

**Riverside School PTO General Meeting
Wednesday, February 8, 2017 8:30 AM held in the All Purpose Room**

Present:

1. Beth Leman (Co-President)	2. Jessica Engelhart
3. Melodie Schweitzer (Co-President)	4. Beth Behrend
5. Michelle Fitzgerald (Secretary)	6. Wendy Wilton
7. Ayesha Aftab (Treasurer)	8. Beverly Shumway Yilmaz
9. Anne Thomsen Lord	10. Deb DiMeglio
11. Bonnie Funciello	12. Amanda Nichols
13. Kristina Kharazmi	14. Adele Hagadorn
15. Lingyun Ding	16. Tina DeLillo
17. Wendy Bond	18. Pam Levy
19. Lara Winn	20. Alene Frankel
21. Paul Suozzo	

The meeting was called to order by the Co-Presidents at 8:40 AM.
This was an unusually long meeting due to the number of topics to be discussed.

Special Guests

Digital Art – Ashley Kennedy

Ashley has taught in the commercial industry and gained experience with digital arts there. Intent is to use ipad cameras as a tool. School is on all Mac products – ipads are a natural extension. File size on an ipad is large. Work with the Blackbox theater lighting. Start with older grades. Ipads, pens, adobe programs, large format printer, archival inks so it won't fade. Inks and paper will be an ongoing expense. Online discussion board. Please email Ashley with any questions/suggestions/input. Autism classes are included. Conflict with fine motor skills for smaller kids? It would be 1 lesson out of the curriculum. It does not take the place of this....enhances the existing program. Fit naturally with what a class needs. Helps different kids depending on their learning style. Will showcase the work in June.

Bill Cirullo Bequest – Susan Cirullo

Gathered input from parents and plan to engage children from G3-5 on how the donation could be used. Susan presented the bequest to the PTO. Hope to finalize on 2-3 options and present to Susan before the end of this school year.

Specific Topics

Book swap – Betsy Armstrong

Collect books and sort by grade level. Kids in June get to take home a few. Collect books through May. Encourage collection of books at the Pancake Breakfast –will circulate memo through room parents. Everyone gets a book. Boxes are in the lobby for drop off.

Lego Bricks Collection - Kristina Kunz Kharazmi

For the past 3 years Kristina has collected lego blocks. The suggestion is to ask all families to donate 3-5 pieces. They are then donated to other schools. So far to the Philippines only. This is the first year for Riverside. Prefer only lego brand. Could also involve the Middle and High School to donate – Beth Behrend said she would help Kristina establish contacts there. Will send an email to parents with more information.

Green Team – Beth Leman

Looking for additional volunteers. Will have meetings. Just a reminder about the efforts going on – school effort, not a PTO effort as such. Let Beth/Melodie know if you are interested in joining this initiative.

Box tops – submission March – Michelle Fitzgerald

Resend flier in next newsletter – maybe with a photo as a reminder.

2 submissions a year – Nov 1, Mar 1. Submitted \$462 worth of boxtops in November. Will be about the same for March.

On schedule to submit for Mar 1.

McCaffrey's Receipts – Beth Leman

Wendy said she would organize a party to get this done.

Looking for a volunteer to take this on.

Jetta Hall Summary – Melodie Schweitzer

Jetta Hall Fund – money in a separate account. Confidential process to allocate funds to needy children. Especially at the holidays – food and clothing.

PTO Budget includes \$500 that PTO donates to the Jetta Hall fund.

- Opening balance – \$6700.
- \$200 emergency fund in principles office – gift cards.
- 12*\$100, 7*\$100 gift cards.
- \$460 donated from teachers
- \$250 – alumni donation
- \$500 – parents donation
- \$500 – PTO donation
- Closing balance = \$6350

Math Curriculum – Melodie Schweitzer

Melodie attended a meeting where the Math Curriculum was discussed.

PTOC meetings – pick various subjects from the curriculum.

Any questions – Melodie will obtain answers.

G1-5 universal math screening process – online testing program – Star Math Renaissance Learning.

Purpose is to understand where the child is on understanding.

