

# **Richmond PTA General Meeting**

Thursday, October 25, 2012  
Richmond Cafeteria 6:30pm – 8pm

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

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

## **Teachers/Staff in attendance:**

- Bev Pruitt, Principal
- Matt Goldstein, Assistant Principal
- Deb Madore, Physical Education Teacher
- Kelly Marsh, Kindergarten English Teacher
- Kate Mouery, School Counselor

## **Guests in attendance:**

- Robb Cowie, Executive Director, Community Involvement & Public Affairs for PPS

**Welcome and Call to Order:** 6:32pm

**Approval of Minutes:** May 23, 2012 general meeting minutes approved as written.

## **Executive Committee:**

### **Presentation of the Standing Rules:**

The 2012-2013 Richmond PTA Standing Rules were read by Kyle Begley. Jerry Joyce moved that the Standing Rules be accepted as written, the motion was seconded by Andrea Obana and the motion was approved by the membership. (**Attachment A** – Standing Rules)

Amy, in her first general meeting as president, recognized the teachers and staff in attendance and thanked them for their support. She then presented the Richmond PTA Program Objectives. (**Attachment B** – Program Objectives)

### **Financial Report:**

Amy presented the 2012-2013 budget. Mary Klinger moved to accept the the budget as presented, Rand Thomas seconded, and the motion was approved by the membership. (**Attachment C** – Richmond PTA FY 2012-2013 Budget)

### **Other Committees:**

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

Sara DeLuca introduced the nature walk that will replace the north garden. The design portion will take place in December and January. February will bring a clean up party and in March and April the hardscaping and planting will take place.

Julie Gefroh spoke up to clarify that the north garden will be gone due to lack to of accessibility and maintenance resources and that the nature walk will replace what currently exists.

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

#### **Bev Pruitt, Principal:**

Bev gave a brief address describing the current happenings at Richmond.

The library move was completed with a total of \$110,000 spent by the district. She also announced that Rudy Crew, Oregon Chief Education Officer will be coming to Richmond for a tour November 8.

The Run For Richmond Dollars are in part being used to purchase OMSI curricula.

Bev mentioned that she is also looking into a school wide art project, perhaps with clay as Richmond owns a kiln. In keeping with an effort to promote art at Richmond, Bev reported that the PTA Cultural Center Committee will be working to archive cultural and artistic artifacts stored in the basement to later be distributed around the school.

#### **Amy Starr Thomas, Opening Discussion on Playground Improvement:**

Amy reported that she met with Randy Miller from Facilities & Asset Management for PPS about beginning a capital campaign for a playground improvement project. Amy outlined the process of for playground improvement as consisting of the following steps:

1. Project idea submissions
2. Project selection
3. Submission of project development request to PPS
4. Begin fundraising
5. Begin design process

(**Attachment D**– Richmond Playground Improvement Process)

At this time, interested parties are encouraged to sign up for the Playground Improvement Committee, an ad hoc committee of the PTA for the purpose of researching processes and gauging interest in various capital improvements of the Richmond playground and/or field. Findings of the Playground Improvement Committee will be presented at the next PTA general meeting, January 24, 2013, at which time, the membership will decide on the top priorities for playground improvement.

Following Amy's introduction of the topic, a few comments were made including the importance of soliciting commercial grants, working in cooperation with the relevant

neighborhood association(s) and being mindful of disability access.

**Kate Mouery, Counselor:**

Kate provided a primer on elementary school bullying. She reported that one in six students are bullied. She also pointed out that while many people may feel they know bullying when they see it, they find it difficult to define. Therefore, Kate provided a working definition for bullying as, “an unwanted act of aggression resulting in a true or perceived imbalance of power.” She went on to explain types of bullying and to define bullying terminology.

Next, Kate explained that bullies often lack sympathy and she has therefore started a school-wide empathy-raising exercise with buckets that “catch” empathy drops filled out by students and staff.

Comments following Kate's presentation included the importance of explaining to kids the difference between tattling and reporting. Kindergarten teacher Kelly Marsh spoke up to say her class was enjoying the talks about the empathy buckets and she felt the exercise was making a positive difference.

Lastly, Kate introduced an up and coming project: the Bulldog Brigade. They are a peer mediation team made up of 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students. They will get trained by Kate in mediation skills and then they will help facilitate recess for pre-K through 3<sup>rd</sup> graders. This will provide many benefits. The BB kids get to practice mediation techniques while the younger kids get to see older kids setting positive examples in problem solving.

After the conclusion of Kate's presentation there was some other news regarding the school counselor position. Mary Megivern is back from her leave of absence and she and Kate will be job sharing until winter break. Mary will handle the Student Council, Kate will be in charge of the Bulldog Brigade. Mary will work with kindergarten through 2<sup>nd</sup> grade and Kate will work with the 3<sup>rd</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> graders.

At this time, Bev spoke up that she is looking into hiring Kate for ongoing help throughout the year.

**Robb Cowie, Executive Director, Community Involvement & Public Affairs for PPS  
Proposed School Construction Bond on the November Ballot:**

In describing the steps taken to increase the chances of passing the construction bond on the November ballot, Robb reminded the membership that the last bond was narrowly defeated. Following its defeat, the superintendent set up “listening sessions” in which people said for a bond to pass, it must be affordable. Therefore this bond seeks about \$1.10 per \$1000 assessed property value for 8 years followed by \$0.30 per \$1000 for an additional 12 years. This would raise \$482 million for school construction in the form of updated science labs at up to 39 schools, seismic strengthening at up to 26 schools, roof replacement and/or seismic bracing at up to 22 schools and improved accessibility for up to 33 schools, including Richmond.

Robb pointed out that Richmond is more than 100 years old, as are 12 other schools. The average age schools in the PPS district is 65 years.

Comments from the membership included the observation that in voting for bonds such as this there is often a separation between PPS families and non-PPS families.

A question was raised about how the process of rebuilding schools would work, to which Robb explained that once the bond is passed, then the master plan begins.

**(Attachment E– PPS Family Advisory: Proposed School Construction Bond on November Ballot)**

**Announcements:**

- Volunteers needed to sign up for teacher conference potluck 15<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> of November
- Scholastic Book Fair is coming in December
- Craft Fair & Kinokuniya Book Sale is Friday December 7
- Next PTA general meeting is January 24, 2013
- Next Grant Cluster PTA meeting is November 1, 2012 in the Grant Library

**Adjournment:** 8:03pm

**Prepared by:**

Sarah Price, Secretary

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary