

## **Richmond PTA General Meeting Minutes**

May 28, 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  
Jason Lathrop, Advocacy Chair  
Rebecca Melcher, Special Events  
Kate Fleming, Special Events  
Andrea Obana, Japanese Culture Committee  
Emi Avonstadt, Rich Coffee  
Greg Byrd, Super Green Team  
Jay Jaacks, Communication

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

Sara reviewed the agenda and introduced our guest, Principal Bev Pruitt.

### **Approval of Minutes:**

February 2015 General Meeting Minutes, approved as written.

### **Budget Report:**

Sara reviewed the overall budget goals for the PTA, which include meeting the social, emotional and educational goals of all Richmond students. The goal is to use as much of the current contributions as possible while keeping a healthy balance in reserve.

The 2014-2015 budget saw a \$5,830 increase in reserves. The proposed 2015-2016 budget will draw down the reserves by a significant amount, partly because \$24,000 will be used toward the South field improvement. These expenses will also include teacher grants, a social studies pilot curriculum, a grant for technology (Chrome Books) for the 4th grade, and a small contribution toward Passport Club. Teacher grants have funded things like field trips, educational toys like Magnatiles, drums for the music room, and art materials.

Greg Byrd motioned to approve the proposed budget, Natasha Banks seconded it. Motion approved.

### **Executive Board Election:**

Elections are to take place today for the president, vice president, treasurer and secretary. The slated board members are:

President: Sara DeLuca (second year of term)

Vice President: Natasha Banks (second year of term)

Treasurer: Tricia Waineo (second year of term)

Secretary: Jenna Wines (new member)

Amy Seaholt motioned to approve the slate of the 4 executive committee members listed on the agenda. Rebecca Melcher seconded. The executive board was elected as slated.

**Principal's update:**

Bev said she attended the Passport Club wrap up party earlier in the day. The participation level was high, and she thinks the turnout will be even better next year. She thanked the PTA again for contributing toward the program. She spoke for the teacher community to say that they appreciate PTA contributions toward community building, fundraising and educational enrichment.

The district recently put out enrollment and funding statistics for elementary schools. Out of 27 elementary schools, Richmond's budget is 23rd in terms of funding. Current enrollment is at 677. 26.1% of our students are multi-race individuals. Based on the results from the 3rd and 5th grade scores from last year's Oaks test, Richmond was the 4th highest ranking elementary school in the district.

Bev addressed a question regarding staffing in the upcoming year. She said that the district changed the structure of funding for staffing, and their focus is on struggling schools. The district allotted enough funds for 20 FTE teaching positions, and Richmond has 24 FTE positions, and she is working hard to make staffing work with those numbers. Alexandra, the reading specialist, has made a big difference in the reading abilities of the students. The staff and Richmond community have loved having Kari Shawen, but the district is mandating that the school hire a media specialist with a degree in Library Science. Bev is committed to bringing both of them back next year, but to do that then she needs all of the foundation funds they can get. Unfortunately the Foundation Spring fundraising drive is not as successful as in previous years. Fortunately the Kindergarten EAs will be returning next year without Foundation funds.

The district requirements for the school state that 15% of the spots allocated for incoming students go to children who speak Japanese at home. 14 of those 15 spots were filled. Bev does not know how many of the incoming students qualify for free/reduced lunch (FRL), but as a result of the SACET committee recommendations the goal for the school is for 45% of the incoming class to qualify for FRL. We won't get that information until the Fall. Bev said that the administration and the district do not expect to meet that 45%.

Parents completed their petitions to get into in March, and the acceptance/enrollment letters were sent May 1st.

**Advocacy Update:**

Jason Lathrop said that the advocacy group is trying to make the JMP program more accessible to a broader base. They are reaching out to community organizations such as the Black Parent Initiative to increase awareness. They are also reaching out, along

with other Asian language immersion programs, to APANO - the Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon. The district office will be providing more support to the program in terms of marketing materials and outreach activities. They also are taking proactive measures to make sure the district knows that Richmond parents are participating in outreach, and will attend a Board meeting to convey the message that recruitment is happening but support for retention is also important. There are four new School Board members, so it remains to be seen if the sibling preference issue will return at some point.

There is a Richmond parent on the District-wide Boundary Reconfiguration (DBRAC) committee. They have a wide representation of parents, board members, district reps and community members who are working on this issue. They are in the process of putting together a document to set the vision for what the boundaries will look like. They'll use mapping software and demographic data to redraw and propose lines. The new boundaries will theoretically go into place in 2017.

**Field Improvement Update:**

Sara DeLuca updated the group to say that the first part of the filed improvement is complete with seeding and leveling the field. The baseball backstop on the south east side of the field will stay. No permanent soccer posts will be put up, but the PTA is looking into investing in temporary posts that can be put up when needed. Amy Starr Thomas is applying for a Nike grant next week to help fund the track around the field, which PTA hopes will be installed in the fall, depending upon funds.

Sara and Natasha reminded the group of the two volunteer appreciation events next week. The first is a volunteer appreciation tea after school Monday. And the PTA's volunteer appreciation party will be at Kerns Kitchen from 2:30-4:30 on Tuesday.

Meeting adjourned at 7:55 pm.

*Prepared by:* Amy Seaholt, Secretary

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

As written

With amendments

\_\_\_\_\_  
President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary