

## Richmond PTA General Meeting

February 17, 2016

6:30pm

Sara- Tonight's meeting will be informational- major issues happening this spring. Smarter Balanced, Enrollment & Boundary Change, A Better Oregon- adequate funding for public school.

Approve minutes for September meeting. (Greg- cups are not silver) Tricia- moves to approve, Jay seconded. Approved with Greg's change

Tricia- budget report- see budget.

Scholastic did well- that money goes back to English Books for the Library

Budget amendment- Rich Coffee Project expenses. \$5000 line item  
Rich Coffee to fund water bottle filling stations. \$5000 for brand new water fountain with water fill station. Rich Coffee wants to spend last year and this year's profits to fund this project. We need to amend budget. Rich Coffee, contextually, finds and funds projects to improve school (chrome books, playground equipment, curtains.)

Natasha- Motion to approve line item change to fund Rich Coffee project, Greg B. 2nded. Motion approved.

Dave Allen- Smarter Balanced Assessment information.

Testing Window is coming up. Handout available, relevant to 3-5<sup>th</sup> grade families. SBAC- Students are asked to do on assessments what they're already doing in class. Shifts include more emphasis on informational text, math focuses on strategies for solving problems more than answers. Power Point presentation. Will put clear links from Richmond website so parents can access samples and other online information about SBAC.

Preparing students for the testing with typing practice, embedded technology skills, learning activities in class that mirror SBAC and meet CCSS.

Changes- there was a topic presented by teachers that was then tested afterward. This section has been eliminated. 2 week testing window, but 6-7 hours of testing was broken up into approx. hourlong/ hour-fifteen-minute segments.

Legislation has been approved to make it easier for parent to opt-out of testing.

More information on opting out is available near the main office. Currently two forms for 5<sup>th</sup> graders, because OAKS (science) testing is a separate form.

Timelines for ELA is that it must be finished within 45 days. Performance task was a 10-day window last year, but that has been done away with. Smarter Balanced is one-time, previously with OAKS kids could take the test multiple times, which led to students taking a lot of time in testing.

Question- are pen & paper tests available for students who haven't learned proficient typing? Mr. Allen will look into this. There's no timing on the test (beside 45 days) .

Question- have there been content changes in the past year after the data from last year were reviewed? Answer- none others that we're aware of.

Question- is this assessment assessing schools or individuals? Do kids get individual feedback? Ans.- yes, but results did not get sent until much later (September?)

The school uses class results to change practices- if a class didn't do well on writing for example, the school would look at what can be changed to improve student writing skills.

Question about accommodations- will testing with accommodations happen at the same time as others to minimize disruption to classroom learning? Answer- as much as possible.

Matt G- DBRAC update. Community meeting. Goal -Via PTA's talk to as many SE schools as possible to talk about what changes are coming. About 5 weeks from now, DBRAC will start really digging into the SE boundary changes. Suggestion that if a group of community members/PTA members come together to tell DBRAC what they can't live without. 1-2 people from each school was at this meeting.

Concerns/fears from most schools. A lot of talk about schools wanting to keep K-8's, SES diversity, wanting to maintain program focus, The goal of this meeting was to start talking about scenarios that could be taken back to their schools. What are our values as SE schools? Schools talked about what they wanted and could give. As a group we might be able to come up with a consensus/ solutions.

We want to maintain this engagement, give input into potential scenarios.

PPS has some things they want- Ex. No more than 2-tracks per school. Potentially adding a new middle school in SE. Matt will go to upcoming meetings. Stressing district-wide program that needs to be central.

Question- timeline? Answer- presently, Westside changes are happening now for next fall. Eastside changes would largely be happening 2017-2018 or potentially 2018-2019. The eastside public process? Not sure. Input process might be limited.

Focus Option Review- email to principals. SACET suggestions included review of programs and program locations. Due March 4. Larger collaborative meetings happening with DLI program leaders.

Jeff H- ONK has been working with PTA. Can I commit to a K-12 program if I don't know where the program would be? Still working on how to make the best of this for JMP. Encouraging families to keep up with current activities and support.

PTA will continue to provide as much information to families as possible.

Mateo Billieu (sp)- Oregon PTA- initiative – A Better Oregon- having corporations in Oregon pay fair share in paying for schools and services. Growing disparity, schools have seen massive cuts. Oregon has largest class sizes, not enough HeadStart. Ballot

initiative to increase the corporate minimum on corporations doing more than \$25 million dollars in sales.

Questions- will companies leave? Ans. We're the lowest by far in corporate tax. This will affect companies that are headquartered out of state but doing massive amounts of sales here.

Spring staffing- we will be short of FTE, looking for staffing funding through foundation- is this a fair way to fund schools?

With no sales tax, we pick up the burden in other ways. This tax will be virtually impossible to pass onto consumers. Leveling the playing field for Oregon businesses as well.

Tess S- Update on Save the Elms. Dutch Elm Disease is a fungus attacking the Elms. We've lost 7 big trees on 42<sup>nd</sup> Ave. Replanting- looking at spring or fall planting. Looking at teaching opportunities, for Kinders to be involved in planting, perhaps donating a tree to sister school in Japan as well. Learning Landscapes (partner) suggested cultural connection through trees. Primary importance is shade, secondarily cultural connection. If trees are available in March, we hope to plant then.

PPS has agreed to do Elm tree pruning to try to save existing Elms. Innoculations also slow the spread. Ongoing coffee bean sales to pay. Available at Rich Coffee or order in room 110

Jenna W- piloting "mentor family" initiative to pair incoming families with enrolled families to help ease transition to Richmond. Goal is for parents to have someone a new family can ask questions to. Families would need to opt-in to be Mentors and to be mentored. Sign-ups for new families will go in registration paperwork envelopes. Sign-ups for mentor families are available tonight and also will go to the larger community as an email to current JMP families who are enrolling a younger sibling as a kinder and on Big Tent. Goal will be to match families with same-age children as much as possible.

Adjourn 8:10 pm

Submitted: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Accepted: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

As written      With Amendments