

**Riverside School PTO General Meeting**

**Wednesday, November 09, 2016 8:30 AM held in the All Purpose Room**

Present:

1. Beth Leman (Co-President)	2. Beverly Shumway Yilmaz
3. Melodie Schweitzer (Co-President)	4. Lara Winn
5. Michelle Fitzgerald (Secretary)	6. Bonnie Funciello
7. Betsy Armstrong	8. Xinyan Huang
9. Wendy Wilton	10. Lingyun Ding
11. Mel Gryzmala	12. Beth Behrend
13. Corine Caffort Andre-Hessig	14. Julie Cho
15. Jessica Engelhart	16. Melanie Schutte
17. Tara Bansal	

The meeting was called to order by the Co-Presidents at 8:40 AM.

**Health and Wellness Programs – Alison Unkert**

1. Gym and PE teacher at Riverside.
2. Looking to bring in speakers on various health topics – if you have health and professional experience – first aid, dentist, environmental health, disease prevention etc. – please reach out to Alison.
3. Currently working on managing stress.
4. Open to high school students who are trying to complete their service requirements.
5. Alison is on the district Health and Wellness program.

**Compost Efforts and Green Initiative – Jennifer Bazin**

1. Riverside’s Green History – long-standing history of environmental awareness and education.
2. New initiatives coming in from the district that is making this very popular.
3. 2015 – PPS Green team established – under the “Wellness Initiative”.
4. Team of many: Parents, high school students, teachers, outside organizations
5. 2016-2017 – focus for this year is waste removal.
  - a. Posters will be displayed throughout the school with Compost; Landfill; Recycle.
  - b. Key is to Stop; Think; Sort.
  - c. Compost
    - i. Curbside Compost – Pick up twice per week.
      1. Classroom Compost: Small buckets in classrooms – deposit into the curbside compost for collection.
    - ii. Garden Compost: Just garden waste in general.
  - d. Recycling
    - i. Blue and yellow containers in classrooms and other locations.
  - e. Landfill
    - i. Grey trashcans lined with plastic bags.
  - f. Future Plans for the Green Team include:
    - i. Cultural change – school sustainability culture.
    - ii. Implementation through lesson plans.
    - iii. Purchase bottle filling and drinking water stations.
    - iv. Monitor printing costs.
    - v. Conduct energy audit.
    - vi. Spoke about a video from Princeton Day School who are the forefront of this effort – look at their sustainability website.
    - vii. Will have challenges for each class – they can earn badges.
    - viii. Third grade theatre class will present a show on Green Bear at assembly.

**Co-Presidents report - Beth Leman**

1. PTO Council Meeting Update – Beth Leman
  - a. No update.
2. Election Bake Sale – Melodie Schweitzer
  - a. See below under new business.

**Secretary's Report – Michelle Fitzgerald**

Meeting Minutes from 10/31/2016 PTO meeting: Minutes were approved as submitted.  
[www.rspto.org](http://www.rspto.org) is used to store minutes and other information related to the PTO.

**Treasurer's Report – Ayesha Aftab**

1. October Financials
  - a. The bank statements (read into the minutes after the meeting) are as follows:
    - i. The balance in the checking account as of 10/31/2016 is \$43,523.45.
    - ii. The balance in the money market account as of 10/31/2016 is \$30,739.78.

**Teacher Liaisons – Pam Levy and Beth Tolin**

1. No update.

**Special Ed (SPED) PTO – Beverly Shumway Yilmaz**

1. Special Ed PTO meeting on November 21, 2016 at 7pm at Joan Spindel's house.
2. Raised the point that all three autism classes should combine as 1 entity regarding boxtop collection to make it more fair. PTO members at the meeting approved this change.
3. Raised discussion about including in the newsletter or other form of communication regarding gun safety – making children and parents aware and the right to ask parents of children when your child is going over to their home regarding whether they have guns and if so how are they stored. Group had mixed reactions regarding this. Melodie to follow-up with Officer Thomas to see if there are guidelines regarding what can / cannot be asked.
4. Suggestion was made perhaps to combine a notice regarding safety on guns, dogs, etc. around the holiday time.

**VP Fundraising – Melanie Schutte**

1. Party Board Night – November 18<sup>th</sup>.
2. So far we have 9 adult, 9 kids and 7 family parties confirmed – Budget is for \$11,000 – need more party boards. Will send more communications with details of what is still needed, families needed to co-host parties in the hope that families will help.

**VP Community Outreach – Anne Thomsen Lord**

1. UNICEF – close to goal. Decision to talk with Valerie Ulrich about holding the pajama day on the Monday before the Thanksgiving holiday.
2. Warm clothing drive to be held November 14-18, 2016. Anne will put out boxes for collection. Need people to drive what is collected over to CP – Beth Behrend, Beverly Shumway Yilmaz, and Corine Caffort Andre-Hessig volunteered to drive the items collected to CP.

**VP Family Programs – Jessica Engelhart**

1. Pasta Night – November 18<sup>th</sup>
2. Kindergarten playground will be open but there are no lights out there.
3. Will have raffle baskets again.

**VP Afterschool Enrichment Clubs – Lingyun Ding / Darleny Cepin**

1. Winter clubs were discussed. Offerings: martial arts for younger grades, basketball for older grades. Board games for Kindergarten. Science, art for various grades. Math club for Grade 3. Science club has 2 formats – regular science clubs looking after turtles (will be for all grades at different points in the upcoming months ex. K&Gr1, Gr2&3, Gr4&5) and specific clubs where applications will be required. More details in the upcoming flyer on clubs. Registration and payment will be coming up shortly and the whole process will be done prior to holiday break.

**VP Teacher Support – Lauren King**

1. No update.

**VP Garden/Go Green – Beth Behrend and Bonnie Funciello**

1. Garden will have a clean-up / put the garden to bed on Saturday Nov 19, 2016 all day.
2. There were 17 children in the garden club this year – successful and fun.
3. In the spring, Suzanne will do some back-office things for the garden.
4. May 12 is the spring fundraiser – cake walk was suggested as a “must” for this fundraiser. Other ideas welcome.

**VP School Services – Melissa Grzymala**

1. Science Days – will turn 39 this year – really a series of days
  - a. Franklin Institute Assembly
  - b. Round robin science presentations – Had the Shark Guy one year.
  - c. Student Investigative reports – students with Mark Eastburn
  - d. Parent presentations
2. This is Mel’s 7<sup>th</sup> year. Need to find a replacement soon to help perpetuate this. Need to form a Science Committee to help transition this.

**New Business**

Election bake sale

- Money raised \$464. Use money for child enrichment – stencil of the map and the paint was approved to re-create the map of the United States on the blacktop and we are moving forward with this project. It will cost approximately \$350.
- Remaining \$110, which could be more depending on total cost of the map project, will be brought up at the December PTO meeting to say what used for – ideas have been suggested like curtain cleaning or something else mentioned as a need re past. It will be revisited in December with a list of possible options.

**Next PTO Meeting will be the holiday treats – come and join others in putting cookies/baking into boxes to give to the teachers and staff. It is a fun and relaxed PTO meeting and a chance to talk with other parents/guardians at this gathering.**

**The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 am.**