride – Andrea Amorose: This is a great program that recognizes students going above and beyond what is expected of them. Mr. O'Rourke is working on how to keep this program running during this time.

Questions were asked by participating members:

Pam K.: Is there surplus of lunches that goes to waste if not picked up? No, lunches are ordered ahead of time so that only the right number are available.

Yesha K.: How will social distancing work when the schools go to 5 days of instruction? It is still unclear how this will work. The school board has many details to figure out.

Carrie F.: If a child cannot see well through the plexi-glass on the desks, how does one go about getting it remove? Mr. O'Rourke will look into this specific situation.

Tulasa R.: Will my child in 5th grade only take one foreign language? No, he/she will rotate through all 3. Who qualifies for the FREE lunch program? Every child in the district regardless of income. How do I sign up for membership in the PTO? There is a link on the PTO website. Further questions about membership can email Andrea Amorose.

Sian H.: When I am ready for my child to transition from Full Remote to Hybrid, will he have the same schedule and homeroom? It is dependent on the number of students in his homeroom when that time comes. Only a certain number of students can be in a classroom at any one time.

25 Members in attendance.

1. Andrea Amorose
2. Gina Swanson
3. Natalea Oliverio
4. Melissa Waldron
5. Amy Quevedo
6. Dan O'Rourke
7. Cathy Leco
8. Debbie Ogrodnik
9. Jennifer Schnore
10. Julie Zerigue
11. Pam Kunjara
12. Sian Howell
13. K.C. Wise
14. Jodie Shaw
15. Tulasa Rai
16. S. Eva Hills
17. Cathy Cowles
18. Natalie Livingston
19. Yesha Katukota
20. Gang Liu

21. Saumya Rao
22. Matt Henderson
23. Christina Clodfelter
24. Kristy Szpara
25. Carrie Fick

Adjournment at 10:59 am.

Next PTO Meeting: November 11th 9:30 am

Look for emails for the Monthly Newsletters and PTO Meeting registration links!