Radnor Elementary School PTO
General Meeting Agenda
October 16, 2025 7:00 PM – Library

A. Welcome: Introduction of PTO Executive Board members, Kristen mentioned that we have open door policy, would love to hear ideas, input
B. Principal's Message- Dr. Young thanked all parents in attendance and shared several updates.
    - **Data Review:** The school recently completed data meetings to identify trends and patterns in student performance. Findings are being used to determine the need for **MTSS (Multi-Tiered System of Supports)** groupings.
        - **MTSS Implementation:**
            - Small intervention groups have been created for both remediation and acceleration.
            - Some students will work with different teachers, while others will remain in their current classrooms.
            - RES uses an **inclusive gifted model**; *Aileen Grady* has transitioned to the role of **Teacher of Gifted Learners**.
            - Students may receive additional support from OT, Speech and Language, the Guidance Counselor, or the Social Emotional Teacher during MTSS time.
            - Parents will receive letters if their child is participating in an MTSS support group.
            - Students who remain with their classroom teacher will not receive a letter.
        - **Focus on Core Instruction:**
            - Dr. Young emphasized that while MTSS is an important long-term initiative (can take about 7–8 years to fully implement), the **main focus remains Tier 1 classroom instruction**, where students receive the highest-quality teaching.
            - Highlighted that Radnor teachers are highly qualified and experienced, spending most of their time engaging directly with students.
            - Reiterated that MTSS represents only a small portion of the school day — **30 minutes for math and 30 minutes for English Language Arts** — and should not overshadow the importance of daily classroom learning.
    - Circus was a great success.
        - Dr. Young extended thanks to the **PTO for sponsoring** the event.

    - Noted appreciation that the program has evolved into an **inclusive event for all students**, not just the fourth grade.
    - Highlighted the joy of watching students **try new activities** and build confidence.
    - Emphasized that the program supports the school's focus on **social-emotional learning and growth**
- Upcoming Halloween Festivites
    - Dr. Young acknowledged that the **Halloween season** is approaching and anticipates ongoing discussion about the Trunk or Treat event.
    - Confirmed that RES continues to refer to the celebration as "Halloween" and hosts a Halloween Parade.
    - Expressed openness to community feedback regarding the terminology and inclusivity of the event.
    - Shared that while traditions help build community, it's also important to recognize that not all families may participate for various reasons.
    - Emphasized her goal of ensuring no one feels excluded, and welcomed suggestions or perspectives from parents.
- Vice Principal Updates
    - Dr. Young shared that the school is nearing the end of the search for a new Vice Principal.
    - Announced that Jon Smerecky's last day will be Friday, October 17.
    - His schedule was planned so he could participate in the final round of data team meetings, as he has been an integral part of the MTSS process.
    - The position attracted an exceptionally large and highly qualified pool of candidates.
    - Dr. Young has intentionally slowed the process to ensure the best possible selection.
    - The candidate list has been narrowed to three finalists, all of whom have completed reference checks.
    - Dr. Young hopes to make an announcement regarding the hire even as early as the next couple weeks
    - Dr. Young confirmed that parents were involved in the interview process and that confidentiality agreements were signed.
- Reading Curriculum Discussion
    - Curriculum is now used K–5; aligns with the science of reading and PA standards
    - Designed to narrow the gap between teaching science and classroom practice.
    - Teachers may supplement areas such as vocabulary and tailor instruction to student needs.
    - Recognized that transition may feel "bumpy" as students and teachers adapt.
    - Reassured parents that RES teachers are implementing with commitment to students, and are guided by a literacy consultant.
    - Next major curriculum focus will be a Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) Audit.

    - Encouraged parents to reach out directly for individual discussions.
    - Erin suggested hosting lunch conversations for parents about the new curriculum; Dr. Young agreed and welcomed topic ideas by email.

C. Teacher Liaison – Mrs. Grady
- Introduced herself and discussed her role and background: currently TOGL, Former first grade teacher and fifth-grade teacher.
- Works closely with *Corry Maloney*; both serve as PTO teacher liaisons.
- Teachers are working diligently with new curriculum and professional development.
- Expressed appreciation for PTO teacher funds, which help enhance classrooms with books and materials.
- Noted *Jon Smerecky's* departure will be a loss felt by staff.
- Reminded parents that **conference sign-ups** are being distributed.

D. District Wide Update
- Multi-Lingual Fair
    - Highly attended and successful event.
    - Provided great opportunities for family engagement; positive feedback from participants.
    - Erin thanked all volunteers and Dr. Young for attending.
- PTO Presidents' Meeting
    - RES PTO Presidents met with PTO President from Wayne and Ithan Elementary Schools. They had a collaborative and productive conversations, and shared ideas
    - The focus across all school this year is community building
- Coordinating Council
    - Erin met with coordinating council and got information from the district, noted all good things going on with district.
    - Noted Radnor's strong transparency and community communication.

