**Richmond PTA General Meeting Minutes**

Thursday, October 9th, 2014

Richmond Cafeteria, 6:30 p.m.

**PTA Board members in attendance:**

Sara DeLuca, President

Natasha Banks, Vice President

Tricia Waineo, Treasurer

Amy Seaholt, Secretary

Kate Day, Membership

Erin Estes, Membership

Greg Byrd, Super Green Team

Andrea Obana, Culture Committee

Kate Fleming, Special Events

Emi Avonstondt, Rich Coffee

Jay Jaacks, Communications Chair

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

**Minutes:**

June 2014 General Meeting Minutes approved as written.

**Standing Rules Review:**

Sara DeLuca reviewed some of the key standing rules that are important to note. First, a quorum for each meeting will be considered one-half plus one of the members attending the meeting. A quorum must be reached for a vote to pass. The courtesy rule states that if members have an issue that they would like brought up at a meeting, then they need to inform the general membership in writing 10 days prior to the meeting where it will be proposed. She also reminded members that the PTA Executive Board has a $500 discretionary fund that can be spent without General Assembly approval.

*Standing Rules approved as written.*

**Financial Report:**

Tricia reviewed the overall budget for the year. The starting balance for the year is $113,552.29. There will be a $48,184 draw down on the budget during the year. The PTA raises money via Run for Richmond, wrapping paper sale, apple and pear sale, rich coffee, and more. The money goes to supporting classroom teachers, the library, front garden maintenance, the south garden and nature walk, and special events like the ice cream social and movie nights. Sara explained that PTA is trying to find a good balance between keeping some money in reserves, while drawing down the budget so that the parents who are donating the money are seeing the benefit go to their kids.

Jen Loveland, 5th grade teacher, informed the members that the 5th graders utilize technology in the classroom and at home. Assessments are also done online. The kids can practice kanji at home and use Japanese technology resources, the Scott Forsman reading program is online, and 5th grade is also using a new social studies curriculum that both students and teachers are excited about. The kids are also learning technology skills that will be needed when doing their statewide assessments. Part of the requirement for the new testing is that 5th graders have adequate keyboard skills to write two pages in one sitting. Other schools have already purchased and implemented the use of Google chromebooks with great success. The problem is that Richmond only has 50 laptops for nearly 700 kids. The teachers are asking that PTA approves a technology grant that will be adequate to purchase 25 chromebooks for each Japanese/English 5th grade teaching team. The grant is included in the budget. Amy Thomas asked if there was a plan to get chromebooks into the lower grades. Bev Pruitt explained that the district has not been funding technology in several years, so the Run for Richmond funds have been expanded to include funding technology.

Sara explained that the budget form correlates the money that PTA brings in and which programs are supported with that money. She also clarified that with this budget the Run for Richmond funds will be expanded to support art, science and technology.

*Andrea Obana motioned to vote on the PTA Budget as written. Greg Byrd seconded the motion. The membership voted, and the 2014-2015 PTA Budget was passed as submitted.*

**Intern Introduction:**

Eleven of the interns introduced themselves and told the members which families they are staying with and what their favorite foods are. Welcome interns!

**Principal's address:**

Bev Pruitt addressed the meeting by thanking PTA for all the membership does.

* Mrs. Pruitt addressed the school performance report cards, which have changed to give a heavier scoring weight to struggling students. Overall the school gets an excellent grade, but the school is only average at addressing struggling children.
* Teachers are doing two hour trainings throughout the year to improve their skills in addressing struggling students and to prepare for the new common core testing.
* Richmond has hired Alexandra Fagan as the School Improvement Specialist, who will help teachers support any kids who are struggling to get up to grade level.

**Introduction of New Staff:**

Dave Allen, Assitant Principal. Dave said he previously taught at Portland State, and as an elementary special educator. He got his Doctorate at the University of Oregon, and his focus was on young children with special needs. After working with young adults at Portland State, he decided he wanted to get back to his Doctoral roots. He is feeling fortunate to be at Richmond, and lived in Japan for a few years so his Japanese is coming back to him. His son is a kindergartener here.

Sparrow West, Art Teacher. Her time with the kids is fast paced, so she tries to work on pieces of a larger project each time she visits. Her focus is for each child to improve their own skills and growth in art. She reviewed the projects she's working on in each of the grades. Most days she has 30 minutes with most classes once per week, and 40 minutes with the 5th graders.

Alexandra Fagen and Ben Kiggen could not make it this evening.

**Upcoming Events:**

Sara reviewed upcoming PTA sponsored events.

* Breakfast in the Garden - Oct 11
* Harvest Festival - Oct 18. There will be a costume parade and a bike raffle, among many other fun booths.
* Potluck for the Teacher conferences - Oct 29-31. Please sign up to bring homemade food to provide lunch and dinner for teachers during conferences.
* Movie Night - Nov 14. The movie has not been picked out, so let Jay Jaacks know if there are any special requests.
* Scholastic Book Fair - Dec 8 - 12, done in conjunction with craft night.
* Craft Night - Dec 12. This is an opportunity for kids to go from table to table and make holiday crafts.
* New Year's Matsuri - Jan 9. This is the largest celebration in Japan. Taiko and other Japanese performers will be here. It will be wrapped up with mochi pounding and tasting.
* Movie Night - Feb 6.
* Next PTA General Meeting - Feb 19.

If anyone would like to join PTA, all are welcome.

Meeting adjourned at 7:55 pm.

*Prepared by:* Amy Seaholt, Secretary

Date submitted for acceptance: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

As written With amendments

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President Secretary