



**MASON  
ELEMENTARY**

**RESPECTFUL  
RESPONSIBLE  
READY**

Date: 1/17/2024

In-Person Meeting w/Zoom Option

Time: 9:00AM

### Meeting Highlights

Total Attendees: 11 in-person, 6 via Zoom

#### **Welcome (Jennifer Robsinson, President)**

- Welcomed everyone to meeting, noting the first meeting in 2024 as well as Mr. Wilson's first official PTA meeting.
- Announcement from co-secretary Megan Saxelby about noting meeting times. Asked committee chairs to keep announcements to about 5 minutes unless a chair's even is coming up soon, for example the Small and Tall Ball. Anything else that is pertinent information can also be emailed to the secretaries at [secretary.masonespta@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.masonespta@gmail.com) to be added into the minutes.

#### **Mr. Wilson Report**

- Great turnout at the Mason Science Fair last night.
- Hiring for 2024-2025 positions has begun. 2 long time staff are retiring- Ms. Poston and Ms. Zorn. Ms. Zorn's replacement has been secured. Replacement had previously worked with Ms. Baxley and lives close to the area.
- Looking at same class sizes for next school year.
- Small and Tall Ball coming up soon Thursday Feb. 8th. Can post to ParentSquare to get volunteers and link for tickets, images, etc.

#### **President's Report**

- PTA is still navigating the best way to communicate with room parents, members, volunteers, etc. Will meet with Lauren Rogers (Room Parent Lead) at a later date to discuss more.
- Need to start recruiting more volunteers within PTA members.
- If everyone found 3-4 friends who may not be part of the PTA and wants to join to just be apart of the PTA or to even just volunteer.
- Must know from committee chairs ASAP if they plan on keeping their current roles for the next school year. If they're not coming back, we can work on replacing chairs soon so the new chairs would be able to get a glimpse of what the chair is about.

#### **Vice President's Report**

- Maintain 263 PTA members- the last new member was in Oct. 2023.
- Ideas to invite more people to join PTA and why- will start having weekly social media posts about why and how to PTA. How to engage with your school and the purpose of PTA- where

funds go. Some people may want to only contribute monetarily and some may want to contribute volunteering.

- Will be helpful if current members can share these posts on social media to help spread the word and promote PTA.

### **Treasurer's Report**

- Treasurer's report will be attached to the minutes.
- Received an extra percentage back from the Reindeer Lane Holiday Shop- PTA got back \$2633 from fundraising. This brings us closer to our fundraising goal for the year, since we were behind not hitting our goal from Lion Stomp.
  - Allows us to cover the budget and the big line item- this year is a poster printer for the teachers. They will be able to print posters, banners, signs, classroom visual aides, etc. saving them time and money as well as the school. Total for the printer and supplies necessary will be about \$8000.
- Extra line item in the report noted for a missed payment to the IRS from about 5 years ago.

### **Committee Reports**

- **Small and Tall Ball (update provided by Julie McKevitt)**
  - Small and Tall Ball will take place next month on Thurs. Feb. 8th.
  - Fliers are ready, just waiting for the QR code for the tickets.
  - Made a video and can send to Ms. Scott to put on the morning announcements over the next few weeks leading up to the dance.
  - Theme of the dance this year will be conversation hearts- connection, togetherness, and teamwork.
  - Will have a Small and Tall Trivia Challenge, where students can guess the number of candy hearts on a board. Set up different trivia stations around the halls and students can earn a stamp for each station. Small and Tall related trivia. Will award trophies to 2 winners.
  - Working on decor and already has spreadsheet of how many volunteers will be needed per hour and by job. More important to have more volunteers for set up than for clean up since time is limited to setting up after the last lunch for the day. Should have a finalized sign up ready by the end of the week.
  - Potential craft idea- there will be 2 options for students: an easy option and a more difficult option. Will give the students hearts on a piece of paper to make their own stop motion videos (similar to Julie's that will be shown on morning announcements prior to dance). This would mean more volunteers- need an exact number of volunteers needed for this craft.
    - Possibly use Ms. Buchanan's room or the art room based on supplies that will be needed as well as proximity to the cafeteria.
    - For the more difficult craft option, parents would need to download an app called Stop Action. Julie could put signs outside the school so parents could download app before they come in and Mr. Wilson said he could it out on ParentSquare. 3rd grade has used this app during STEM and could

potentially help other students use the app during the craft resulting in STEM combo with the dance.

