

Robinson PTSO Meeting Minutes – September 13, 2023

In attendance: Jenny Keane (president), Andrew Gough (vice president), Erin Black, Jeff Freund (principal), Mr. Sorensen (teacher, StuCo adviser), Ellen Rife, Kristie Costa, Megan Monsour, Arta Quam, Jamie Bell, Ashleigh Marks, Jessika Cooks, Sarah Santonge and Cyrus

1. Officers

- President: Jennifer Keane (259RobinsonPTSO@gmail.com)
- Vice President: Andrew Gough
- Treasurer: Cliff Bayne
- Secretary: Ellen Rife nominated and voted in as new secretary to replace Erin Black

2. Attendees briefly introduced themselves

3. President's report

- Achieve-a-thon Fundraiser (October 16-31)
 - Using Square instead of PayPal for electronic donations
 - Productive conversation about Achieve-a-thon plans
 - Jenny explained how the fundraiser works—prizes, including staff encounters, some donated by businesses, others funded by PTSO. Jenny will make list of prizes available to PTSO members and Mr. Freund via GoogleDocs. Lots of interesting staff encounters this year, including elephant toothpaste.
 - Help needed during the school day to count on collection dates and to distribute tickets, help students put tickets in buckets, and to draw for prizes. She'll send out a Sign-up-Genius to all.
 - Funds raised used primarily for staff appreciation, school dances and other student social activities, and teacher requests for prizes/food. We spent more money than we raised last year, spending funds from before Covid. Goal to raise more money this year to replenish our available funds.
- Brainstormed ways to increase student involvement with fundraiser and reach financial goals
 - Build in a competitive component, either between classrooms or between grade levels, or both. Currently, the class with the highest amount raised and the class with the more participants both receive prizes.
 - Have trackers, like thermometer graphic, showing us how close we're getting to reaching our goal.
 - Mr. Sorensen offered to have his students make a video in support of the fundraiser to help spark student enthusiasm and engagement.
 - Mr. Freund said that student iPad screens could be changed to feature graphics we create about the fundraiser and deadlines—need to make sure parents know what is happening.
 - Discussion of how to coordinate communication with parents—need a master schedule and plan for how to reach parents before and during the fundraiser.
 - Discussion of how to get more participation from students, as around 50 students, out of 700, participated in the fundraiser last year. Talked about having a nacho party for students who participate, or taping the principal to the wall—some sort of special incentive for any student who participates. Perhaps something from the à la carte window, frosties, cherry limeades—some sort of incentive that students receive for fundraising, which happens during the school day.
- Discussion of potentially having our goal be raising \$8,000-10,000 to install benches outside, combined with funds from Prairie Fire proceeds and StuCo proceeds, perhaps also with support from the Robinson Foundation.
- Setting as a target having each student donate \$20, which is four tickets. Would love to have more students put tickets in buckets, students from all of our neighborhoods and PreIB. Robinson has both the richest and the poorest students in Wichita—important to design the fundraiser to foster participation from the whole community, so that it is a community building activity.

- Andrew motions to have \$10,000 be the Achieve-a-thon fundraising goal—and we generally agreed to have 10K be the goal. Making benches the focus of our fundraiser was also widely supported by the group.
 - Fall Dance
 - Discussed when to schedule dance and if it should be after the fundraiser.
 - Mr. Sorensen explained that students are very much wanting to wear costumes at the Fall Dance.
 - Chose to hold the dance during the fundraiser to maximize visibility for the fundraiser.
 - Brief discussion of what restrictions, if any, to place on student attendance as regards behavior—will revisit this at the next meeting.
 - All-School Fall Dance to be held Friday, October 27 from 6-8 PM
4. Principal update—Mr. Freund reports that attendance is up, chronic absenteeism is down, fights and office referrals are down, GPAs are up—and that new cell phone policy is helping kids be kind. Drastic shift in behavior this year, for the better! Daily attendance of teachers is also up. Brief dance parties on Fridays are a great new tradition!
 5. Treasurer report—about \$5800 available
 6. Items not discussed at meeting, but included in agenda:
 - Donation request - Mr Kist asked for \$75 to spend on food item prizes for his mystery wheel
 - Ms Van Horn has updated several aspects of the PTSO section of the RMS website
 7. Upcoming Schedule:
 - Wednesday, September 20—Achieve-a-thon fundraiser planning meeting, 6 PM, Robinson Cafeteria
 - Wednesday, October 11—PTSO meeting, 7 PM, room location at Robinson TBD