

# **Richmond PTA General Meeting**

Thursday, March 21, 2013  
Richmond Cafeteria 6:30pm

## **PTA Board members in attendance:**

- Amy Starr Thomas, President
- Kyle Begley, Vice President
- Salina Wood, Treasurer
- Sarah Price, Secretary
- Sara DeLuca, Super Green Team Chair
- Yoko Niki-Breyfogle, Rich Coffee Co-Chair
- Andrea Obana, Special Events Chair

## **Guests in Attendance:**

- Pat Lando, Playground Improvement Committee Chair

## **Welcome and Call to Order: 6:35pm**

**Approval of Minutes:** January 24, 2013 General Meeting Minutes approved as amended.

## **Treasurer's Report**

Salina Wood gave an overview of the PTA revenues and expenditures in her March Treasurer's Report (**Attachment A** – March Treasurer's Report). Highlights included the Spring Scholastic Book Fair which has netted Richmond \$2944.57 in Scholastic credit. She noted that Rich Coffee and PTA Bulldogs t-shirt sales continue to do well.

## **Committee Reports**

### **Rich Coffee:**

Yoko Niki-Breyfogle, Rich Coffee Co-Chair reported that the committee is currently soliciting teacher feedback on several possibilities of what may be purchased with Rich Coffee proceeds. These suggestions include, white board installation, lap whiteboards, musical instruments (percussion, xylophone, good piano, etc.), classroom technology, hanging wall art or risers for school performances. Rich coffee outlined just over \$6000 in net income for the 2012-2013 budget, but is on track to exceed this.

Rich Coffee has a new logo, thanks to help from Kyle Begley. Look for it on signs coming soon, and possibly products for sale in the future.

### **Special Events:**

Andrea Obana, Special Events Chair reported that Richmond parent Christine Ivy will be helping to plan this year's Spring Festival. This outdoor event will take place 11am-4pm, May 11, 2013, rain or shine. This year's festival will not include class performances, but there will be an evening event highlighting these performances April 25, 2013.

Favorite activities that will be included at the festival are bouncy houses, dunk tank and community performers.

Also note, extension cords and pop-up tents are always needed for this event!

#### **Super Green Team:**

Sara DeLuca, SGT Chair started off declaring the March 16, 2013 Breakfast in the Garden a success. The garden is now prepared for the kindergarteners to get their hands dirty. The next Breakfast in the Garden is April 20, 2013 and all are welcome.

Many SGT events are coming soon. This year, for the annual plant sale, plants arrive May 9, 2013, just in time for Mother's Day. The month of April marks the electronics recycling drive. There was a question about possibly including laptops and other electronics and accessories, to which Sara replied she will look into the details and clarify what can and cannot be accepted. Also coming soon is the Walk & Bike Challenge in May.

The SGT has made progress with the Nature Walk, with dedication bricks going on sale after Spring Break.

#### **Nominating Committee:**

Kyle Begley is the chair of the ad-hoc nominating committee, which seeks to find individuals to replace the PTA board positions that will be vacated at the end of this year. Kyle reported that there is only one position remaining with no volunteer, that being the chair of the SGT committee. This committee concentrates on gardening, recycling, alternative transportation, environmental awareness and managing the Nature Safety Walkway.

### **Special Topics & Programs:**

#### **Playground Improvement Committee:**

Pat Lando, Playground Improvement Committee (PIC) Chair introduced the ad-hoc committee and presented their findings, but not before he identified a variety of playground improvements including the installation of a turf field, covered playground structure, new playground equipment, playground re-stripping, improvement of muddy mound areas and laying down a walking/running path around the field. Next Pat presented the results of an electronic survey of the Richmond community. Pat highlighted some statistics of the survey, namely that there were 199 responses, or about one-third of the community, which he characterized as a very good response. As expected, families with lower grade students (K-2) showed especially high participation, and just over half of the respondents (58%) were parents of male children (**Attachment B** – Playground Committee Survey).

Pat reported that morning and weekend use of the playground is much lower than that after school, with 30-45 minutes after school having the highest usage. The most common activities currently reported are imaginary play, playing on structures, socializing and playing in the landscape.

Pat then gave a more detailed presentation of the improvement possibilities outlining several options for fundraising levels between \$5,000 and \$300,000. As he was presenting some of the options, he mentioned that logistically, it's helpful to think of Improvements that will be used at least three ways. An example would be a wall that could be used for wall ball, a climbing wall, outdoor classroom and movie night (**Attachment C** – Design Elements, **Attachment D** – Funding Levels).

Following Pat's presentation, there were questions and discussion. Amy Starr Thomas made

the observation that if we know what our community wants, and how much things cost, the next determination to be made is how much we want to raise.

Steve Gutman commented people and organizations would probably like the opportunity to pay to use a turf field. Amy Starr Thomas responded that the PPS Facilities Department supports these arrangements and facilitates fee collection and reservations. PPS is also happy to name corporate sponsors.

Other comments that were raised on the subject of turf were the importance of keeping a grassy dog run to mitigate dog poop on the turf and the potential of doing a smaller area of turf for less cost.

Amy pointed out that if a major capital campaign is what the Richmond community wants, it would be prescient for the PIC to determine whether it's reasonable to fundraise for a major project like turf, and still be able to fund smaller improvements like playground striping along the way or if it is necessary to strive for the entire cost of all improvements at the outset. By the end of the 2012-2013 school year the PIC should have a sense of what we should be shooting for with regards to fundraising.

Someone asked the question of what happens if we don't reach our goal within a given time frame? Amy responded that it will be necessary from the outset to make it clear what the money will be spent on that it may need to be carried over to reach a particular goal.

Jennifer McFarlane went on the record stating she would be interested in fundraising.

**Announcements:**

- Run for Richmond, April 19
- Breakfast in the Garden, April 20
- Teacher & Staff Appreciation Week April 29-May 3
- Next PTA General Meeting May 23

**Adjournment:** 8:06pm

**Prepared by:**

Sarah Price, Secretary

Date Presented for Acceptance: \_\_\_\_\_

Approved as:      written      OR      amended

\_\_\_\_\_  
President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary

