

River Plaza PFA Minutes for October 20, 2015

The meeting was called to order by Marguerite Stocker at 7:04pm. A quorum was present (6 Board members plus 23 voting members and Ms. Shaw). Troop 32 presented the colors.

Approval of Minutes

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

Officers' Reports

Treasurer's Report: As of today we have collected \$11,200 in membership, which is above budget. Monies showing as negative is money put out to run programs (book fair and box tops), but it will be removed once the money from these come in. Money was spent on t-shirts for new students, the online directory and planners for students. For income, the 5th grade brought in over \$2,000 via fundraising. The overage discussed at last meeting - \$4,000 left – has been used for teacher gift cards (\$2100) and mini grants (roughly \$2000). Upcoming expenses include yearbook, but will be covered by sales.

Secretary's Report/Correspondence: Correspondence was reviewed. A thank you note was received from Mrs. Karaban for the food provided for the teachers and staff at the start of the school year and from Mrs. Generelli for the gift card. The PFA sent congratulatory cards and a baby book to Mrs. Lauro and Mrs. Sweeney and a get well card to Mrs. Morin and Ms. T. Gift cards were also given to the custodians for Custodian Day. An RP family generously donated soccer goals to the school. A thank you note has been sent to the family, and the goals are already on their way. Crossing guard Patty lost her son, and the PFA sent a gift card to her as well.

Committee Reports

Great Race: We have over 300 applications. 100% against the number of kids in school. There are 3 banners to win. Shirts will be distributed soon. PFA should get back more than budgeted based on the number of applications. Great job!

Veterans Day: Flier sent home inviting all veterans. The videographer we used in the past is not currently employed, but we are trying to arrange someone else to tape. We are looking for photos as well. Please submit if you have any. Photos must be submitted electronically. Donations of chapsticks/sunscreen/bandanas are collected at the event, as well as donations for military dogs. Working on getting flagpole painted and using some overage money for lights for the flagpole.

Stop N Shop: If you already signed up, it will carry over. You can also send a picture of your Stop N Shop card number to Tricia Simon and she can sign you up. RP gets back a % of what you spend as part of the A+ Rewards program.

School Store: Kathleen Marinich demonstrated the school store set-up. It does not bring in a lot of money, but the kids really love the store and shopping. 5th graders volunteer to help. 10 school stores will be held this year. School lunch times were reviewed. Parents encouraged not to send in too much money as the kids want to spend it all and most items are only \$1-2. Parents are welcome to volunteer to help as well. Contact Kathleen if interested.

Landscaping Committee: Tricia Simon mulched the front of the school with the help of Michael Mulhern.

Class Grants: Applications have been sent out to teachers. Mrs. Kevins already applied and has been approved for a trunk from Monmouth Museum.

Halloween Hullabaloo: Fliers sent out. Volunteer Spot working well. Assignments will be sent out ahead of time so people know where to go. Bubble wrap needed.

Caring Committee: Gave cards to Patty and custodians.

Directory: Positive feedback coming in.

Book Fair: Doing well so far. Tomorrow is Day 2.

PIC Meeting: Parent Information Committee meeting. Meeting held this morning, October 20th. Technology improvements for the district were discussed. Details available on the district web site. Meetings will be videotaped and posted online. Transportation discussed and busing issues. Board of Ed is going to form another athletic field at Thorne/Harmony and some work at Nut Swamp. Project Plus is a 10 week program for 5th graders that will be run. This is running for schools feeding into Bayshore. They are also looking for parents who can speak at HS level with expertise in science, math, government. There is a group that meets twice a month for parents of kids with special needs.

Apparel Sale: Forms went out. It will be done repeatedly this year, perhaps every quarter.

There are still some open committee spots.

Principal's Report

Volunteers have been coming to open the chain in the back lot and this has helped eliminate the traffic issue on Hubbard. Still working on getting an officer to direct traffic out of the back lot. Working on getting cameras inside and outside. Police have been asked to step up the patrols of the school on nights and weekends. A reminder was sent out to have kids walk in front of parents' cars for morning drop-off.

Ms. T scheduled to return 11/9. In the meantime we have a substitute with experience as a PE teacher. When she returns, we will schedule the Fit Club.

Tech coordinator has been contacted to get carts to hold Chrome Books for the younger grades (K-2).

Conferences will be an electronic sign-up. Information will come home on 11/15 and a reminder will come home when the slots are opened.

Ms. Shaw is active on Twitter. Parents can follow her if they like. It is used to share positive news about the school. The superintendent also uses Twitter a lot. Many RP teachers are on it as well.

Library will be transformed – Creating a MakerSpace – A flexible learning environment. The library is not used fully all of the time. Looking for Legos and K'Nex for a station – looking for donations. There will be a station for simple computer coding, etc. It is a space for creation and exploration to be used for rainy days and other time slots that are appropriate. It is a learner directed environment.

Recess – Teacher Directed Physical Education (TDPE) – State mandates physical activity time for kids. Our district calls this TDPE. We are running this as a typical recess. Nothing is forced. Kids have choices of what to do. We call it TDPE to meet the required hours of physical education. Recess has been reduced by 5 minutes (dropped from 20 to 15), but there is more activity during the day for kids than usual. They are not sitting at desks all day. When the kids are done with lunch, they are allowed to go outside and play. Kids are encouraged to finish their lunch first. Most kids are done eating within 15 minutes, so those who are done can go outside for another 15 minutes. If kids are not finished, they can stay inside and eat. Kids can choose not to go outside. They are also rotating turns on lunch line so same kids are not always at the back of the line. In the winter, time in the Maker Space room may be used.

Old Business

Bylaws: Copies passed out at the last meeting. Any new updates have been highlighted in yellow. Changes – noted that the PFA is a non-profit and items added about how meetings take place and how financials are done. This is nothing new, but just adds notes about how things have always been done. Bylaws unanimously approved.

New Business

Fundraising Ideas: Parents encouraged to start thinking about things to fundraise for. A larger discussion will be held at the next meeting. Please email the PFA Board and/or Ms. Shaw with ideas. We can then differentiate between items that the PFA should handle versus what the Board of Ed/District should handle. We will then survey with these ideas and further discuss so we can hold a fundraiser for a specific idea/plan. The goal is to come up with an idea first and then plan an appropriate fundraiser for it.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made by Marguerite at 8:15pm and was approved.