Twice per year – Fall and Spring – most classes have taken it already but it does not count towards anything. The data is used by teachers to learn how to use the data. Renaissance is coming to the staff development day on Friday. Concerns were raised that the test was on a computer. But they had plenty of paper to work things out. Timed 30 minute test. Generates a report by concepts. Can figure out how to help kids. Different districts use different programs.

Seeking to understand all of the tests administered and what they are used for.

PARCC – Melodie Schweitzer

Melodie is trying to find out what the PARCC results are used for and will present once she has the information. If you have any questions, email Melodie directly.

Here are some links regarding PARCC:

- <http://curriculum.princetonk12.org/PARCC/home%20page>
- <http://www.princetonk12.org/Newsroom2/PARCC>

The data comes back in the Fall.

30% of the scores are reflected in the performance of the teacher.

If you have strong feelings on this issue, contact the Education Commissioner.

Co-Presidents report - Beth Leman, Melodie Schweitzer

1. PTO Council Meeting Update – Beth Leman

- a. No specific update other than the items above.

Secretary's Report – Michelle Fitzgerald

Meeting Minutes from 1/5/2017 PTO meeting: Minutes were approved as submitted.
www.rspto.org is used to store minutes and other information related to the PTO.

Treasurer's Report – Ayesha Aftab

1. January Financials
 - a. The bank statements (read into the minutes after the meeting) are as follows:
 - i. The balance in the checking account as of 1/31/2017 is \$59,175.24.
 - ii. The balance in the money market account as of 1/31/2017 is \$30,742.87.
 - b. Analysis of revenue sources – pie charts will be circulated.
 - i. Party Boards – 67% of that goes to Residencies (McCarter and Young Audience).
 - ii. Boxtops, McCaffrey Receipts, Matching Gifts from corporations, Amazon etc. – 21%
 - iii. Dues – 18%
 - c. Expenses
 - i. 60% is spent on residencies
 - ii. Mini Grants
 - iii. Insurance
 - iv. Teacher Luncheons
 - v. Etc.

Teacher Liaisons – Pam Levy and Beth Tolin

1. No update.

Special Ed (SPED) PTO – Beverly Shumway Yilmaz

1. PTO is getting together and everyone is getting to know each other – forming a community.
2. Trying to find parent mentors – someone to help you guide you through the process if you are new to the district.

VP Fundraising – Melanie Schutte

1. No update.

VP Community Outreach – Anne Thomsen Lord

1. Valentines for Food - Arm in Arm (Crisis Ministry) – ends 2/14.
2. If we collect 500lb of food – perhaps we can have a pajama day.

VP Family Programs – Jessica Engelhart

1. Pancake Breakfast – February 11
2. International Night – March 10 (Friday)
3. 5th Grade Social - March 31 (Friday – 6-8.30pm)
 - a. All schools are donating \$250 – get all Elementary Children at JW to meet.
 - b. Could aides be provided for special needs children? Jessica to look into this.

VP Afterschool Enrichment Clubs – Lingyun Ding / Darleny Cepin

1. Winter 2017 clubs – plenty of variety and parent volunteers.
2. Spring 2017 clubs – will start after Spring Break. Registration will be in March.
3. Suggest a parent lead for the various clubs – sports, arts, science. Need a team to work together to handle ad hoc gaps in support.

VP Teacher Support – Lauren King

1. Soups and Stews – Teacher Appreciation Luncheon - Feb 24.

VP Garden/Go Green – Beth Behrend / Bonnie Funciello

1. Spring Fling Fundraiser – Friday May 12th. Raises money for the garden and other related things.

VP School Services – Melissa Grzymala

2. No update.

New Business

1. Next PTO Meeting March 8 – Speaker Steve Cochrane.
2. Spirit Wear
 - a. Need to meet with the supplier
 - b. MyLocker
 - c. Will provide an update in March.
 - d. Need a volunteer to manage this.
3. Add a 'Help Wanted' classified section in the newsletter with specific instructions.
 - a. Eg. Help with McCaffrey Receipts and what needs to be done.
4. Approve funds for a water filling station? PTO approached to cover the cost of one which is \$800. The district has also a separate funding effort. Also need a commitment that it would be maintained. Need more information before a decision can be made.

Meeting ended at 10.30.