**Richmond PTA General Meeting Minutes**

February 19, 2015

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

Jason Lathrop, Advocacy Chair

Jay Jaacks, Communication Chair

Rebecca Melcher, Special Events

Kate Fleming, Special Events

Andrea Obana, Japanese Culture Committee

Emi Avonstadt, Rich Coffee

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

Sara reviewed the agenda and introduced a guest, Jennifer Lewis.

Jennifer is the In-District Liaison for State Representative Alissa Keny-Guyer. Representative Keny-Guyer is inviting constituents to meet with her at for coffee this Saturday, February 21st at 3 p.m. to discuss any issues that are important to them, including state education spending.

**Approval of Minutes:**

October 2014 General Meeting Minutes, approved as written.

**Budget Report:**

Tricia reviewed the most recent fundraising events. The Harvest Festival this past fall and the New Year's Festival in January required more expenses than budgeted, so future budgeting will accommodate these events more accurately in the future. In addition, a portion of purchases made through Amazon when linked through the Richmond website are contributed back to the PTA. Using these funds, PTA was able to purchase backpacks as part of each classrooms emergency kits.

Upcoming fundraisers include Run for Richmond, which will raise funds for arts, science and technology enrichment. Also upcoming is the Spring Plant Sale which helps fund the Super Green Team.

**Technology update:**

Jen Loveland and some of the 5th grade students were in attendance to show the PTA what has come from their acquisition of the Chrome Books purchased through a grant from PTA. The 5th graders put together a slide show to illustrate how they have been used and to thank the PTA.

**Update on Enrollment and Transfer Implementation and Boundary Review Status:**

Enrollment and Transfer changes - Jason Lathrop updated the group regarding the policy changes in the district that may affect Richmond families. The final policy was voted on by the board, and they kept the sibling preference at the top of the lottery selection process. In the future the School Board will be revisiting the issue and checking in to see how the policies are improving socioeconomic equity, though the language regarding how this review will take place or be implemented is vague. In April the district will begin outreach to improve awareness among economically disadvantaged communities. Richmond PTA has expressed interest in participating in this process and the District will be working with Richmond PTA to include the interested people.

Boundary Review Status - District representatives are meeting once a week to develop a framework for adjusting boundaries. This plan will come out in June, and the School Board will use this framework as a set of rules to implement boundary changes to relieve overcrowding and balance boundaries among the schools. These changes are unlikely to have much of an impact on Richmond as we are not a neighborhood school.

**Smarter Balance Overview:**

Pam Joyner, Interim Principal, and Dave Allen, Vice Principal, reviewed the SBAC test. The test aligns with the Common Core State Standards. Ms. Joyner expects to see test scores drop as the curriculum and instruction adjusts to reflect the shift to Common Core. They presented a slideshow to the meeting attendees.

Changes in reading and literacy include involving more challenging text, including informational text, and developing literacy in all contexts. The test will evaluate reading, writing, speaking/listening and research.

Math includes understanding whole numbers, fractions and decimals even at young ages. The test will evaluate higher levels of concepts and procedures, problem solving, communication and reasoning, modeling and data analysis.

Mr. Allen explained that the test is going to be computer adaptive, adjusting to the test taker's level. The test will be multiple choice, multiple answer and short and long answer essay. The subject matter will cover math, reading, listening and research. Students take the test only once and are not required to re-take the test. Richmond is focused on making this a low-key low-stress event, and will encourage students to simply do the best they can.

The total estimated time for testing is about 7 hours. Dave Allen has a plan for implementing these tests. Students can take breaks and will not be required to take more than an hour of the test at any one time, and most of the time students will be tested in half hour increments. Students can take advantage of accommodations, such as scratch paper, color overlays, noise cancellation, and more. Additional accommodations can be made for students who are documented to need these programs.

*Practice tests are available* if you feel that is something your child might benefit from, or if it's something parents want to familiarize themselves with.

Go to smarterbalance.org, find the pulldown menu, click assessments and training tests.

The administration would like to see as much participation as possible. While Mr. Allen knows this is not a perfect test, the more data the school is able to gather the better they feel they can improve the test taking and teach the students.

Ultimately the idea is that this test will better prepare students to be college and career ready. One parent in attendance asked what will happen with the scores once the test is taken. The scores are broken down by strand/subject, rather than one bulk score. The scores will remain with students as they move through the grades, and teachers can use these scores to evaluate where they should focus future instruction.

Families may opt out of testing based on a disability or religious reasons. If families do opt out, parents must provide an alternative activity while classmates are being tested.

Statewide, it is anticipated that only 30% of students will meet grade level standards. It is expected that there will be growing pains. No funding is attached to the scores at this point.

**Mochi Demonstration:**

Andrea Obana explained the mochi process, where they steamed the glutinous rice, then put it in a mochi pounder. They then take the paste and roll it into gnocchi style balls. It's best warm. She offered mochi to all in attendance.

Meeting adjourned at 7:05 pm.

*Prepared by:* Amy Seaholt, Secretary

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

As written With amendments

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

President Secretary