

## **River Plaza PFA Minutes Wednesday, September 16, 2009**

Meeting was called to order by Sue Lobosco at 7:35pm  
Pledge of Allegiance led by Cub Scouts Pack 32 Color Guard

### **Board Members in Attendance:**

Sue Lobosco, Meredith Platzke, Kathy Hartmann, Val Mastropaolo, Lori Gokusinski, Susan Markmann, Maggie Hopkins

Introduction of Executive Board Members

### **President**

The Minutes of the June 2008 meeting were reviewed by membership. Motion to approve minutes Megan Cashion, Heather Slavin 2<sup>nd</sup> .  
June's minutes were approved.

### **Vice President**

PFA Survey went out to the parents, 150 people responded. About 98% had positive feedback, all responses were read. The majority would like to see less paper coming home and communications sent via email.

We are moving forward with going green. Megan Cashion is in charge of our newsletter and determining how to go green most effectively. The Rivers Mouth, which usually runs the first week of the month, will be on line as soon as November. We will be incorporating some new ideas to give the children and staff a more interactive role in the newsletter on a regular basis.

Suggestions were made to become more active in community service (Environmental clubs etc..)

Last year's Spring Fundraiser purchased a new bike rack, amplification systems for the classrooms and a new curtain for the All Purpose Room stage. This year's Spring Fundraiser still needs a Chairperson or Persons. We are looking for any and all ideas for this event.

### **Chairperson Committees**

Introduction of Committee Members and Brief description of Committee functions

Still looking to fill 6 committee positions.

Holiday Shoppe, Jump Rope for Heart, Science Enrichment, Spring Fundraiser, Theater Week co-chair.

### **Treasurer**

Budget was presented and reviewed by attended

Cultural Enrichment was cut back

Budget for Winterfest was discussed. We are looking to have a concert instead of the “social” that we had in the past.

Motion to approve budget Jackie Masella, Beatrice Matrone 2<sup>nd</sup>

Motion to approve current budget Beatrice Matrone, Kathy Perotta 2<sup>nd</sup>

### **Secretary**

Miss Bechtel’s class from 2009 sent thank you cards to the PFA for all their hard work in making their last year at River Plaza great. They were forwarded to the Chairs of the 2009 Fifth Grade Awards.

Mrs. McAllister, (Music teacher 2009) sent a thank you to everyone for her retirement gift.

### **Principal**

This year is off to a great start everyone is getting used to the new surroundings

Full day kindergarten is going great. Children are having a great full day.

K-2 are doing number knowledge tests this year.

Teachers have started the process for DRA evaluations.

Centers and stations are being enjoyed by every grade level.

This year the 5<sup>th</sup> grades will be switching class for math. They will still come to all purpose room for lunch once a week

New Jersey Assessment of Skills and Knowledge (NJASK) was given in May last year so the results should be in by months end.

WRPS will be up and running as soon as possible, it is moving to the Media Center/Library hopefully we will be able to start at the end of September. We will be continuing Project Wisdom again this year.

Safety Patrol will start on Monday, Sept 21.

Thursday, September 24<sup>th</sup> there will be an Instrumental Music Mtg. for parents who would like to learn more about the program offered to 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students.

Instrumental Music lessons will be held in the All Purpose Room until 9:30 am five days a week

There was discussion of alternative places to hold lessons because of the noise volume.

Unfortunately, no space is available. There will be a divider installed in the center of the All Purpose Room and music lessons will be held on the far end of the room behind the divider to try and keep noise down in Mrs. Lauro’s class

Back to School Night will be September 22<sup>nd</sup> for grades K-2 and September 29<sup>th</sup> for grades 3-5 and Mrs. Todd ‘s kindergarten class.

Picture Day will be October 7<sup>th</sup>

Grades K and 1 will have the Fireman visit school on October 9<sup>th</sup>.

The Great Race will be October 24<sup>th</sup>, there was discussion on making people more aware of this great fundraiser and we hope to get more support this year.

Media tables for our Library should be shipped on Friday and assembled shortly after. We have extra temporary custodial staff to help with all of the new changes in the school

### **Board of Education**

No new News

### **Parent Information Committee**

A fee of \$20 was collected from the school in the past. There is surplus this year and they will not be collecting this.

