

## **River Plaza PFA Minutes for September 21st, 2016**

The meeting was called to order by Marguerite Stocker at 7:06pm. A quorum was present (5 Board members, Mr. Whitman and 25 voting members). The colors were presented.

### **Approval of Minutes**

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

### **Officers' Reports**

**Treasurer's Report:** A budget was handed out. There has not been a lot of activity since it's a new school year. The budget was reviewed for the year for income and expenses. It is important to get all membership dues in as soon as possible. We also paid for the My Directory. We also added the Color Run, but we do not have a number for it yet as it is the first year we are doing it. This is replacing the Great Race which was canceled last year. Whatever we raise with the Color Run can be removed from what we need to raise with the spring fundraiser. How much we get back per application depends on how many applications we get. If we get more than 250, we get more than 50% per application. Otherwise, we get less than 50% and we will also have expenses to deduct. We are looking for a sponsor as well to help.

**Secretary's Report/Correspondence:** Many thank you's were received from the 5<sup>th</sup> grades for the grant money that enabled them to participate in the Continental Math League Contest, as well as another thank you from Mrs. Karaban for the lunch the PFA provided for the teachers. The students hand decorated many thank you's for the math contest to show their appreciation. Mrs. Shaw sent a thank you for the bracelet and flowers. We also received a thank you from Mrs. Gilmour for the welcome back breakfast for the teachers.

### **Committee Reports**

Many committees have chairs, but some committees need more help to assist the chairs. Book Fair needs help as does holiday shop. Please see Kathleen Marinich or Janet Urbanowicz if you can help. The variety show runs in March and that is also a big event. These three committees plus the spring fundraiser are the big committees that need the most help. The spring fundraiser enables us to do something nice for the school (new equipment, etc) so it is very important. Even if you can only help at home that is fine. Just let Kathleen know when and where you can help and she will find something for you.

### **Principal's Report**

Mr. Whitman reviewed the happenings in the classrooms in September. Teachers are conducting SGO's (Student Growth Objectives). Assessments (not tests) are being conducted to collect information about the students so we can make them stronger. Growth goals will then be set. Routines and procedures are being set.

On September 28<sup>th</sup> there will be an early dismissal at 1:30. This will happen once a month for teachers' professional development. This date will be used to assist the teachers in setting goals based on the assessment data that has been gathered. Mr. Whitman would like to keep us posted on how these professional development days are used.

Please be aware of upcoming events before the next meeting: September 28<sup>th</sup> is the birthday bash for all kids with a birthday that month. The PFA provides them a book and they play bingo. Parents are involved in this and can sign up for the month of their child's birthday so if they want to come in they can get an email reminder. Summer birthdays are celebrated in June.

October 5<sup>th</sup> will be Walk to School Day and we will also hold anti-bullying assemblies that day.

Picture Day and Fire Safety House will be October 20<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Whitman stated that he will take his first year slowly to ensure he learns all about the school first before making any big changes.

### **Old Business**

**Safe Routes to School Update** – There are concerns about the safety of the walking path to school, especially along Hubbard. October 5<sup>th</sup> is Walk to School Day. The major problem is it is a County Road with a sidewalk owned by the town

and no one wants to own the improvements. On October 5<sup>th</sup>, we have both county and town reps coming to walk to school with us. We will meet at the firehouse at 8am and walk from there. Since this is an election year, we have a better chance of being heard.

### **New Business**

We have a small overage from last year's budget. Typically we have done a \$100 grant per classroom. Teachers then submit an application to use the money and a committee for grants reviews and approves it. We also have given each teacher \$100 for them to spend on supplies. We have done this through gift cards and other methods. We will vote on how to spend these funds at the October PFA meeting. We can do the grants and teacher gifts again or we are open to other ideas. We will also have the exact overage amount available at the October meeting.

We are introducing a new committee this year – After School Activities. We will need a chair and committee members. We have done a chess club, legos and art. We want to come up with other ways to engage kids after school. Please reach out to Kathleen or Marguerite if you're interested.

Mrs. Betancourt is suffering from leukemia and she has a Caring Bridge Journal that she is willing to share. Please let Marguerite know if you would like access to it.

Color Run – Applications went home already. It has been District approved. Sally Trezza has also spoken to the police department. We need to decide if we need a custodian on staff that day. We will start in the back parking lot. It will leave school property looping around Chargers Field and back to school. The race is not timed. You can walk if you like. We are looking for a lot of participation. You can also sign up online and you will get a t-shirt. There will be an after party with a DJ and other activities. It will run from 9-12 on October 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Halloween Hullabaloo - The PFA sponsored Halloween party. If anyone has any connections to a nursery or landscaper of some kind please see Kim Gillick. We used to get donations from Casola Farms but we lost our contact there.

### **Adjournment**

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