

Richmond PTA General Meeting Minutes

Thursday, March 6th, 2014
Richmond Library, 6:30 p.m.

PTA Board members in attendance:

Amy Starr Thomas, President
Sara DeLuca, Vice President
Tricia Waineo, Treasurer
Amy Seaholt, Secretary
Bonnie Zadeyan, Classroom Support Chair
Jason Love, Communications
Pat Lando, Playground Improvement
Kate Day, Super Green Team
Naoko Koki-Post, Cultural Committee
Erin Estes, Super Green Team
Emi Avondstondt, Rich Coffee
Steve Gutmann, Membership Chair

Guest in Attendance:

Bev Pruitt, Principal

Welcome and Call to Order: 6:40 pm

Approval of Minutes:

September 26th, 2013 General Meeting Minutes, approved as written.

Treasurers Report:

Tricia Waineo reviewed the changes to the budget that will need to be voted on tonight. They include a discretionary spending grant for the principal and vice principal, a volunteer room grant, and staff room grant. Also included are the new year's festival and the addition of our custodian, Dan, to the classroom support program funds.

Since the last general meeting, the wrapping paper sale and apple sale have been completed, and both were very close to our fundraising goals.

Tricia and Amy Starr Thomas pointed out that the PTA is doing well with fundraising and the PTA is trying to spend the money well and thoughtfully on improvements that will benefit the school.

Emi Avondstadt reminded the group that Rich Coffee funds are going toward purchasing requests the music teacher has made.

Greg Byrd motioned to pass the PTA Budget as written. Pat Lando seconded the motion. The amended 2013-2014 PTA Budget was passed as written.

Guest Speakers:

Principal Bev Pruitt spoke to the attendees. She thanked the PTA again for helping to keep the school supported.

The strike was averted, but Bev appreciated that our school climate started out friendly and staff never became adverse toward anyone. Next Friday is recognition for the "classified" staff like Dan and Kari, so that will be a way to celebrate.

The District Budget is getting submitted soon. Bev anticipates that the funding for next year will look much the same as this year. This is the second year of the budget cycle, which tends to be a little more stable than the first year of a budget.

She is working with the teachers on professional development and best teaching practices. She will be doing another professional development training tomorrow and next week will be training 3rd to 5th teachers on the OAKS testing. The primary grade teachers have already gone to "Dibbles" training.

Bev likes that she has been able to witness student enrichment at the school, funded by Run for Richmond. This included an anti-bullying assembly and student recognition assemblies. She likes seeing the kids earn and spend their Bulldog Bucks as well. The Run for Richmond money has also funded additional programs including puppet shows for Pre-K and K, and paying for buses on field trips.

Bev said that the school will be getting tech bundles, which will include computers and projector equipment. This is a district and statewide grant. Richmond is one of the last schools in the district to get it, but it should be happening soon. This will be helpful for the Bridges program, which requires that teachers show materials under a projector to teach the students. A security system and card reader system will soon be installed in the school. The doors will be locked and card swipe systems will be installed for access. A video camera will monitor the front door to keep track of coming and going. The district does not like having so many people in the school after classes have started.

Next year may see Oregon adopting the "smarter balance" testing, but it still seems to be a bit uncertain at this time. The testing in the new system is supposed to be all on the computer. Some states have opted not to join "smarter balance" for a variety of reasons, including the concern that it is too expensive for entire states to switch to computer based systems. Teacher evaluation systems have also become more complex, and include developing measurable goals, and gathering and evaluating data regarding whether those goals are being met.

There are going to be fewer interns next year than there are this year. Eleven interns are arriving from Japan. Bev has decided that the 3rd grade and Pre-K are going to be short interns, unless the situation changes.

Additional Business:

Pat Lando updated the group regarding the playground improvement committee. He reminded the group that PTA voted to fund playground striping and wall ball, which are complete. PTA also approved looking at fundraising for synthetic turf, a walking path around the field, and developing the "muddy mound" on the North side of the playground. If the general PTA operating budget goes over \$200,000, then the PTA needs to permanently change accounting practices, even if in future years the budget falls under \$200,000. The solution is to raise playground funds under a separate 501c corporation. They are also looking at partnerships within the neighborhood, Richmond business community, and Portland Parks and Recreation. Pat said they are actively looking for people who want to participate and people who have ideas about fundraising and developing the mound and walking path. Pat will organize a more regular monthly meeting starting in April, hoping to get more people involved and move the progress forward.

Announcements:

The PTA board will be changing next year, and Amy wants to spread the word that the positions are open to everyone. The one position that we are in need of is a special events chairperson. The Spring Festival will be put on this year by a volunteer committee, but PTA will still need someone to spearhead it next year.

Mary Klinger spoke about the PTA board at Mt. Tabor. The PTA there is not nearly as involved as at Richmond, and she made the request that JMP parents think about becoming more involved when their kids attend. They are currently looking for board members, and the election will be in May.

Greg Byrd showed the attendees the poetry box that was auctioned at the Oya No Kai fundraiser. He presented it to the incoming PTA president, Sara Deluca, to be installed along the new nature walk.

Upcoming Events:

Friday 3/14 - The science fair will be next Friday. The event will start at 5 with a hands-on exhibit, and the kids will start showing their projects at 6:30.

Children's Book Bank:

PTA played a video presentation from the Children's Book Bank, which is benefitting from the book drive at the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm.

Prepared by: Amy Seaholt, Secretary

Date submitted for acceptance: _____

As written

With amendments

President

Secretary