



High School of American Studies

PTA GENERAL MEETING

Zoom meeting held on line September 29th, 7-8pm

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 7.05PM BY PRESIDENT NICOLE ROTHSCHILD

Executive Board members present: Nicole Rothschild, president; Dan Jacob and Jorge Ramirez, co-treasurers; Eric Weinberg, member-at-large; and Stephen Friedgood, communications secretary; Nora McCauley and Melanie Perlstein, co-secretaries

AGENDA

- Mr. Weiss wants to say hello. He will have another town hall meeting after the kids start school.
- This meeting will be mostly about elections.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT: ALESSANDRO WEISS (SCHOOL PRINCIPAL)

Virtual HSAS has started; Paula (Trebo-Fiore, the parent coordinator) and I are back in the building; looking forward to seeing the first group of students this Thursday. All the in-person students will be in groups named after fruits starting with the letter "P."

Instructions, group names, etc, will be sent out beforehand.

Pre-screening form sent out to do each morning on the days that they attend.

Info and permission slip to follow for DOE covid-testing program.

Remind your kids to check email frequently throughout the day. We had tech issues at first, but that was the point of those first few days.

I'm hearing from students that they're ok with the balance so far. Intensity will ramp up...

Teachers are being careful about how much they assign... it takes them twice as long for the asynchronous stuff as it does to teach live... logistical nightmare to record things, etc.

In the next two weeks we will post a schedule of office hours, so that all kids can check in and spend time with teachers.

In the middle of the month, we will post info about clubs and activities. Those are very important to the kids but we want to add one layer at a time. Make sure we have one thing down before we add a new thing.

Remind your students to log their attendance. 90% do. The other 10% are divided into two groups—5% chronic and 5% forgetful.

Thank you for helping us to start the school year off smoothly.

I've been hearing from kids because I'm allowed to zoom bomb. I've been hearing that they like the interaction, they like seeing their peers and their teachers. They're really appreciating that school has started again and the time that they have in classes and with teachers.



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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Thanks to Paula, Charlotte, and Stephen for helping with everything. So much easier to do some of these things in person.

Some upcoming events of interest:

Senior Night October 8th—hosted as usual by the counselors, Ms Harris and Teslik.

We will have a speaker from the U of Rochester to talk about the admissions process... always useful but interesting to learn about what's going on currently. The speaker is Joe Lattimer, Assistant Director, and he is planning a zoom meeting on October 21st at 6 PM.

PTA contact forms, donation forms, volunteer forms—get those in

Interesting news: on-line spirit wear store is new. They've been sitting in storage for months. We have a bunch of orders already. Another way to help us is Amazon Smile—sign up!

Mr. Weiss has made some requests from the PTA for some funding:

- Licenses and fees that the school has been paying for textbooks and things on-line
- The school may want the PTA to purchase some chrome books and carts; we'll talk about that

MOTION TO PASS THE MEETING MINUTES FROM THE LAST MEETING, PASSED

ELECTION: CHARLOTTE ELKIN, NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Most positions uncontested. Eric adds himself to fundraising. Maria adds herself to Member at Large. They are both voted in.

Upper grades SLT position is contested. Hearing from the candidates: Hanice Pena, Marcella Barganz, Nadine Rothman. Hanice was involved last year as the parent of a 9th grader. Marcella is also a 10th grade parent, looking forward to getting more involved. Nadine is the parent of a 12th grader, works in special education, has been on SLT for last 3 years and would love to continue.

Zoom poll. Parent's name and child's name required so that it shows up correctly in the results. (No non-guardians should be voting.)

The grade level parent rep ("class parent") does not need to be voted on because it is not an official position. Those people who stepped forward are:

- Alina Larson and Melissa Lader for 9th grade
- Charlotte Elkin for 10th grade
- Jen Unter and Rebecca Metz for 11th grade
- Ellen Morissey for 12th grade

Stephen: results from the poll: Nadine and Hanice for the SLT.

TREASURERS' REPORT, DAN JACOB AND JORGE RAMIREZ, CO-TREASURERS



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Dan: On the income side, in the budget that we passed at the end of last school year, we set up the lofty goal of generating about \$135,000. Last year we generated about \$144,000. From June 1 2020 to today we've generated about \$42,000. Our current balance is just over \$366,000 but there's about a \$100,000 gap between what we've made and what we planned for.

Expense budget is \$262,000. So yes, if we only make \$135,000 we have to dip into savings. But so far expenses have been down. We've acknowledged that we're going to have to check in frequently to see what the expenses are in this hybrid/remote scenarios as compared to a usual school year. Sports? Maybe we aren't spending on them this year.

The potential need to provide chromebooks to students is an unanticipated budget item; we'd have to vote on it.

BUSINESS

Technology

Paula: has info from the DOE today about internet—reach out to her if you need internet help

Nicole: the School has asked for 30 new chromebooks and two new carts for in-school use. The price is around \$12,500. We are not voting on this tonight. Discussing—or waiting to discuss until Mr. Weiss is here to answer questions.

Dan: clarifying question for you and Paula. A more granular understanding of what the need is. The school had iPads and laptops and had dispensed them to everyone who need them... has the picture changed?

Paula: everyone who came did get a laptop to take home—those are all working. The ones that need to be replaced were used in school. There can be a lot of wear and tear. One whole cart's worth of laptops were outdated. The other cart was fine but broken wheels started coming off.

Dan: in the past, were those PTA-procured? Or DOE?

Paula: when the school got started, it was in the DOE budget. But that got cut. For the last few (not sure how many) years, it has been the PTA. There have been assembly members giving technology grants as well.

Dan: does everyone who needs one get one?

Paula: yes. We also sent out a survey and I also called students' homes to make sure that they had internet service. Mr Weiss offered that if students wanted to come into school to do their remote learning, they could be set up in a classroom with laptops and internet.

Paula: yes, I've been communicating with families who need it directly rather than reaching out to the whole school, because I don't want it to get overloaded



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Nicole: so these are questions for Mr Weiss for the next meeting—what the DOE provides, doesn't provide, etc.

Nicole: The school needs Chromebooks for in-school use. Some kids with special permission use Chromebooks in school. There are issues around kids bringing home computers to school.

Paula: thanks to Cathy Grodsky for a lot of help.

Club Fair

Melanie Perlstein, co-secretary: Club fair today and tomorrow. Didn't work on initial platform, so migrated to zoom... if someone is looking for it look through the student government website.

Paula: I will reach out to the advisers. This should not be left to the kids. Everyone needs to be included. The advisers need to do it the right way. 9th graders need to know about it, too, and other kids who may not be in touch.

Specific questions?

Dova Marder, parent: could teachers send assignments etc during school hours so that kids will be expecting them, and not creating conflicts between asynchronous assignments and actual class time and assignments

Paula: will take this to Mr Weiss to talk with teachers

Testing?

Paula: Mr. Weiss will be sending info out... you have to send in a consent form, parent approval, because they're minors

PPE?

Paula: We have boxes and boxes. Thermometers, gloves, masks. The DOE came through.

Lunch?



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Paula: I was told it was going to be grab and go on the way out at 1pm. I don't think the kids are going to be able to take their masks off during the day.

Nicole: thanks everyone for coming. Next meeting is tentatively set for Oct 20; need to confirm with Mr Weiss.

Don't forget Oct 21st is the presentation from the University of Rochester. It will be a zoom meeting at 6 PM.