

Covert PTA Meeting Minutes
February 8, 2022 at 7:30 pm via Zoom

Call to Order: Christine Gleason called the meeting to order at 7:34 pm.

- Motion to accept the minutes from 1/19/22 by Brian McNamara and Maggie Stines.

Welcome: Christine Gleason and Jen McMahon welcomed everyone. Requested attendees to put names and email addresses in chat for attendance.

Treasurer's Report given by Ashley Presser:

- Balance is \$80,000.
- Further updates to discuss ways to spend it.

Committee Updates:

Membership report given by Christine Gleason:

- Thank you to new members who recently joined.
- You can join the PTA for \$10 anytime. Payment is possible by filling out the form with cash/check, or the website <http://williamscovert.memberhub.com>.

SEP report given by Pauline Gibney:

- SEP meeting scheduled for CSE to CPSE presentation, however Dr. Gadon and Ms. Love unavailable to present on changes to elementary school curriculum. Rescheduled presentation TBD.
- Darren will attend SEP meeting on 3/1.
- Pauline will share info in the PTA newsletter and on the Covert School Parents FB page. Contact Pauline with any questions pmgibney4@optonline.net

AIM report given by Melissa McCann:

- Cheryl Wills from NY1 gave an amazing assembly for students on the Civil War, emancipation, and the emancipation of her great, great grandfather Sandy.
- Students were engaged and Grades 3-5 gave her a standing ovation.
- Literacy Week 2/14-2/18. Visit from authors Laura Numeroff (If You Give a Mouse a Cookie) and Johanna Hurwitz.
- All students will play a virtual game show.
- Black History Month presentation from the African American celebration about African dances.
- March: Celebrating Women's History Month with a presentation about Sally Ride.
- April: Presentation from Rohan Murphy; wrestler and Paralympian from Nassau County.
- Upcoming Science/Chemistry assembly for all students called "Spin, POP, Boom".

Fundraising report given by Michelle Provost:

- Thank you to everyone who ordered from Greek Town. Raised \$140.
- Taking orders for Parmagianni "Take & Bake" pizza kits. Last day for orders is 3/4.

- Volunteers needed to hand out kits. Text Michelle Provost 516-455-1573
- Finalizing with nursery for plant sale. Pick up date for all plants is 4/28. Volunteers needed to organize and hand out orders.
- Mother's/Father's Day Boutique will be 5/6. Volunteers needed.
- Covert Café will return in Spring. Working on new merchandise for sale.
- Thank you for your patience with backordered Covert gear.

Christine reminded all attendees to please put email addresses in the chat along with their names. Attendance will close for voting at 7:45pm.

Sustainability report given by Genie Efstathiou:

- Crayon Drive box currently set up.
- When weather is warmer, will organize clean up.

5th Grade report given by Anissa Bernardo:

- 5th grade yearbook dedications due on 2/11. Google form was emailed recently. Please reach out if you need a form anissacbernardo@gmail.com
- New fundraiser: David's Cookie Dough forms sent in backpacks, PTA newsletter, and posted on the Covert School Parents Facebook page. Due 2/17.
- Working on alternate plan for 5th grade outing in lieu of Broadway.
- Ashokan trip is confirmed.

Q: What is Ashokan? **A:** 3 day camp with activities (canoeing, blacksmithing). Covert goes with Watson.

Christine announced that attendance has closed for voting at 7:46pm with 64 attendees.

PARP report given by Sheryl Middleton:

- Sheryl and Kelly Shields organized the bagel breakfast. Over 400 bagels ordered from Rockville Bagels on Long Beach Rd, RVC. Kevin was awesome and helpful. Please support this local business.
- K-2 will have mini bagels. 3-5 regular sized bagels. Options of plain, cream cheese, or butter. Bagels also available to staff.
- Thank you to Ms. Tavella for doing tallies and Kelly for getting mini bottles of water.
- Bagel Breakfast will be Friday 2/18 on Pajama Day.

Q: Rainbow bagels? **A:** Plain bagels to keep it simple for such a huge undertaking.

Christine announced that after verifying PTA membership of attendees, there are 4 people who are not paid members as of last night, 2/7 at 5pm.

Staff Appreciation Lunch report given by Allison Mirchaud and Roberta Sameday:

- Starting to plan. Broadway theme chosen.
- Volunteers needed, logistics TBD.

Recycled Book Fair report given by Christine Gleason:

- Diane Cancro and Christine Galleugh will run the fair on 5/19 & 5/20.

- Please donate old books. Drop off TBD.

Plant Sale report given by Christine Gleason:

- Danielle Dorkings and Michelle Sorise will run the sale.
- Delivery day will be 4/28. Orders will be due a few weeks earlier. TBD.
- Volunteers needed to organize and hand out orders.

