

PRATT PTO MEETING MINUTES, OCTOBER 10, 2017

Socializing transpired from 5:30-6:00 pm with children and grown-ups with Cheese pizza & fruit.

At 6:00 p.m. Anna Mahan-Miller, president called the meeting to order. Kids were welcome to stay quietly with their parents or watched by Ms. Jakki in the Minneapolis Kids Room.

Introductions

Lissa Steenerson, lissa.steenerson@mpls.k12.mn.us 612-668-1122 is the newly hired Family Liaison

Georgy Kearney will act as the parent liaison between the Site Council and the PTO. (Both the Site Council and PTO meetings are open to all Pratt parents to attend at any time.)

Budget Treasurer, Tricia Brown to vote on a new budget in November. A little more time is needed to finalize the format and send out to PTO members ahead of the next meeting for review, to allow for better discussion.

October Friendship Café/ Open House, Wednesday, October 25, 2017

Prospective families will come to tour the school and ask questions. Will need a few parents to be greeters for an hour in either the a.m. or p.m. shifts. You can sign up on http://pratt.mpls.k12.mn.us/pratt_volunteer . This is the same day as Unity Day.

Ruth Hampton Olkon also volunteered to help out with Friendship Café. This will happen a few times during the year, usually to coincide with Breakfast and Books.

Kindergarten School Snack Program

In years past, Pratt has qualified for a free kindergarten afternoon snack. This year, Pratt was not given funding for that, but Pratt was offered free school lunch for all students.

The kindergarten teachers (and kindergarten parents) have voiced a strong need to provide a snack to the kindergartners. They eat lunch first, and it is a long afternoon, and they are very young. Much discussion was had about making it equitable and for all, as well as meeting school standards/allergy restrictions. Lissa proposed using Minneapolis Public Schools nutrition services which offers discounted rates and provided by the school. The cost of this would be \$1600 for the rest of the school year.

Leah Dunbar, kindergarten parent, offered to help order the food.

A motion was made to approve \$400 bridge funding from the PTO to start funding kindergarten snacks for the next 8 weeks (or so.) The motion was seconded, and passed.

More discussion was had about how to raise more funds or explore other options. Nancy Vague stated that other schools have parents rotating sending snacks for the entire classroom, which did not seem to be a viable solution.

Parents wishing to make donations to specifically help with Kindergarten snacks are encouraged to write a check out to Pratt PTO, and indicate in the memo line "Kindergarten snack program." All checks received with that indication in the memo line, will be earmarked for this program to help fund the rest of the money needed to reach the \$1600 needed. The checks may be dropped off in the school office or mailed there.

Gift for Mary Alice

Mary Alice Kopf (sp?) played an instrumental role in keeping Pratt open. She was part of the Pratt neighborhood council, the Pratt Site council, and would go to the school board for Pratt, and even weed the gardens at Pratt. Mary Alice is moving, so a \$100 bouquet was purchased by the teachers from their "Sunshine Fund" for a bouquet given on behalf of the Pratt Students. A motion was passed for the PTO to reimburse the teachers the \$100 to replenish their Sunshine Fund.

Give to the Max Day: Thursday, November 16

Please pass this link along to any friends or family members who would like to donate to Pratt on Give to the Max Day. <https://givemn.org/organization/263583817-13282>

It is a convenient link, and many people choose to donate on this day to organizations they care about. However, Pratt PTO always prefers checks mailed or dropped off at the office (no administration fees.)

Artist in Residence/Arts Committee

Last year's Arts Committee is no longer. A new group was quickly formed at this meeting comprising of Anna Mahan-Miller, Maggie Evans, Sara Snater, Leah Dunbar, and Lissa mentioned Hadley (not at meeting) is also very interested.

Discussion was had about previous artist in residence, and the need for the teachers to be involved before being voted on by the PTO.

Yearbook Sara Snater volunteered to lead creating the school yearbook.

Family Dance, Friday, October 27

Please sign up (after Wed of this week should be on website) to help http://pratt.mpls.k12.mn.us/pratt_volunteer Need volunteers to pass out snacks, donate and pass out glow sticks, set up, clean up, DJ (bring your mobile device and connect it to the school's sound system), publicity (have your child create a poster at home and hang it in the school.) This is not a drop off event. It also is for the entire family. Siblings welcome.

Monthly Reports: Nancy Vague/Principal, George Kearney/Site Council; Memory Heille/Staff

The last 5 minutes of the meeting were very rushed staff reports, and meeting went slightly over 7pm.

For best summary, here is the 2017-2018 State of the School Presentation link http://pratt.mpls.k12.mn.us/2017-18_state_of_the_schools