

# MINUTES

## Thornebrooke PTO Board Meeting

---

*Date | time* 04/27/2020 / 10:05am | *Meeting called to order by* Karissa Martin & Dena Reyes – Co-presidents

---

### In Attendance

---

Karissa Martin, Dena Reyes, Toniann Lentine, Allison McMullan, Lauren Whittington, Christie Howlett, Amanda Rearden, Allison Taliaferro, Eve Pafford, Laura Van Baalen, Jennifer Julian, Ashley Fitzgerald, Jussara Post, Lili Brown, Marlee Jacquette, Lisa Hiracheta, Danielle McCoy, Lynne Schaber, Liz Runak, Alessandra Romano, Jennifer Elzeer, Joanne Grace, Julie Soares, Christopher Daniels

---

### Welcome & President's Report

---

- Dena welcomed everyone thanked them for participating in this meeting and for supporting the PTO during this quarantine. Some are still helping out with committees and their work is much appreciated.
  - She shared that teachers and staff were very grateful to the PTO for the gift cards that were sent. It has been a challenging time, but we have received great feedback about the gift cards and wanted to share how grateful the teachers are.
  - Due to the governor's cancellation of school through the end of the school year, any remaining events on the calendar have been cancelled or postponed.
  - The family dance was cancelled, but we were able to get deposits back.
  - The 5<sup>th</sup> grade celebration has been postponed.
  - Teacher Appreciation week will be celebrated virtually.
  - PTO is looking for ways to help Guardian Angel families.
  - Please take a minute to nominate someone for Big Barracuda of the month. Access the link here: <https://forms.gle/Bhwut5XG4mwoyWo5A>
- 

### Principal's Report

---

- Mr. Daniels started by wishing everyone well during this unusual time. He shared that this has been one of the most challenging experiences of his career.
- He is proud of the staff and teachers who quickly turned around their style of teaching. They weren't trained for this kind of learning, but they have tweaked it as they go based on the input they've received. Teachers are trying to get through the core materials before the end of the school year.
- Mr. Daniels usually works on the school budget before and after spring break for the upcoming school year (which starts in July). A large part of that budget is from the state. He is working with the numbers he had before the economic shutdown, which would enable us to keep the same number of teachers per grade level. He has also opened up a new bilingual paraprofessional position (Portuguese). Because the county depends on the sales tax of our taxpayers, we still don't know if the economic shutdown will have an effect on education. It has been recommended to principals to save for future. The good news is we can keep the budget we have.
- Big thanks to PTO volunteers for helping during this shutdown and for the gift to teachers and staff.
- We would still like to do something to celebrate 5<sup>th</sup> graders. The celebration will be based on county mandates. Thanks again to everyone for volunteering on this committee. Any ideas are appreciated.

- Mr. Daniels also shared his appreciation for everything the PTO does for teacher appreciation.
- Things look a little different at Thornebrooke lately. Only Mr. Daniels, Ms. Goodman, a custodian and a little clerical help are working in the building.

---

## Budget Update

---

- The budget is updated. Jennifer asks that committee chairs please take a look at income and expenses to make sure it is in line from where you were. If you need a more specific breakdown, let her know. We made one change to pay for gift cards for the teachers and staff, moving money from Carnival income. The remaining funds that Guardian Angels has will be used to purchase gift cards for those families. No food drive will be needed.

---

## Committee Reports

---

- **5<sup>th</sup> Grade Celebration** –
  - Arlene H. worked hard to get the yearbook completed and ordered on time. Hopefully it will be distributed by the end of the school year.
  - Also hoping to have 5<sup>th</sup> grade video for students via flash drive.
  - Celebration has been postponed to the end of summer, depending on what county officials allow.
  - 5<sup>th</sup> grade class is hoping to order a buddy bench as a class gift. A free-standing bench could be placed near the playground where a student could sit and find a friend. The class is also considering planting a tree on campus. The hope is to have the bench/tree as a gift from 5<sup>th</sup> grade, but also in memory of Ms. DiMaggio.
  - The committee is working on a few other things to make the end of the year special for 5<sup>th</sup> grade students.
- **Teacher Appreciation** –
  - This year teacher appreciation week will have a space theme – Thornebrooke Elementary Teachers are Out of This World! Room parents will be used to make the week extra special for teachers. See below for dates and details. In addition to the plans detailed below, Mr. Daniels and the PTO will put yard signs up in teachers' yards that say, "This is where a rock star teacher lives and works!" T-shirts will also be ordered that say, "We're all in this together #TESfromHome"
- **Nominating Committee** – Toniann thanked the committee and proposed the slate of officers for the 2020-2021 school year as follows:
  - Co-presidents: Dena Reyes & Karissa Martin
  - Executive VP: Jennifer Julian
  - VP (TBD): Laura Van Baalen
  - VP (TBD): Lynne Schaber
  - VP (TBD): Allison McMullan
  - Secretary: Lauren Whittington
  - Treasurer: Danielle McCoy
  - Partners in Education: Alessandra Romano and Liz Rusnak
  - Additions Coordinator: Toniann Lentine

Jennifer E. made a motion to approve the proposed slate of officers for the 2020-2021 school year. Marlee J. seconded the motion. All in favor.

---

## New Business

---

- Thank you to everyone who participated in Kindness Day. Many families appreciate the videos sent over the past few weeks. Ms. Ann posted an Earth Day video this week. It is a nice way to bring our community together.
- Mr. Daniels had a question about whether he should put information about teacher appreciation on his weekly call home. That way, families can be on the lookout for more details.
- Thanks, and stay in touch for more details!
- Meeting adjourned at 10:34am.

---

## Upcoming Events

---

### May 4th-8th: Teacher Appreciation Week

- Monday: Email a drawing to your teacher from your child using the “Out of this World” theme!
- Tuesday: Lunch provided by PTO via Panera Bread e-gift cards
- Wednesday: Record a video for your teacher to say hi and email or text it to them!
- Thursday: Extra special greeting for your teacher organized by homeroom parents.
- Friday: Send an e-card using Hallmark.com, AmericanGreetings.com, or maybe even an e-gift card from Amazon.com. Don’t forget to show appreciation to your child’s Specials teachers as well this week. \*students are not required to buy gifts. This is just a fun idea to show our teachers that we appreciate them.