

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

Present:

1. Beth Leman (Co-President)	2. Betsy Armstrong
3. Melodie Schweitzer (Co-President)	4. Wendy Wilton
5. Michelle Fitzgerald (Secretary)	6. Alene Frankel
7. Ayesha Aftab (Treasurer)	8. Lingyun Ding
9. Eva Martin	10. Jill Morganstern
11. Leslie Schwartz	12. Alexandra Todorova
13. Wendy Bond	14. Tara Bansal
15. Greta Yedidia	16. Beth Behrend
17. Lara Winn	18. Julie Cho
19. Corine Caffort	20. Paul Suozzo
21. Shamoli Bhattacharjya	22. Bonnie Funicello

The meeting was called to order by the Co-Presidents at 8:35 AM.

Melodie began the meeting encouraging everyone to think of a positive thought:

- P Positive Emotions
- E Engagement
- R Relationships
- M Meaning
- A Accomplishment

**Special Guests & Speakers**

**Steve Cochrane, Superintendent of Princeton Public Schools**

Agenda

- Thank You – to the parents for their support
- Charter School Expansion Update
  - Expansion has been approved by the Commissioner
  - 54 children to Charter School – adds up to \$820k in tuition
  - Plan to appeal the decision but not optimistic. 22 Charter School expansions were approved around the state; 5 were rejected; only 88 Charter Schools in NJ.
  - Open Public Meetings Act litigation is still ongoing with a different judge – still proceeding with this parallel stream. Decision likely in May/June. We have a budget for this litigation. Question was asked could we set up a crowdsource fund so we as parents can donate back to the district. Steve will review this.
  - Betsy asked about Amicus brief????
  - What about JW? Working on a response. Data was based on first year of PARCC, many students opted out. NJASK had a long history of performance. It is not all about test scores.
- Strategic Plan
  - Mission: Prepare all students to lead lives of joy and purpose as knowledgeable, creative, and compassionate citizens of a global society
  - 60 people came together to develop the mission (teachers, administrators, parents, community etc.)
  - Development plan for the next 5 years on the following:
    - Every Child Known is the central theme

- Wellness
- Innovation
- Achievement
- Connectedness
- Differentiation and Diversity
  - Differentiation
    - Different types of learners
    - Teachers can differentiate through content, process and product according to student readiness, student interest and learning profile.
    - Multiple Intelligences – Linguistic, intrapersonal, interpersonal, musical, spatial etc. Schools traditionally focused on linguistic and logical-mathematical intelligences only.
  - Diversity – economic, racial, religious, culture etc.
    - Have held professional development workshops for teachers
- Program Reviews
  - Review what is working well and what is not working well to adjust path as necessary; Best practices; Teaching Strategies
  - Social Studies (2015-2016) – piloted in Riverside
  - Science – looking at getting kids to facilitate hands on learning
  - Health / PE / Wellness
  - Service Learning – Communicate Service; Sophomore requirement of 50 hours of service. Parents can sign up for focus groups. Melodie attended the Science focus group.
  - Performed a review (~89% of students took the survey) in PHS to look at various items – homework, stress, sleep level, academic integrity etc.
- Rising Enrollments
  - Current Numbers
    - PHS=1586
    - JW=766
    - RS=282
    - CP=369
    - JP=375
    - LB=344
    - Total=3722
  - New Developments (Avalon Bay etc.)
    - Butler Tract development is at least 10 years out
  - Demographic Study
    - Rising enrollment ~50-70 in PHS for next 2 years; will increase 5-7 years out due to current large G3
    - JW – will drop next year due to small G5, will then shoot up again due to large G3
    - CP and Riverside all see rising enrollment
  - Capacity Study has been completed for all of your buildings
  - Facility Expansion Proposal
  - Other Possibilities
    - Westminster Choir Campus – will see what Rider does, will they consolidate; this building is close to JW and PHS;

- Staffing Implications
- Q&A

**Co-Presidents report - Beth Leman, Melodie Schweitzer**

1. PTO Council Meeting Update – Beth Leman
  - a. Melodie will include notes on other meetings in the April minutes rather than review in the meeting.

**Secretary's Report – Michelle Fitzgerald**

Meeting Minutes from 2/8/2017 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. February Financials
  - a. The bank statements (read into the minutes after the meeting) are as follows:
    - i. The balance in the checking account as of 2/28/2017 is \$56,988.44.
    - ii. The balance in the money market account as of 2/28/2017 is \$40,743.84.

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

1. No update.

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

1. No update.

**VP Family Programs – Jessica Engelhart**

1. International Night – March 10 (Friday)
2. 5th Grade Social - March 31 (Friday – 6-8.30pm)

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

1. Spring 2017 clubs – will start after Spring Break. Registration will be in March.

**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 April 19 – Speaker Ed Cohen, Science Supervisor for PPS.

2. Paul Chapin – closing piece is called “One Voice”
  - a. Choral concert in April 05
  - b. Will include adults
  - c. Tom Shelton is the composer and is local – Westminster Choir College
  - d. He will have a workshop on March 20 with the kids
  - e. PTO – can we give Tom a little honorarium – he has said there is no fee – would be nice to give him something in appreciation

**Meeting ended at 9:40am.**