

MINUTES

Tallmadge Elementary PTA

Date | time 09.21.20 | 6:01 PM | *Meeting called to order by* Nicole Haley

In Attendance via Zoom

Courtney Davis, Dave Ravida, Nicole, Haley, Amber Headley, Meghan Thompson, Nicole Zwolinski, Tish Rowland, Andrea Kidder, Michelle Kocsis, Linda Brown, Erika Vlacovsky, Amanda Curfman, Jen Harvey, Lisa Scovern, Meagan Crookston, Meghan Benninghoff, Jamie Aken, Chris Cunert, "Amy", "Caleb", "Tspicer", "Sarah's iphone", "Quentin", "Kelly's phone", "Jessica's phone",

President's Report – Nicole Haley

Everything will look different than previous years. We will be incorporating fun activities for students no matter whether they are in class or online. We continued tradition of giving "Welcome Back" gifts to teachers and staff. This year was hand sanitizer with a TES lanyard and a button with their picture without a mask. Thanks to Fran from TMS, who shared with us 125 water bottles that were bought for students who may have forgotten their water bottle at home. There are some changes to our 5th graders as they are now under TMS PTA and being taken care of by Mr. Manion and TMS PTA since they are physically at TMS this year. This year everything is online – forms, PTA registration for parents and staff, and t-shirt order forms.

Principal's Report – Courtney Davis

We had a great start to the year! Having kids in the building has been amazing! Phase in days were good and staff hopes to continue in future. They helped in navigating the COVID guidelines and navigating the building with a smaller group of kids. We have completed 2 fire drills so far and the kids did great, even with navigating the stairs, which we have not had to do in the past. Lock down and evacuation drills are upcoming, and we are working closely with Tallmadge Police Department on getting through this. We work to prepare but not scare the students. We are on a 2-week rotation schedule for specials. All but P.E. is done in the classroom. Picture day is coming up soon! Friday will be AM Kindergarten, 1st, and 2nd grades. Monday will be PM K, 3rd, and 4th grades. We will be using the lunchroom and gym to do pictures so we will be able to social distance. Tallmadge Online students' pictures have a schedule that was sent out and is posted with 30 min time blocks. The COVID decision tree was in the email sent out for reference and outlines various symptoms to keep a child at home. It also outlines what symptoms would require a 10 day stay at home or a doctor's note to return to school. We will be distributing Chromebooks this week to all students attending in person. We are looking at getting individual headphones for each student. Insurance information for Chromebooks is coming out soon and is highly recommended. We will be going over with the students how to care for the Chromebooks and the importance of keeping them charged and brought to school every day for use in school. Online resources that the teaching and learning department was able to purchase for use include: Zern (math resource), generation genius and explorer learning (science resources), guidedreaders.com (good teacher resource for leveled books). We will be expanding the resources and sharing more in the future. In the event we all must go remote; the students would have access to these resources on their Chromebooks. Thank you to the PTA for purchasing trash cans for the playgrounds and courtyard between buildings, which are used for mask breaks. They also use the grassy area and track area for mask breaks. College and career readiness week are coming up as well as Red Ribbon week.

Teacher's Report – Erika Vlacovsky and Amanda Curfman

We loved the lunch that was provided, the lanyards with hand sanitizer, and button with picture! We also appreciate having our own Dojo and that is helping by having a digital method of communication.

Secretary Report – Michelle Kocsis

The minutes from April 2020 were approved as written.

Treasurer Report – Andrea Kidder

1st VP Report – Amber Headley

We are working on purchasing headphones for each student and mice for Chromebooks.

2nd VP Membership – Meghan Thompson

We have over 100 individual memberships which is down this year but expected. We have 27 business members currently but hoping to get 30 and are waiting to hear back from a few. Teachers memberships are also down this year, but they had some technical issues. It is now working and hoping we will get more teachers on board.

3rd VP Fundraising – Tish Rowland

Santa shop this year will be all online. The program is being set up to be promoted on social media, all calls, etc. They are still working on the website, but it is super cute where the kids will “walk down a hallway and enter a door” for say “grandpa gifts”. We need to decide on how we want the gifts delivered. Do we want gifts delivered to student directly with a flat \$5 cost and get 10% of profit? Or we can have gifts delivered to the school and they box them up by student name and classroom and we get 20%. Orders would be due by Dec 11 (will verify date). We need to decide by our next meeting which option we want to choose. There will be a locked box near the main school entrance on Sept 29 to drop off receipts and box tops.

