



River Plaza PFA Minutes for May 20, 2015

The meeting was called to order by Kathleen Marinich at 7:45. A quorum was present.

School Security

John Maguire, Director of Security for the District, started the meeting speaking about School Security. Next year's budget will allow for camera upgrades (especially in the Elementary schools). The new phone system is in place and working well. New badge system is in place and working well. Mr. Maguire recommends that all parents ensure that their accurate cell phone number is listed in PowerSchool. Stay connected for District information on the District Web site, Twitter account and Facebook page.

Approval of Minutes and Budget

The minutes were reviewed from the previous PFA meeting. The minutes were approved.

The budget for the school year was reviewed. The budget was approved.

Principal's Report

Kindergarten Orientation Part I is tomorrow, May 21. There will be a small assembly, bus ride, building tour, craft and book reading in Kindergarten classes. Part II is a small screening session in June. Part III will be September 3rd to meet their teacher. Currently 47 Kindergarteners are registered. Unless it goes to 51 we will only have 2 classes.

June 12th is the 5th Grade Celebration. In order to accommodate decorating, food services have organized 3 cold options for advance purchase. Kids will eat outside that day (if weather cooperates). Parent volunteers are asked to help cover lunches. This is a new situation since this is the first time we have hot food lines and the APR needs to be closed for decorating.

Next week Grade 4 is taking NJASK Science exam on Wednesday, May 27th. The test is 90 minutes at most. Make-up date is the next day.

PARCC is over except for a few make-ups. The kids did great!

Chromebooks purchased by the PFA are here. 15 are in 1st grade (5 per 1st grade). The other 15 are available for sign-out. Five more are coming that were granted to us from a RP parent's company. Next year's school budget will cover Chromebooks for all grades 3-12.

Next year the classes will be: 2 Kindergarten, 2 1st grades, 3 2nd grades, 2 3rd grades, 3 4th grades, 3 5th grades. Adding a Special Education teacher. Multiple teachers are out on maternity for half a year. Leave replacements will be as seamless as possible. The goal is for the current teacher to set up the room and start the year. 4th and 5th will have block scheduling again. Most of the District is following our lead (some will only do 5th). The goal is to keep as few staffing changes as possible. New Art and Music teacher next year.

Band Concert is June 8th at 7pm at Thompson.

People need to slow down when approaching the turn to the back of the school. Question posed to install a speed bump or SLOW DOWN signs.

The District will mulch only once a year if needed. District is not responsible for Landscaping; it is the custodian's responsibility.

Treasurer's Report

Budget for 2015/2016 is proposed. Variety show DVD is not part of our income for next year as there will not be a District videographer on staff.

Movie Night was removed since we didn't use money for it this year. Welcome Back picnic didn't need a budget either. Cultural and Science Enrichment have been increased for next year.

Motion to approve the budget: all approved.

Board of Education Update

Update provided by Jeana Bloodgood. 2% increase this year for the budget. 5 Special Ed teachers in Elementary schools; net elimination of 6 positions. Elementary will remain at 25 kids per class max. Technology Initiative will cover 1:1 Chromebook for grades 3-12. Wireless is getting strengthened. District is still fighting the pension issue. The teachers voted today on their contract; BOE is voting tonight. Mrs. Wouters and Mrs. Geourgio will be retiring. Nurse Casey is resigning. Teacher of the Year presentation at BOE meeting on Tuesday at 8pm at HSNorth to honor Mrs. Sweeney.

Committee Reports

Blue Claws is this Friday. RP can arrive early and play catch on the field before the game.

Teacher Grants -- 2 new applications. Kindergarteners are having an author come speak. The grant covers the Kindergarteners to write and publish their own stories. First grade wants the class to adopt an animal at Jenkinson's Aquarium. May extend the deadline.

5th Grade Celebration is going smoothly. Looking forward to a great night.

Field Day is going well. Lots of volunteers. Thank you for the increase in budget.

PFA dinner is June 2nd. Please reply ASAP.

Old/New Business

The trailer is organized with shelves.

We have \$10,000 from Countdown to Summer to spend. The Board is proposing to spend money on Playground equipment.

Amanda Mulheren asked if the library scanner could be replaced.

Debbie Malles suggested after-school programs (STEAMworks, chess club, etc) funded by the PFA. The Strategic Planning committee is planning to sponsor after-school clubs. The money should be spent on something that all children benefit from.

Pam Brett suggested a shared Science closet. Ms. Shaw pointed out the lack of space.

Gail Pelicone suggested landscaping on an ongoing basis.

VOTE to spend \$10,000 on outdoor improvements (playground equipment and landscaping) and \$350 for library scanner. APPROVED.

New Board for next year is:

President - Marguerite Stocker

VP - Carol Bezick

Committee Chair - Sally Trezza

Membership - Janet Urbanowicz

Secretary - Heather Scott

Treasurer - Paula Forte

Kathleen thanked the current Board for all your hard work!

Motion to adjourn was made by Kathleen Marinich and passed at 9:35.