Curriculum report given by Liz Volz:

- New Arts Curriculum, elementary art for kindergarten. Dr. Zuar spoke about recently revised art curriculum. Revamped after 30 years and sounds wonderful. Liz requested art 2x/cycle on elementary level. Space/staff/monetary restraints. Encouraged parents to reach out and advocate for more arts.
- Sonia Hood discussed joint articulation initiative to increase integration of curriculum between SSMS and SSHS. Initiative between students and teachers looking at IB profiles of students, making sure that IB principles were happening throughout SSMS into SSHS, and preparing students for SSHS. Looking at courses within SSHS to make sure they were integrated into the broader curriculum. Liz asked for a future initiative about vertical articulation from grammar into SSMS. Upcoming initiative formalized for next year for 5th into 6th. Broad conversation regarding stress of transition into SSMS.
- Please reach out to Shelagh McGinn smcginn@rvcschools.org , Jennifer Pascarella jpascarella@rvcschools.org , or Donna Downing donnadowning@gmail.com for more information and resources.
- Upcoming Parent University. Details TBD.
- Next meeting about Foreign Language.
- Please reach out to Liz for more in depth information lizvolz@gmail.com
- Darren supports increase in art to 2x/cycle.

Sources of Strength presentation given by Alyssa Brenner:

- Darren introduced new elementary school counselor, Alyssa Brenner. Ms. Brenner is at Covert 2x/cycle, as well as Watson and Riverside.
- Ms. Brenner shared her screen and introduced herself and her role within Covert. Discussed the tier levels of intervention in Rockville Centre's Social-Emotional Delivery Model. Shared examples of her classroom social-emotional lessons, including self awareness, self management, social awareness, relationship skills, and responsible decision making.
- Explained the 123 SLANT acronym used across elementary schools. S-Sit up straight, L-Listen with your eyes, ears, body, and heart, A-Ask and answer questions, N-Nod your head, T-Track the speaker.
- Ms. Brenner gave an overview of the Sources of Strength program for grades 3-5. The goal of Sources of Strength is to provide students with the tools to develop strength, resilience, and help-seeking behaviors.
- The Sources of Strength wheel incorporates family support, positive friends, mentors, healthy activities, generosity, spirituality, physical health, and mental health.
- For more information please visit the RVC District website or contact Alyssa Brenner abrenner@rvcschools.org

Christine responded to question in chat regarding voting rules. Christine explained that the Covert School Parents Facebook page is not an official PTA page and is not run by the PTA. The minutes were posted on the Covert PTA website. For organizational reasons for this vote, must stay with deadline of 2/7 at 5pm for paid membership.

Nominating Committee by Christine Gleason:

- Nominating committee consists of 5 members; 3 from the executive board and 2 from general membership. Nominating committee receives the executive committee nominations and decides who will fill the executive slate for the '22-23 school year.
- Executive board members met and elected 3 members for the nominating committee:
 1. Megan English
 2. Luciana Sousa
 3. Melissa McCann
- Tonight we are voting on 2 spots from general membership. Received emails from members running for a spot.
 1. Nathan Stange
 2. Sheryl Middleton
 3. Jill Guizzo
- Christine asked if anyone wants to run from the floor. 2 members interested in running.
 1. Kristen Clodfelter
 2. Brian Gibney
- All 5 candidates introduced themselves and discussed their PTA involvement.
- Christine thanked everyone and encouraged everyone to volunteer for the PTA.
- Sandy Molinari, membership chair, did a roll call to confirm that voting members were still in attendance.
- If name not called during roll call, it is due to either joining after the 7:45pm cutoff or joining the PTA after the 2/7 5pm deadline. Members asked to unmute and say "Here".
- Voting forms emailed from the Covert PTA email address. Meeting on hold from 8:45-8:50pm for members to vote. Vote on google form for 1 or 2 candidates.

President's Report given by Christine Gleason

- Penny Wars and Polar Bear Plunge. Raised \$1089 for Oliver's team. 1st grade won Penny Wars. Please no rolled coins next year.
- Bee Kind Day 2/17 for Random Acts of Kindness Day. Bee Kind surprises will be given out. Every child will receive gifts. Michelle Provost will put together a Bee Healthy Wellness Bar on 2/17 for the Covert staff.
- Purchases: Ms. Heuser was paid and working on murals in hallways. Plan to be completed by end of March/early April.
- Muralist to paint auditorium wall with "Literacy" theme. Meeting next week to look at space and will begin 2/24. Working nights and weekends. Cost \$6500.
- Vote for mural was held in chat. Vote approved with 41 Yes votes.
- Application completed for Board and Mr. Bartels for mural to be a gift on agenda for 2/9 meeting.

- Vote held in chat for classroom gifts of \$100 reimbursement for all 14 Covert classes and \$500 to AIS and Special Ed. Teachers would submit receipts. Total gift would be \$1900. Vote approved with 47 Yes votes. Will be given to teachers at Staff Appreciation Lunch.

Q: Will parents be involved in process? **A:** Leaving decision up to the teachers. FLES & Art will work together with teachers.

Q: Why was the nominating committee completed through a google form, but these are just a vote submitted in the chat? **A:** We didn't want to make nominating committee votes awkward, there were so many different answers and it would be difficult, so it was done more officially through a google form. The Yes or No votes are easier through a chat.

