



**RUSD District PTA
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday January 15, 2025 8:30am**

**Present: Liana Johson, Tracey Paull, Toni Lee, Mickey Hubbell, Kim McGrath,
Megan Pirsch, Annie Defesche, Matt Barron, Liz Webb, Michelle Thomsen,
Jessica Etchevers, Amy Dugdale, Argavan Nilforoush**

1. Welcome - President, Mickey Bruce
 - Vote on November Meeting Minutes
 - Approved by Michelle Thomsen
 - Second by Tracey Paull

2. Superintendent Report - Dr. Kimberly McGrath
 - Dr. Niesyn retiring; looking for focus group members for replacement; job posting in February, interviews in March, board approval in April
 - Prop 28 voter approved prop focused on arts and music
 - i. Funds can't supplant any existing programs, must add on to programs
 - ii. Leaning towards teaching/coordinator position
 - iii. Can also bring in a consultant (i.e. website design, digital art, etc)
 - iv. Difficult to hire a full time art teacher at Reed and BA because it starts to take up instructional minutes
 - v. Could we use resources to help with plays at BA and DM?
 - vi. Field trip coordination?
 - vii. \$115K annually
 - We could add 2-3 more water filling stations at Reed, 1 at BA, 2-3 at DM. Use existing water fountains and convert and that way they could be refrigerated
 - Marquees

- i. DSA approved company to install, diminishes need to towns and city approval; can be on a timer and there are ordinances
- ii. Typically 4 x 8
- iii. Can use all three to broadcast emergency information
- iv. Cost includes: cost of marquee, installation, and power
- v. We could start with Reed as it is the lowest cost (\$20k for power whereas BA and DM would be about \$100k for power)
- vi. District wide info would be displayed, not just Reed info
- vii. Signs themselves cost ~\$20K not including installation (\$45-\$60K all in)
- viii. What about outdoor bulletin boards for BA and DM? Tracey to research; Kim had one taken down and will ask Eduardo
- Food services update
 - i. What are the possibilities for change?
 - ii. Presented options and ideas to School Board
 - iii. Ongoing process and writing RFP for new vendors to hopefully start in the fall

3. RUSD Board Update - Liz Webb/Sandeep Sahai

- Two meetings in January
- Board governance workshop with self review; want to do more in area of community leadership and integrating with community organizations
- Strategic plan has kicked off
- Regular board meeting last Tuesday
 - i. Chronic absenteeism has been a problem but improved (down to 6%)
 - ii. Dropped a bit in academic performance among lower socio-economic groups - working on 1:1 solutions
 - iii. Progress on strategic plan - available on website
 - iv. Spanish task force underway
 - v. Working on a new program to get state reimbursement on tutoring through the Ranch

4. Foundation for Reed Schools Update - Annie Defesche

- Pledges and donations at \$1.5M, gave check to district
- Phone bank, Leadership Circle, Gala in May (Reed Rodeo, Boots and Bling)
- Reach out to Kaite Leary and Annie with questions

5. Nominating Committee - Amy Dugdale

- Call tonight with the 16th PTA District to walk through updates to process, etc.
- After that, Amy will get comms out to Jessica for dispersal
- District president and secretary, Reed and BA site chairs, BA and DM treasurers, and parliamentarian
- Can serve on nom com as long as you didn't last year
- Need 5 on committee and one alternate
- Dr. Niesyn will be advisor

- Wrapped up before spring break
- Committee to discuss succession plan - do site chairs have a VP to help with transition (shadow for a year and then they become site chair the following two years?) Amy to create committee
- Jessica send comms from last year to Amy

6. Site Chair Updates

- Del Mar – Argavan Nilforoush
 - i. Conflict workshop on Feb 6
 - ii. Lunch is going well but need to fill up Wednesday slots - double check spreadsheet
 - iii. Musical will be done but without PTA involvement
- Bel Aire – Tracey Paull
 - i. Play cast list went out Monday
 - ii. 150 kids have signed up; have a handful of parents who did not meet the deadline; 30 have not paid which leaves it about \$5000 short as of now
 - iii. Putting together a 5th grade promotion team and final week of school
 - iv. Sent Matt a competitor to SchoolPay
 - v. Parent ed idea - expert that has you bring in your kids tablets and phones and shows you how to use them, look for dangerous things, etc.
- Reed – Michelle Thomsen
 - i. Food drive - collected 567 pounds of food
 - ii. Adopt a family huge success
 - iii. Warm coat drive for Holy Family Day - 4 years old and up including adults Jan 21-Feb 3
 - iv. April 21-25 Book Exchange book drive
 - v. March 24-28 Book Fair
 - vi. Lion dance last Friday for Lunar New Year
 - vii. Working on Dr. Niesyn retirement

7. Parent Education Update - Megan Pirsch

- Screening of Anxious Nation at Cinelounge for parents and middle schoolers and above
- Selling tickets at \$10 for adults, free for students

8. Treasurer Update - Matt Barron

- Budget Update
 - Still looking strong
- Site Accounts
 - Tetherball at BA and panels delivered to Reed

9. Membership Update - Toni Lee

- More members since October puts us at \$33,500
- 17 new, 55.2% district wide

Adjourned at 10:15 a.m.