

River Plaza PFA Minutes for September 15, 2015

The meeting was called to order by Marguerite Stocker at 7:10pm. A quorum was present (5 Board members plus 32 voting members and Ms. Shaw).

Approval of Minutes

The minutes were reviewed from the June meeting. The minutes were approved.

Officers' Reports

Treasurer's Report: Installation of new playground equipment covered. Budget approved in June. Funds carried over \$4,012.67 overage.

Secretary's Report/Correspondence: Correspondence was reviewed. Thank you notes from students in last year's 4th grade classes for all events PFA provided last year. Thank you note from Nurse Casey for end of the year send-off gift. Plaque from Boy Scouts Troop 32 for 50 years of support. Thank you letter from Dr. George for using funds to purchase new playground equipment. Thank you from Mrs. Gilmour for providing welcome back treats and brunch the teachers' first day.

Committee Reports

Sally Trezza thanked the Bulletin Board, School Sign and Landscaping Committees and the Committee that provided the teacher's brunch and basket for teacher's lounge.

Great Race: Application was sent home in folders this week. Great family event. School spirit emphasized. Banner explanation was provided.

Book Fair: Will be in late October. Evening hours during PFA October meeting.

Landscaping Committee: Mulch to be delivered to school. Mulch to be placed in front on both sides of steps. Township is providing to us. Help will be needed. Effort is being made to locate adaptor for water connection outside. Nick is trying to locate through district maintenance.

Spirit wear: Sale in the next couple of weeks. Forms will be sent home.

Halloween Hullabaloo: New committee chairs plan to make a few changes. Date is October 30.

5th Grade Awards: Car wash is Saturday, 9/19. Kid Stuff books will be sent home in the next few weeks. Barnes & Noble Night on December 10. NJ Devils Family Night in December.

There are still some open Committees spots.

Principal's Report

Ms. Shaw thanked PFA for landscaping, teacher's 1st day brunch, basket, bulletin boards and Back to School picnic.

New playground equipment and new roof were installed in the summer on the same day. 4 new playground pieces were installed. Kids seem to like them. Good feedback. Problem with kids pushing others on the spinners. Shaw spoke with teachers about this. Tetherball broke at picnic. Playground Company will fix and check out the other equipment to reassure it is sound. Playground was re-mulched to remedy railroad ties.

Arrival and dismissal adjusted by 5 minutes. Doors open at 8:40am, kids must be in homerooms by 8:55am. Dismissal is at 3pm now. Added 10 minutes of instruction time to day. All grades, except K, have 80 minutes of math instruction. Language Arts in lower grades is 120 minutes per day. Upper grades get 80 minutes devoted to literacy but also get it in Science and Social Studies.

Parent volunteers needed to help patrol back lot at dismissal. Regular rotation of parents would be great. Ms. Shaw can't be out there every day to take the rope down. Traffic gets backed up. Contact Megan Cashion if you can help with this.

Back to School Night is Monday 9/28. General session then 2 sessions in classrooms, except 5th grade teachers will have session in APR and 4th grade teachers will be in library. PFA will have a table set up in APR.

Introducing character education into school based on book "7 Habits of Highly Effective People," "7 Habits of Happy Kids". One habit will be introduced per month. Morning announcement will be centered on habit. Outstanding citizen award will be centered around habit. Art teacher will create habit tree and posters for hallways to connect to habit. Habits will be linked to QR code. Will be ready to introduce to parents for back to school night. Good addition to enhance our school. Not being introduced district wide, just at RP.

Morning announcements will not be live anymore. Now being pre- taped for the week. 5th graders can sign up to tape.

Changes to parent-teacher conferences. No paper sign-up sheet will be sent home. Electronic sign up through PT.com. Parents will receive website and a specific code for each student so they can sign up for a timeslot for a teacher conference. Conferences are December 1-4. Letters with instructions will be sent home around November 9. Site will launch for sign-ups November 13. It will be more efficient for teachers and parents. Subs will be hired to off-set afternoon conferences.

Old Business

Overage from last year. Survey sent out at the end of last school year on how to spend it came back with giftcards for teachers and mini grants. Other ideas from the survey have been addressed. Majority voted to use overage funds to purchase gift cards for teachers and for the mini-grants.

New Business

Review of by-laws and explanation. Vote to be held at October meeting.

Punch card explanation for attendance and volunteering time.

Moving to online PFA directory.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made by Marguerite at 8:06pm and was approved.