

Lyon/Pleasant Ridge PTA Minutes
January 12, 2007

President Chris Northwick opened the meeting at 9:15 a.m. in the Lyon School Multipurpose Room.

In Attendance: Kevin Dorken, Matthew Rich, Sue Raben, Katie Beck, Chris Northwick, Liz Price, Robin Hinrichs, Dee Gross, Deb McMahon, Jennifer Wirtz, Jen Farber, Breeland Nelson, Sabrina Briggs, Gloria Pedrelli, Kristi Carroll, Kristen Borth, Maggie Wall, Eileen Grant, Jakki Thomas, Lisa Daly, Leslie Howell, Beth Huber, Natalie Weber, Chessy Gould, Oya Akgun, Valerie Rosenberg, Sheila Watson, Kristin Miller, Linda Neely, Kristina Hourihane, Tricia Koff, Renee Rempe, Ellen Dean, Mij Kritzman, Electra Giannakopoulus, Virginia Thomas, Sandy Brennan, Kellie Kopach, Kathleen Butler, Lisa Dickholtz, Ana Cassorla, Kay Laurie, Cheryl Kasner, Bridget Cienkus, Beth Schmidt, Sue Swaringen, Laura Shaw, Susie Feldstein, Stacy Saef, Yuko Aimi, Pam Hartigan, Angie Kastsumakis,

I. Approval of the Minutes

The minutes of the December 12, 2006 meeting were approved.

II. Officer's Reports

Treasurer—Dee Dee Gross presented the monthly financial report (see attached).

There are two changes to the budget report this month. Global Language (item 9) is listed in the columns as revenue earned to date and expenses to date. This will help track the actual expenses of the program on an ongoing basis. The Holiday Helper program is also listed for the first time as a line item. \$1000.in expenses were added to this program at the December PTA meeting. Because of many donations in December the Holiday Helper program only ended up using a little of the budget approved money. Dee Dee has developed a set of "Committee Chair Financial Procedures" to explain expense and reimbursement procedures for all committees. These are available now on the table or by contacting Dee Dee after the meeting.

President—Chris Northwick congratulated Beth Schmidt on the birth of her daughter Amy on November 13th. She then thanked the Holiday Helper committee. IT is a small group that works on this project, and they work very hard. Their work is appreciated both by those who participate in the project and by those who receive its benefits. Chris then thanked Meg Carpenter for opening her house for the Holiday Luncheon.

Chris then reported that the District is seeking input from PTAs about the possibility of reducing class sizes. In an effort to garner feedback from parents for the School Board, the PTA is doing a survey. It is available from a link on the

Website. The results of the survey will be shared with the Board at the February 5th. Then at the February PTA meeting we will vote on the following motion: “We support District 34 investing an additional 3.5% in educational funds, or approximately \$1.4 million annually to lower class sizes as recommended by the District 34 Administration (20 students in grade K-2, 22 students in grades 3-5 and 26 students in grades 6-8)”. At the February 26th Board meeting the 4 PTAs will present the results of their votes.

In addition, Chris reported that PTA had budgeted \$50 for each teacher to spend for instructional aids of their choice. They can either submit receipts from a store of their choice or have a Learning Post gift certificate. 25 teachers took advantage of Learning Post certificate in December. Finally, the PTA Board has been talking about the intermediate school additions and the reconfiguration of the entrances at Lyon and Pleasant Ridge. Many questions have arisen. Brett Clark reported that John O’Connor is trying to arrange a discussion about the the reconfiguration of classrooms, about potential personnel changes in the Lyon and Pleasant Ridge office staff, and about traffic flow, maybe at the next PTA council meeting. Additional information about the meeting will be forthcoming.

PTA is beginning to plan for the next year. The first step is to identify a nominating committee to nominate member for Board positions. Hopefully, the committee will consist of 5 members—2 at large plus 3 Board members. The executive Board will consult with the committee, but not be members of it. Liz Price has already agreed to be the President of PTA next year, but usually about 50% of the Board positions change every year. Anyone who is interested in being on the nominating committee, notify Chris Northwick. Chris is also reviewing and revising the PTA volunteer forms used at registration. If anyone has changes, please contact Chris.

1st Vice President—Liz Price encouraged committee chairs to look in their mailboxes before you leave.

III. Teacher’s Representative Reports

Sue Raben—Sue represented the Lyon School teachers. She reported that Lyon is currently preparing to vote for the Monarch Book Award. There are 20 books nominated. Students need to read (or be read) at least 5. They then talk about them and vote on their favorite. She also reported that she had accompanied Debbie Shefren and Mary Kalogeropoulos to a Great Books seminar in November. The Great Books curriculum now focuses on interpretative questions, not just classic books. They have started to work with Mary’s class on forming interpretive questions in response to reading and will do a roundtable with the rest of the teachers next week. There will also be a visiting author coming at the end of February. The sheets have come home for book purchases. Please return them in a timely fashion.

Katie Beck—Katie reported for the Pleasant Ridge teachers. She stated that Pleasant Ridge needs a parent to volunteer for the playground equipment committee. The committee will be recommending a redesigned playground for the new addition at Pleasant Ridge. Email Robyn Campisano or Dr. Rich if you are interested. Katie Beck reported that the 3rd grade has started a new math unit of multiplication and division. They have also started reading Stone Fox to go with their Native American unit and will be doing a biography unit next. They will also have an in school field trip at the end of the month about magnets and electricity. The 4th graders have begun their Oregon Trail unit. They will do research on line along with other schools around the country doing the same unit. The 5th grade is beginning a science research paper on light and sound. This unit will mirror the research requirements at Attea and Springman. It serves as a good preparation for middle school.

