

## **River Plaza PFA Minutes for October 26th, 2016**

The meeting was called to order by Marguerite Stocker at 7:04pm. A quorum was present (5 Board members, Mr. Whitman and 19 voting members). The colors were presented.

### **Approval of Minutes**

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

### **Officers' Reports**

**Treasurer's Report:** A copy of the current month's budget was passed out. We have collected all membership dues. We will reach out to the families that have not joined yet, but it seems we have collected all that we will. We are close to our expected number. The color run income is not totaled yet in the budget.

For expenses, we began to pay for some of the assemblies. New t-shirts were bought for kindergarteners and new students. This is under the Student Supplies line item.

**Secretary's Report/Correspondence:** There is no correspondence. We gave a bouquet of flowers to a para whose daughter passed away.

### **Committee Reports**

Color run is postponed to this Saturday due to rain. We had 20 sponsor spots to fill, and we filled all 20. We currently have just over 220 people registered. If we hit the 250 mark, we get a lot more money from the vendor. So we are looking for a few more people to sign up. If we do not hit the 250 mark, the PFA will buy the remaining spots. The final numbers are not in yet, as there are some other expenses to add in such as a janitor which is required to be hired. Once all is done, all income and expenses will be made available. RP 8<sup>th</sup> grade alum will be helping along the route as volunteers. We can still use extra volunteers, especially for set-up. If you can come, people will be there at 7:30am in the back parking lot of school. Late registrants will not get a t-shirt.

Halloween Hullabaloo – We will send out more information about how to pick up your child after the event.

Veteran's Day – Mrs. Levy is doing a lot of work to set up the day. We have many veterans set to attend.

After School Programs – There will be a call for proposal. If you have a hobby or interest you would like to share with the students you can volunteer your time for 4-5 weeks on Wednesday afternoons from 3:10-4pm. You would work with the same 20 or so kids. There will be no cost to kids (the exception would be a supplies fee if the activity required materials). Kids would be divided by age group. If you are interested in signing up to volunteer your time, visit the below link. Google forms will be used to track the kids that sign up for each club.

<https://goo.gl/forms/Yu0HxIWAiBzabgYh1>

### **Principal's Report**

A big thank you to our teachers. They have been working on a lot of items this month. Goal setting for students takes a lot of time and work on the part of the teachers. This week a consultant came for writer's workshop to help students become even better writers. Early dismissal today was used to discuss the PARC data with the teachers. The math intervention plan was discussed, and then homework was discussed. A lot of research has been done lately about the value of homework and what kind of homework should be given. A good discussion was had about the kind of homework that should be given.

Mr. Whitman also set up a Twitter feed and is working on using that more. He has also begun a weekly phone blast to add a personal touch to communication. If you want to switch the number your blast goes to, you can use Power School to change it. Feedback on the blasts is always welcome.

Conferences will be held November 29<sup>th</sup> through December 3<sup>rd</sup>. We intend to use the online sign up system again as it worked well last year, but nothing has been finalized yet. Evening conferences will be Thursday, December 1<sup>st</sup>.

Mr. Imbimbo will be temporarily leaving in the new year to serve as an interim principal. We will look to get a replacement for him.

### **Old Business**

Extra funds total \$4,575. In the past we have done teacher gift cards and mini grants. We are suggesting we do the same this year. Rather than gift cards which had problems last year, we are suggesting each teacher can spend up to \$100 and turn in receipts for reimbursement. The mini grants are \$100 per class as well, but some classes combine funds to do something bigger for an entire grade level. There are 31 certificated staff, so that will require \$3100. The rest will be used for mini grants. A unanimous vote was held to approve this use of funds.

Fundraiser – We are proposing 'A Day at the Races'. We are hoping to get Saturday, May 20<sup>th</sup>. We would have 2 picnic areas with food. In case of bad weather, the food would be under a tent.

JCP&L – Most of the elementary schools have decided to send letters to JCP&L regarding the power lines. We plan on sending this letter on behalf of the PFA to JCP&L and NJ Transit.

### **New Business**

Board of Ed Report - September Bd of Ed meeting – They proposed an energy savings program. They are looking at solar power and energy efficient light bulbs. This is a long term project. If a group over 100 people is using a school after hours they must hire a security guard at \$20 per hour. This impacts many of our activities such as the Hullabaloo, Candy Bingo, etc. The PFA already set the budget for the year, but these costs were not included as this decision had not been made yet. A demographic study was discussed. RAGE spoke and asked Bd of Ed to support their efforts.

At the October Bd of Ed meeting, District-wide possession of drugs and alcohol were up from 1 to 9. This is attributed to higher reporting and not actual higher incidences. District approved to join in the proclamation against JCP&L and approved to put money towards legal proceedings to fight this in court. Update on Walk to River Plaza was discussed, but the same items were said might be done. However, new lines were painted on Hubbard (center yellow lines and white edge lines).

A link to what each Bd of Ed candidate stands for will be out up on our site since elections are next week.

The crossing guard from Alexander is not doing her job well. She is not blocking the driveway for kids to walk and bike across. She is just waving them on without using the stop sign to physically stop traffic. She is also showing up late for dismissal. Mr. Whitman and the PFA will look into this.

### **Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn was made by Marguerite at 8:05pm and was approved.