E. Committee and Event Recognitions
- **Welcome Back Coffee (Maria Reilly):** Positive response; suggestion to host more morning coffees before winter.
- **Bulletin Boards (Jordan Byrd):** Boards look great.
- **Giving Fridays (Caitlin Aikins & Laura Curran):** Ongoing.
- **Pretzel Fridays (Dayna Peck)**: Strong participation; Dayna now serves as parent volunteer liaison.
- **Homeroom Parents**: Acknowledged and thanked.
- **PTO Sandwich Board Artwork (Deanna Galloway):** Artwork appreciated and looks beautiful at entryway.

F. Past Events
- Back to School Picnic: Was a success despite date change. People enjoyed cooler weather. Moving forward, we will have exit forms filled out to report positive. Picnic was huge success down to last slice of pizza. All food was a hit, as was face painting.
- Circus: Was enjoyed by all, very successful

G. Ongoing/Upcoming Fundraisers

- Bloombox
  - Fall campaign raised **$117.19**; winter campaign (wreaths and centerpieces) runs **Nov 1–15**.
- Minted Fundraiser
  - Holiday cards and calendars; historically successful and expected to perform well again.
- Potential Spring Fundraiser
  - Discussing possible *spring gala* or adult-only fundraiser to support the Annual Fund in lieu of big push for donations
  - Considering creative ideas such as **dueling pianos** or **Top Golf**.
  - Open call for volunteers with event-planning experience.
- Dining Out Events
  - **10/20 Antonella's** (10 a.m.–5 p.m.)
  - Exploring Chick-fil-A event for Election Day and potential **holiday meal delivery** fundraiser.
  - Seeking additional dining partnership ideas
- Annual Fund
  - Year-round initiative; new campaign launching before holidays to encourage participation from those unable to volunteer.

H. New Business

- Trunk-or-treat
  - Registration is not great, but usually is a last minute sign up, so we leave registration open to the day of.
  - Chairs are great, but we do need day of volunteers.
  - Dawn Lincoln mentioned wanting to encourage more people to sign up for trunks, since it's on a Thursday this year.
  - Registration is on par with what we had last year, but last year we had a lot of last minute sign ups, so we hope to have a lot last minute sign ups this year as well.
- Socktober
  - Donation drive for new socks benefitting Wayne Food Pantry
  - Initiative connects October fun with community giving
  - Goal to expand next year with a dedicated chairperson and broader campaign.
- Nutritional Tastings
  - Coordinating with food services; first tasting will feature apple cider
  - Focus on healthy choices, allergy awareness and sustainability
  - The idea is to encourage students to try something they might not normally have tried at home
- Class Parties
  - All Halloween parties will be held on Friday, 10/31
  - All times and details have been communicated to families.
- Book Fair
  - Annie Lee and Allison Brayford co-chairing so Annie can easily take over as chair next year.

- Have communicated to push out dates through all communication channels: RES Express, Radnor Reader, etc.
- When event gets closer, we will ask homeroom parents to send out reminder of the day that their child's class is shopping.
- The schedule will be finalized by the end of next week, as teachers sign up for desired shopping times.
- There will be an opportunity for three parent volunteers for each class to come in and help the students class. Sigh ups will be sent out in PTO communications.
- Special Events – will do one morning and one evening event. All will be communication in PTO communications.
- Discussion on continuing paper flyers vs. digital-only: consensus to keep **paper copies** for accessibility and engagement.
- Agreed to maintain **"one book per student"** voucher format.
- Encouraged stronger promotion of **Share the Fair** donations to benefit RES Library.
- Kristen encouraged people to think about an engaging name for the last shopping day, which is a 2-hour window on the 14th

- Community Coffee Meetups
  - Will resume soon
  - Casual gatherings encouraged (bring-your-own-coffee, meet for a walk)
- Future Spending Ideas and Suggestions
  - Grade-level field trip transportation
  - New/relocating teacher classroom set-up fund
  - Sound system upgrade (could aso eliminate need to hire DJ in the future)
  - Salad bar for teachers
  - Suggestion to seek out larger-scale ideas like library furniture of major facility upgrades
  - Proposal for follow-up meeting to prioritize long-term projects.
- Open Chair Positions
  - MLK Day of Service
  - Outdoor Game Night
  - Teacher Conference Meals

I. Treasurer's Update
  - **Pretzel Fridays:** Performing strongly with **73% participation**; shaping up to be our largest fundraiser.
  - **Trunk or Treat:** Participation increasing; update to follow next month.
  - **Back-to-School Picnic:** Slightly over budget due to pizza and no raffles; offset by Pretzel Friday revenue.
  - **Thanksgiving Basket Drive:** Raised **$225** to date.
  - **Teacher Fund:** Approximately two-thirds funded.
  - Stated that we do have funds to Book Fair voucher format from last year.

J. Questions/Comments

K. Adjourn 8:02pm