- Can add a link to prepare for the experience with ticket sales.

- **Reflections (update provided by Rasika Wijeratne and Tara Carter)**
  - Reflections artwork has been returned to students.
  - Mason had a lot of winners. Participation was great. Any winners will move onto state.
- **Yearbook (update provided by Tara Carter)**
  - Making copies of fliers to go home in Friday folders to help promote upcoming yearbook sales.
  - Also fliers going home with 5th grade students asking for baby pictures for the yearbook.
  - The yearbook company has set up the online shop so students and parents will be able to purchase yearbooks, personalize pages, etc.
  - Tara stated she will continue Yearbook chair next year, hopefully adding a co-chair to train, since next year will be her last year at Mason.
  - Send pictures of anything school related to [masonespictures@gmail.com](mailto:masonespictures@gmail.com).
- **STEM and Carnival (update provided by Nikki Simmons)**
  - No report for STEM.
  - Carnival will be May 9th from 5-8 pm, with the 16th as a rain date.
  - Nikki will not be returning next year as this is her last year at Mason, so both STEM and Carnival committee chair positions will be open for new volunteers.
- **Duluth Fall Festival (update provided by Kim MacLeod)**
  - Kim stated she will continue chair position next year.
- **Spirit Night (update provided by Autumn Wilson)**
  - Papa Johns spirit week is this week and next Tues. Jan 23rd will be Chick-Fil-A spirit night.
- **Holiday Shop (update provided by Mansi Thakkar and Madhu Chatterji)**
  - Mansi noted that she will speak with Jennifer offline about holiday shop options for next year at a later date.
- **Cultural Arts (update provided by Lauren Rogers)**
  - March- Piccadilly puppets will be coming to put on a puppet show for grades K-2 in the library. Exact date and show tbd with the input of teachers. \$650 for 3 shows.
    - Center for the Puppetry Arts is tentatively doing a presentation of International puppetry for grades 3-5 also in the library. Cost is around \$800.
  - April- Magician Ken Scott is confirmed to come April 16th and put on three back to back shows in the large gym for \$1200.
  - May- the Atlanta Chinese Dance Company will be putting on three back to back performances in the large gym, date TBD, for \$900. They offer a 45-minute

lecture-demonstration which includes Chinese dance performances with two performers, audience participation, props demonstration, and cultural/historical background information.

- Also looking into booking a flamenco performance for Hispanic month in September or October.
- Bonnie stated that out of the \$6000 Cultural Arts budget, there is about \$4000 left for spring semester.
- Lauren stated she plans to continue both Room Parent Lead and Cultural Arts committee chair heads.

- **Hospitality ( update provided by Christina Volling)**

- Event for teachers next month- a red carpet theme with Mexican food (which was a big hit with the teachers last year).
- Needs class coverage feedback- possibly coordinate with Lauren for room parents to volunteer during class lunch times so teachers can have lunch together. Mr. Wilson noted he may be able to get some staff coverage for classes and then can use parent volunteers if necessary.
- Christina stated she will continue hospitality chair next year.

- **International Night (update provided by Arwyn Raina)**

- Arwyn was away from her computer but International night will be Thurs. March 14th. Volunteers will be needed.
- Discussed with Mr. Wilson bringing International Night back inside the school instead of outside. Decision is TBD.

Meeting adjourned at 9:45 AM