There was inquiry about how classes are set up in the schools and we were told that DRA scores, NJASK scores, special services and principal/teachers recommendations are all taken into consideration when the classes are set up for the new school year.

A guest speaker will be at a future meeting to discuss DRA scores.  
Karen Bilbao touring full day kindergarten and everything is going smoothly. She will be visiting every school.

### **Book Fair**

October 20<sup>th</sup> will be set-up. - Book fair will run October 21<sup>st</sup> -22<sup>nd</sup> with an open evening  
October 21<sup>st</sup> 6-8 pm.

It will be held in the All Purpose Room, Kathy Perotta is chairing this event.

No toys will be displayed in the daytime, they will be displayed in the evening

Books will be scanned this year to get a feel for what types of books our children are interested in for future Book Fairs.

### **5<sup>th</sup> Grade Fundrasing**

Sue Torre and Liz Mullee

The following Fundraisers have been planned for the 5<sup>th</sup> grade

Kid Stuff Books, will be coming out 50% comes back to the school

Night at Friendly's Miss Pesce will be serving ice cream. They will give 20% back

Burger King 20% back our teachers will be serving the children.

Barnes and Nobel in December they are hoping to have Chorus performing and gift wrapping available and art work from the children will be displayed in the store.

Decals for your car will be available (personalized) 50% will go back to the school

Circle of Friends hair products and body products 50% comes back to the school

Fundraising is to make money for the 5<sup>th</sup> grade event.

### **The Great Race**

Chaired by Carrie McDaniels

October 24<sup>th</sup> at High School North

Fundraiser for the District each school gets back a percentage of the proceeds.

The enrollment fee includes a T shirt, prizes for placing in races, ice cream, and snacks are served.

Races are throughout the day. Last year we raised \$1,000 on the event.

### **Felicia Sacchs**

Kindergarten will still be holding the flag during WRPS

### **Art In The Classroom**

Wendy Curtis will be chairing this committee.

### **Apparel Sale**

Francesca Gick will be taking care of the Apparel this year. Order forms for apparel should be available on Back to School Night.

### **Variety Show**

Carol Bezick will be chairing this committee.

This year we are inviting Teachers and PFA to be involved.

Questions were raised as to why South is not able to be used for the Variety Show and Theatre week. District has said we need to use the Middle School. We will be looking into the matter.

### **Field Day**

Lora Kunego is chairing this committee.

Field Day is scheduled for June 4<sup>th</sup> changes and making improvement ideas are welcome.

Anyone who may have carnival games to replace some of the ones that have been pretty beat up over the years are asked to contact Lora.

### **Halloween Hullabaloo**

Shelby Brennan is chairing this committee.

Looking for a DJ

The time for grades K-2 will be shortened this year to 1 ½ hours.

Meeting will be in October.

### **Veterans Day**

Lora Kunego has offered to chair this committee

### **Directory**

No news

### **Old Bussiness**

Amp systems were purchase by the PFA and the school so we know have a total of 9 systems in the school there is one in each kindergarten and the rest have been distributed throughout the upper grades

The bike rack is going to be put together and put into place by end of September. Maryellen Manarino (a former RP parent) is going to be helping us put it together.

**New Business**

Math Olympics and Cultural Enrichment monies have been combined in this school years budget. Last year Math Olympics cost \$1,000 we are also looking into doing Arythmaticles.

Leighann Hulse brought up Spring fundraising idea of Golf Outing/Fishing with a Fashion show for women and higher end gifts only.

Room 212 was brought up to be used for an extra class but it is not big enough. We are looking into sound proofing the classroom in the All Purpose Room.

Motion to adjourn Bridgett Brambilla, Cheryl Aadel 2<sup>nd</sup>. Meeting adjourned at 9:25 pm.

**River Plaza 2009-2010 Executive Board**

Sue Lobosco President  
Meredith Platzke Vice President  
Kathy Hartmann Committee Position  
Val Mastropaolo Treasure  
Lori Golusinski Membership Coordinator  
Susan Markmann Recording/Correspondence Secretary  
Maggie Hopkins Teacher Liaison.