

River Plaza PFA Minutes for March 23rd, 2016

The meeting was called to order by Marguerite Stocker at 7:12pm. A quorum was present (5 Board members, Mrs. Shaw and 10 voting members). The colors were presented.

Approval of Minutes

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

Officers' Reports

Treasurer's Report: Candy Bingo, a few cultural enrichment programs and Dr. Seuss Day were all completed. Field Day is basically funding itself at this point due to sponsors. This is a great accomplishment. Yearbooks are on their way. We still have some outstanding expenses here. We will end up having an excess in this line item as well. This is due to the fact that we have less kids this year. Some room reps are sending in receipts for reimbursement. Please continue to send these receipts in.

Secretary's Report/Correspondence: There is no correspondence to review at this time.

Committee Reports

Blueclaws – Fliers went home today. The event is June 3rd. Kids can bring a mitt and play catch on field before the game.

Mini Grants – A few teachers still have not submitted so a reminder will be sent out soon.

Field Day – Will be held on June 3rd. Funding has been great. A theme has been selected as well. A volunteer form will be sent home after spring break.

Kindergarten Orientation – Will be held on May 20th. We currently have 42 kids registered. We need 50 before we can add a third session.

3rd Grade with Disabilities kicked off this week. This will end with Pennies for Puppies.

Teacher Appreciation Week – This will be the first week in May.

Chess Club was a huge success. Suggestion was made to run something like this next year where a different parent volunteers to monitor this once a week. The kids played well on their own, so parents would not need to know much about chess. It could also be something other than chess.

Dr. Seuss Day – Mrs. Morin spoke about how happy she was with the way the week went. A committee of teachers has been formed to take it over next year. Mrs. Morin also received a special book signed by all of the kids formerly in her class. This gift was greatly appreciated.

Principal's Report

Mrs. Shaw thanked all of the committees who ran events since the last meeting. Fit Club is going well. Every grade level got 2 sessions. There was a delay in running the program as Ms. T was unable to run it and had to be replaced. Next year we hope to run it throughout the school year and offer each grade more sessions.

The PARCC Dates – April 27-29th for Language Arts and May 2-5th for Math. All grades will be tested at the same time. A make-up week is also scheduled.

NJ ASK Science will also happen in Grade 4 on May 25th. Make-ups will be the next day, This may be the last year for this assessment.

Many calls were received about the germs going around. This happened in other schools as well. Precautions were taken with extra sanitizing, minimizing contact, etc. Attendance is now back to normal.

Old Business

Vote on how to spend fundraised money. The Board would like to vote on the Teacher Wish List: - Hula Hoops, extra chrome books and facilitating as many buses as possible for class trips. Ukeleles were on the list, but they are being donated. Unanimous approval received for fundraising for Teacher Wish List.

Question was raised about the tetherball constantly breaking. The company replaces it. We had discussed outdoor improvements last year, but can more be done?

An update on the fundraiser. We were doing a restaurant tour through Red Bank, but we have hit a roadblock. A fundraiser will happen, but it may be on a smaller scale. If we are able to execute as planned, then we should be able to raise what we hoped for. However, if we are not allowed to hold it as planned, then we will have to scale it back. We should be able to raise enough money from a 50/50 and a few other things to fund the budget and keep membership down. After this, the Teacher Wish List will be funded. After that, we will look for extra outdoor improvements. We hope to know within a week what is happening.

We also found out the Great Race will no longer be held. This is a big source of income for us, so this will also be something we have to deal with next year. This was a District decision to end this event.

New Business

Lisa from Safe Route to School gave a presentation. We have many kids who walk and bike to school, and we want to make sure our kids are safe. A survey was given out. We will be looking for parents who want to be involved and represent us on the district and township level. We have safety issues and we have gotten nowhere so far when we have approached the district and board.

Safe Route to School is a federally funded program to encourage more and safer walking and biking to school. This program is free for people to take advantage of. The group can try to improve the streets and educate. A survey was handed out to gather information about our environment. At River Plaza we would like to hold a walkability audit to try to get a grant to make the path to school safer. The grants are released in April and due at the end of June. Then they are not out for another 2 years. We need Middletown to pass a resolution that they will support the school district in applying for the grant. The school district also needs to pass a resolution. Another suggestion is to ask your district to pass a policy supporting walking. This involves other schools in our district, but is something to consider.

Survey is available online at www.NJSafeRoutes.org

The plan is to have a meeting in April and then have an assessment in May. A committee will be formed.

A web site called Strong Towns was mentioned as a possible resource.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made by Marguerite at 8:40pm and was approved.