IV. Committee Chair Reports

Holiday Helper—Deb McMahan thanked both principals for their assistance, and she thanked Kellie for sharing information. This year the program served 180 kids and 140 adults. It was an extra challenge. The committee got a huge response to the last minute emails with some very generous monetary donations. The program will probably come in at close to budget. In the next few months the committee will be exploring why there were so many kids unsponsored at the last minute for the last few years. The committee will work with Chris to set up an online survey to determine people's feelings about the program. In will explore changes in dates, changes in procedures, etc. After the results of the survey are gathered, we will vote on possible changes.

Benefit—Jen Farber reported that the benefit committee is working hard. Over the break, they worked on soliciting business contributions. Many have already come in. Laura Olson and Cathy O'Shaughnessy have begun working on the class gift baskets. Teacher gifts are also being collected. There has been a change - Amy Jacobson from Channel 5 will now be doing the live auction. The invitations are being finalized by Marcie McGovern. They will be mailed out in February. Jen asked PTA members to consider making personal donations, including donations of services. She also suggested that a few couples might want to get together to host a party and charge a certain amount for attendance. This would be a noncompetitive bid item. She also encouraged parents who rep jewelry, cookware, etc. to consider donating items or listing them on consignment. The next Benefit Committee meeting is Wednesday January 24th at 9:30 at Lyon. It is a team meeting, but anyone interested in working on the benefit is welcome.

Lyon/PR spring Book Fair—Breland Nelson reported that the book fair is in the very early stage of planning. There is a meeting scheduled today with Dr. Rich and the Pleasant Ridge librarian to begin planning. Traditionally, the Lyon fall book fair has been bigger and longer than the Pleasant Ridge book Fair, but this year the Pleasant Ridge will be 2 days and 2 nights with a preview the day before just like we do at Lyon. Dr. Rich would like to have time for Lyon students to come over

to Pleasant Ridge. Hopefully, the second night will be a special Lyon school night. The committee will eventually need help organizing volunteers and making decorations. They are also seeking an event chair to help plan Lyon School night. The book Fair will be held in conjunction with Literature Alive and the Dan Gutman author visit. Susie Feldstein is also working on activities from Dan Gutman's visit and Literature Alive. She is considering special decorations, and a possible essay contest. She has also been approached by some of the teachers about making big trifold posters of his books. Susie made a motion for the PTA to allocate \$400 to the Dan Gutman project. The money would come from the extra revenue from the Fall Book Fair. The motion was passed unanimously.

Jump Rope for Heart—Sabrina Briggs reported that Dr. Jones needs a lot of volunteers for the afternoon of February 15th to count money, sell T-Shirts, sell and dispense water, and provide snacks for the jumpers. Sandy Brennan will send Sabrina the list of people who have already volunteered. PTA is also considering a special spirit wear sale and maybe even a special Jump Rope T-shirt. Liz Price and Laura Shaw will coordinate this.

Cultural Enrichment—Kristi Carroll reported that next Wednesday Victor Paccini will be at Pleasant Ridge. He will present an assembly and then spend 2 days going into the classrooms to help the children to draw their dreams. On February 20th the Hubbard Street dance 2 will be performing at 10 a.m. They will be doing a 60-minute program with 6 dancers. Parents are welcome. Gloria Pedrelli at Lyon reported there will be an artist doing watercolor demonstrations all day on Wednesday January 18th in various classes. On February 7th Justin and Smart Hearts will perform a program of silly songs at 10 a.m. and 1:15 p.m.

School Board Meeting Report - Kristin Borth reported that the school board met on January 8, 2007. A Westbrook musical group performed with singing and music before the meeting. At the meeting they discussed the shortened school year and early release proposal.

Local School Council—Maggie Wall talked about the proposed International Night. It would celebrate the diversity in the school community. The committee is interested in including more people and brainstorming more ideas. They will be visiting the Honking Hoffman International Night on Jan 26th from 6:30-8:30. If you expressed interested in helping initially, your name has been forwarded to the committee. Anyone else who may be interested in helping, contact Kristina Hourihane.

Ellen Dean then made an announcement about a village committee that is looking into redeveloping Milwaukee Avenue. They will be asking for ideas about businesses, aesthetic improvements and redevelopment. If you would like to give input, there will be meetings for 5 days straight at the police station starting on Friday January 19th. For more information, contact Ellen or stop by the police station.

V. Guest Speaker— Sue Ellen Bohac Galligan, President of the District 34 Board of Education presented information about the District’s strategic plan and Bob Vincenti, Executive Director of Operational Services, discussed the District’s financial situation. Phil Collins and Jill Engel also talked about shortened year and early release. There is more information on all the issues and a parent survey about the shortened school year and the early release proposals on the District 34 website—www.glenview34.org

V. Principals’ Report—The principals’ reports were tabled until the next meeting due to lack of time.

VI. Unfinished/New Business
There was no unfinished/new business.

VII. Announcements—(Calendar Overview)
February 13, 2007-- PTA Meeting at Pleasant Ridge—Kathleen Hart, the District 34 Director of Student services will discuss special education and other student services offered by the district
February 15, 2007 Jump Rope for Heart 2:30-5:00 p.m. Pleasant Ridge School
March 3, 2007---PTA Benefit at the Northbrook Hilton

IX. Adjournment—Chris Northwick adjourned the meeting at 11:25 am