Communications – Nicole Zwolinski

I have been given access to post on Dojo for PTA communications for parents to see important information. I do not want to abuse it so I will not be posting every day but I will post information so all parents can be informed. We are heavy on social media right now with lots of people starting to follow us (which is a good thing). I encourage people to send pics, have online students/parents to send us pictures and information to put on social media also. Sponsor spotlights will start next month on bi-weekly basis. The PTA newsletter will start again and is being done by Amanda who did it last year. It will be all digital and will be posted to on Dojo as well. To celebrate and thank teachers and administration and support businesses, we teamed up with THS, TMS PTA, and the Tallmadge Chamber of Commerce for Faculty Month. We have almost 30 businesses that have come up with offers for teachers and staff for the month of Oct. The businesses will get a poster to display at their business. All the teachers/staff will get a flyer and an email to show places that are

participating and their deals. Some businesses are opening their offers to everyone. The offers vary widely from business to business.

Council Delegate – Linda Brown

There has not been a meeting yet this school year so there is nothing to report, but there is a meeting on Friday Sep 25 at 9:30am so I will hopefully have some information to report next meeting.

Committee Reports

Box Tops – Previously addressed

Hospitality – Sarah Knowles/JoEllen Devitis - They worked hard on the teacher's back to school lunch. They will come up with some pre-packaged things for conferences. Red Ribbon week being worked out with Meghan Raber and more information will be coming out.

Red Ribbon Week – Megan Raber– Previously addressed

Holiday Shop – Tish Rowland – Previously addressed

Old Business

No old business.

New Business

Every year we must approve Ethics and Conflict of Interest.

Motioned by Tish Rowland and seconded by Amber Headley.

Standing Rules Policy that need to be voted in every year. We need to make a couple changes:

- Startup funds were set at \$5000 for one school need change to \$7,500 to encompass both schools
- First VP – add in that they will serve as classroom leader committee head
- Historian – Produce or appoint a person to oversee the 5th grade slide show, but TMS will do this year.
- Standing Committee: take out Shoparoo and Giant Eagle then add Coke rewards
- Communications taking out since there is a board position
- Room Parent Coordinator will be changing wording to room parent

Motion to approve changes by Tish Rowland and seconded by Linda Brown

Motion approved and changes will be updated.

Questions

- Q: Will we be doing testing this year (3rd grade reading and MAP testing)?
A: *(Answered by Mrs. Davis)* Yes, we will be MAP testing (Week of Oct 5 for MAP testing), 2 grades each day starting with reading. When the schedule is finalized it will be shared with parents. Kindergarten will not be doing MAP testing. Online students will be doing testing. DIBELS (meets 3rd grade reading guarantee requirement) and MAP will be done for 3rd grade. The Tallmadge teacher who is over the online program will be handling the online testing.
- Q: For those who did not have Dojo last year, what can be sent to online student parents to get them to have Dojo to get info to them.

A: *(Answered by Nicole Zwolinski)* Mrs. Raber would probably need to make “online class” for families to join Dojo. Tish will reach out to Mrs. Raber to get that set up.

Questions from social media via Nicole Zwolinski

- Q: Is there a plan for school going back to a normal schedule this year?
A: *(Answered by Mrs. Davis)* It all depends on where we are at. I cannot rule it out. Ongoing conversations are happening all the time.
- Q: I know remote students can come back at the beginning of the next semester; can students go remote at the beginning of the next semester if in person now?
A: *(Answered by Mrs. Davis)* Yes, online will be open back up then as well.

Q: What will the head room parent do?

A: *(Answered by Amber Headley)* They will be the liaison and communicator between teacher and parents, if needed. If not, at least we have them if things go back to normal.

Q: Regarding Twitter: Is there a hashtag that teachers can use so we do not have to follow each teacher individually?

A: *(Answered by Nicole Zwolinski)* Use “@tallmadgek5pta” which “mentions” the PTA and I will get a notification.

Question from Tish Rowland

Q: Regarding the sweatshirt closet which has 65 coats currently. Mr. Gambow is getting in touch with families in need to get them distributed. Tish will take them to laundromat to get them cleaned and they will be donated to families who need them. Wanting to clarify that we are not having students bring items of clothes back if issued from sweatshirt closet.

A: *(Answered by Mrs. Davis and Andrea Kidder)* No kids will not be bringing items back after they have been issued them from the sweatshirt closet. If we need to, we can add to the budget to make sure there are items in the sweatshirt closet since we will not be reusing them as we have done in the past.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:53pm.

Respectfully submitted by Michelle Kocsis, Secretary.