Q: Reimbursement or gift? **A:** Donating \$100 per class. Teachers will submit receipts and will be reimbursed. Documentation will be saved for audit.

- Upcoming purchases: shed, two basketball hoops and 6 basketballs. Researching gaga pit. We will vote on gaga pit at future meeting.
- Flyer coming soon with all information explaining the Executive slate nominations and positions in detail. Positions open for next year are Co-President, Vice President for SEP, Corresponding Secretary, a Delegate to Council, and an alternate Delegate.
- Nomination forms due by 3/11.
- End of May/early June committee forms will be sent home. Plans to form new committees and add more members to committees. Welcome all volunteers for next year.
- Please email Christine christinehgleason@gmail.com or Jen jmcmahon727@gmail.com with any questions.

Teacher's Report given by Meryl Goodman:

- Thanked everyone for their generosity and support. Will be so appreciated by staff. Teachers often supply prizes on their own, as an example of how money may be spent.
- Revised schedule for enrichment clusters. Dates are Fri 5/6, Thurs 5/12, Fri 5/20, Fri 5/27, Thurs 6/9 between 1:30-3pm.
- Literacy week begins 2/14. Darren will discuss further.
- Sanford Harmony social emotional learning refresher training course on Thurs 2/10 for teachers in K-2.

Principal's Report given by Darren Raymar:

- Update on Covid protocols. Will continue to follow guidance from Governor and district.
- Valentines for Vets with both Democrat and Republicans to include everyone.
- Literacy Week. Thank you to the literacy team and PTA for helping out. Looking forward to list of events like the writing contest, poster contest, virtual game show, etc.
- Proud of 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders during Cheryl Wills assembly. Cheryl complimented our students. Thank you to AIM for organizing.
- Valentine's Day. Check for allergies with class parents.
- Sweetheart's Dance will be rescheduled for Spring.
- Kids eating in lunchroom again on different days. Indoor recess will return to auditorium for movies by grade level.
- NYS Assessments. ELA 3/28 & 3/29. Math 4/27 & 4/28. Letters will be sent home.

- Enrichment clusters in the Spring. Students picked 3 choices for enrichment clusters and will be given one of their choices. Selections will be announced in March for K-2 and 3-5.
- RVC Ed Foundation celebrating annual gala on 4/3 honoring Dr. Johnson. Encourage everyone to attend. Money raised goes directly to our schools.
- Each school is getting a site visit from a Board of Ed member. Christine Ferazani will visit Covert on 3/4 to look at school and make recommendations.
- RVC Library. 4 Covert students and Margaret Capobianco interviewed Darren for the KidsTalk podcast. Covert faculty, parents, and kids have been inviting and receptive.

Questions from attendees:

Q: Is it possible to comment on the non-movie options for recess that is held indoors? Are other activities pushed to students? Is STELLAR an option for a small groups? If not, why not? **A:** Stellar is not an option. Teachers at lunch during this time. Aides and TA's covering lunch supervision. Trying to get kids outside as much as possible. For now, they will see a movie and bring back other activities in the future. TBD.

Q: Is the enrichment for all grades? **A:** Yes K-5.

Q: Can you give an update on Chrome books? **A:** 5th grade getting Chrome books after the break and will distribute to lower grades.

Q: Do we still have the sports night? **A:** Will think about it and open to suggestions. TBD.

Q: If it snows again, will you consider a change to the door situation. Perhaps we could use the kindergarten Long Beach Road door instead of the door that leads to the teacher's parked cars **A:** Absolutely.

Q: What is the update about LB construction? **A:** No updates. Darren met with Debra Mulé and team. Construction scheduled for the end of next year. Will update regularly when construction starts. There will be a cut out on Long Beach Rd.

Q: Could we bring more of the specialty teachers like Stellar to do presentations at PTA meetings? **A:** Absolutely. Will schedule with Mr. Figaro.

Q: Do we think every grade will have a field trip this year? **A:** Yes, we are pushing field trips.

Christine announced 2 general nominating committee members:

1. Nathan Stange
 2. Jill Guizzo
- Alternate: Kristen Clodfelter

Full nominating committee: Need to elect a chair by Friday 2/11.

1. Megan English
2. Luciana Sousa
3. Melissa McCann
4. Nathan Stange
5. Jill Guizzo

Dates to Remember

2/9: BOE Regular Meeting

2/10: 100th Day of School

2/14-2/18: Literacy Week
2/17: Random Acts of Kindness Day
2/17: BOE Public Work Session
2/21-2/25: February Break
3/1: SEP Meeting
3/9: BOE Public Work/Budget Session
3/16: Covert PTA Meeting
3/18: Elementary ½ Day-11:45am Dismissal
3/24: BOE Regular Meeting/Budget Session
3/25: Elementary ½ Day- 11:45am Dismissal

Motion to adjourn: Nathan Stange & Luciana Sousa at 9:32 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Alia Frassa
Covert PTA Recording Secretary