

Richmond PTA General Meeting

Thursday, May 23, 2013

Richmond Cafeteria 6:30pm

PTA Board members in attendance:

- Amy Starr Thomas, President
- Kyle Begley, Vice President
- Salina Wood, Treasurer
- Sarah Price, Secretary
- Sue Baer, Classroom Support Chair
- Sara DeLuca, Super Green Team Chair
- Mary Klinger, Board Member
- Naoko Koki, Cultural Center Chair
- Jason Love, Communications Chair
- Yoko Niki-Breyfogle, Rich Coffee Co-Chair
- Andrea Obana, Special Events Chair

Guests in Attendance:

- Pat Lando, Playground Improvement Committee Chair
- Emi Avondstondt, Incoming Rich Coffee Chair
- Steve Gutmann, Incoming Membership Chair
- Christine Ivy, Incoming Super Green Team Chair
- Amy Seaholt, Incoming PTA Secretary
- Tricia Waineo, Incoming PTA Co-Treasurer
- Bonnie Zadeyan, Incoming Classroom Support Chair

Welcome and Call to Order: 6:35pm

Approval of Minutes: March 21, 2013 General Meeting Minutes approved as amended.

Treasurer's Report

Salina presented the Year End budget and the proposed 2013-2014 PTA budget (See **Attachment A** – Treasurer's Report).

Regarding the Year End 2012-2013 budget, Salina noted requests to spend \$400 for an Ellison Die Cutter and \$2000 for playground re-stripping. Amy Starr Thomas noted that with membership approval, these purchases could be completed over the summer.

Amy Seaholt moved to accept the 2012-2013 final budget, Christine Ivy seconded the motion. The motion passed and the the 2012-2013 final budget was approved including the expenses for the Ellison Die Cutter and playground re-stripping.

Highlights of the 2013-2014 proposed budget include the Nature Walk brick paver fundraiser as well as the Innisbrook fundraiser, estimated to net \$4200.

Also, Rich Coffee has proposed giving \$2500 to the Classroom Support fund. This would be allocated as \$75 per teacher, bringing the total Classroom Support grant to \$275 per teacher. Amy also noted that Rich Coffee is also planning to use their 2012-2013 proceeds to purchase classroom recess kits for each classroom that may include jump ropes, balls, hula hoops and other items based on per grade recommendations by PE Teacher Deb Madore. The 2013-2014 proposed budget will be voted on at the first PTA General Meeting in fall 2013.

Playground Improvement committee

Playground Improvement Committee (PIC) Chair Pat Lando presented a summary of the findings of the committee. He touched on the requests for improvements like turf, covered playground and new equipment that lead to the formation of the ad-hod committee. He reviewed the survey results first presented at the March 21, 2013 PTA General Meeting finding the community to be most interested in facilitating outdoor activity, improving large motor skills and eliminating mud from the school. Pat also reviewed the survey results outlining interest in the following improvements, ranked in order from most to least popular:

1. Walking/jogging path
2. Playground re-striping, balls & small equipment
3. Turf field
4. Fixing muddy area in NE corner of grounds
5. Wall for wall ball
6. Covered play area structure

Lastly, Pat specified the funding summary for the options listed:

1. Playground marking, \$250-1800
2. Path, \$14,000-36,200
3. Wall, \$5,000-14,100
4. Mound area mud mitigation, \$30,000-36,000
5. Turf, \$350,000

Pat then outlined three options for vote, see Table 1 (Also **Attachment B** – Playground Improvement Options for Vote).

OPTION	INCLUDES	COST	Source of Funds
1	Playground re-striping	\$1,800.00	PTA
2	Turf	\$350,000.00	Fundraising from Parents
3	Option 1 + Turf	\$400,000.00	Fundraising from external sources

Table 1

At this time, there were many questions, answers and topics discussed pertaining to the playground improvement process and outcome.

Parent and sports coach Robbie Trebelhorn asked PE Teacher Deb Madore to restate her insights on the options, to which Deb responded that in her opinion turf provided the most

bang for the buck.

The question was raised about public use of the field if turf was installed. In response, it was stated the the property is owned by Portland Public Schools, not Portland Parks and Recreation as is the case with some fields. Amy noted that this gives us more autonomy in how we approach the situation and Pat added that there will need to be series of meetings within the neighborhood where policies are explained regarding rules, regulations and maintenance. He continued and added that with PPS bringing many turf fields "online" right now, these questions are all very topical. PPS has means to facilitate rentals and reservations of its fields. Steve Gutmann noted that a turf improvement would be a community improvement, not just for Richmond, and that fundraising sources should reflect that. Pat added that collecting fees from soccer clubs could tie directly into maintenance costs for the turf fields. Amy reiterated that PPS will manage reservations and collect fees similarly to how it currently deals with Civic Use of Buildings permits (CUBs).

Parents living in the neighborhood noted that it would be a blow if the fields were closed off, to which Amy responded that it would not be any more closed off than it currently is, but that there would be restrictions on how the turf is used, for example pertaining to dogs. Pat mentioned that the current plans call for aligning the turf so that a grassy dog run area would still be present.

Christine Ivy inquired about what to do in the event that fundraising proves impossible, would it be possible to re-vote for a different plan in the future. Amy replied that the membership can always vote on how to spend its resources. Mary Klinger asked whether a change in the plans for money raised for turf would require forfeiting that money back to the donors. Amy responded that when the money is raised, what it may be used for will need to be in accordance with whatever is stipulated with the donors at the time. Kathy Pickle then asked whether fundraising could be "compartmentalized" so that some of the funds could be used as it was raised instead of having to wait for the full amount. Amy replied that the fundraising structure will be two-tiered and asked Jen MacFarlane to elucidate. Jen explained that by Richmond PTA policy, 10% of any funds raised by a PTA subcommittee must be allocated to the general fund and could be earmarked and used for smaller projects. For example, a \$100,000 donation towards turf would yield \$90,000 for turf and \$10,000 which could be used for a path, wall ball wall etc. if approved by the membership. This will hopefully result in big ticket donors aiding in the smaller projects in a way that is legal and inclusive of the community situation while still respecting their desire to be part of a large project. Amy continued to explain that there will simultaneously be grassroots fundraising that will be targeted at raising money for the path, wall ball etc.

Jason Love added that there is a big difference between raising \$150,000 and raising \$400,000. Jen commented that she had met with the person who spearheaded fundraising for the turf field at Chapman and that they had been very encouraging about corporate partnerships. Jody Lando suggested we try it for a year and then reevaluate. Pat Lando noted that Grant High School paid for their turf field in about two years. Sam Adelman added that it (installing turf fields in Portland Public Schools) has been done, there is support, the field is a big resource that is highly underutilized and the time to act is now.

Pat and Amy noted that after hearing the discussion tonight as well as the vote to include playground striping in the 2012-2013 budget, perhaps a better breakdown of our fundraising options would be those noted in Table 2 (See **Attachment B** – Playground Improvement Options for Vote).

OPTION	INCLUDES	COST	SOURCE OF FUNDS
1	Perimeter Path & Wall Ball	\$50,000.00	PTA
2	Turf	\$350,000.00	Fundraising from Parents
3	Option 1 + Turf	\$400,000.00	Fundraising from external sources

Table 2

Amy highlighted the question, “How big do we want to go?”

Amy then clarified that we had all the information we were going to have to decide whether we were going to move forward and that it was time to proceed to a vote. She also noted that “tabling” the vote was a valid option. The vote, in her words, was on whether to allow a group of representatives of the PTA the authority to fundraise on the membership's behalf for these playground improvements. It gives them the authority to use our Tax ID number and our nonprofit status to fundraise. It is important to decide which option to vote for so that the Playground Improvement Committee can get an idea about the scope of their fundraising efforts.

Gabrielle Fiori moved to vote for Option 3, comprising of raising \$400,000 for the path, wall ball wall and turf. Salina Wood seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Special Topics & Programs:

Portlanders for Outdoor School

A representative from the group Portlanders for Outdoor School spoke about the importance of outdoor school for all PPS students and the district's inability to fund the program. Portlanders for Outdoor School seeks to find at least 20 PPS PTAs willing to pledge \$1000 to fund tuition for 6th graders to attend Outdoor School in the 2013-14 year (See **Attachment C** – 20/20 Vision Fund for ODS).

Amy noted that because of our standing rules we are unable to vote to pledge the money tonight, but that a member may move to add a \$1000 donation to Portlanders for Outdoor School to the fall 2013 budget which is yet to be approved.

Jody Lando moved to add a \$1000 grant to the fall 2013 budget to contribute to the Portlanders for Outdoor School 20/20 Vision Fund. Kathy Pickly seconded and motion passed.

Oya No Kai Board Elections

The PTA yielded the floor to Melissa Gorgon Clark to facilitate the ONK board elections for 2013-2014.

Richmond PTA 2013-2014 Board Elections

At this time, Amy honored the outgoing PTA board members including Kyle Begley, Sarah Price, Sue Baer, Ellen Taussig Conaty, Yoko Niki-Breyfogle, Shannon Bromenschenkel and Mary Klinger.

Amy then introduced the prospective board members for 2013-2014 as presented by the nominating committee:

- Amy Starr Thomas – President
- Sara DeLuca – Vice President
- Salina Wood – Co-Treasurer
- Tricia Waineo – Co-Treasurer
- Amy Seaholt – Secretary
- Emi Avondstondt – Rich Coffee Chair
- Steve Gutmann – Membership Chair
- Christine Ivy – Super Green Team Chair
- Naoko Koki Post – Cultural Center Chair
- Jason Love – Communications Chair
- Andrea Obana – Special Events Chair
- Bonnie Zadeyan - Classroom Support Chair

Sean Egusa moved to elect the entire slate of prospective PTA board members as presented. Steve Gutmann seconded and the motion passed.

Intern Introductions

Several of the 21 current Japanese interns were present and introduced by Yoko Niki – Breyfogle.

Adjournment: 7:59 pm

Prepared by:
Sarah Price, Secretary

Date Presented for Acceptance: _____

Approved as: written OR amended

President

Secretary