

Lyon/Pleasant Ridge PTA Minutes
March 16, 2007

President Chris Northwick opened the meeting at 9:15 a.m. in the Pleasant Ridge library.

In Attendance: Kevin Dorken, Matthew Rich, Chris Northwick, Liz Price, Robin Hinrichs, Dee Dee Gross, Jen Farber, Breeland Nelson, Kristen Borth, , Pam Hartigan, Tammy Burke, Ana Cassorla, Kristina Hourihane. Angie Katsumakis, Bridget Cienkus, Vicki Schurer, Kathleen Butler, Lisa Dickholtz, Denise Tener, Gina Brunswick, Kay Laurie, Cheryl Kasner, Sue Swaringen, Maggie Wall, Adrianna Pauletto, Natalie Weber

I. Approval of the Minutes

The minutes of the January 12, 2007 meeting were approved.

II. Officer's Reports

President—Chris Northwick thanked Sabrina Briggs for coordinating Jump Rope for Heart with Dr. Jones and Ms. Leckenby at Pleasant Ridge. This is the 1st year for this PTA position. It enabled PTA to assist more effectively in tallying pledges, organizing T-shirt orders and selling water bottles for this worthy cause. Jump Rope for heart raised over \$60,000.00 this year—a new record for Pleasant Ridge. Congratulations to all who pledged and helped.

Chris announced two special volunteer opportunities in the next few weeks. 1) The principals are requesting parents to assist with security for Election Day April 17th. Both schools are polling places. An additional 1-2 people would help each school monitor the extra people in the buildings. Volunteers are needed from 8:45-3:45 at Lyon and from 8:45-2:45 at Pleasant Ridge. 2) Volunteers are also needed for a 5th grade service project that is being done in conjunction with the Pleasant Ridge talent show. Miss Holaday's class is planning to plant vegetables in the Pleasant Ridge garden that will later be donated to the Northfield Food Pantry. They have researched what plants to grow and what supplies they need for this project. They will be selling healthy snacks at the talent show to raise money for the supplies. PTA is seeking volunteers to staff the Snack Shack at the talent show. Sign up sheets were passed around for volunteers for both events.

Chris also announced that plans are beginning to be made for the PTA for next year. She asked all committee chairs to review their budgets for this year and begin planning for next year. Please send DeeDee requests for your committee's budget for next year.

Chris also reported that the global language surveys are still being tallied. Because of possible changes to the program, there will be a separate

registration for the Global Language Program for next year. This will be sent out after the regular registration for Lyon and Pleasant Ridge, but before the end of the school year.

Chris said thank you to Kristina Hourihane and Ana Cassorla for all the work that they are doing for the first annual International Night.

She also announced that Stacy Saef is the nominating committee chairman for next year. All present PTA Board members should confirm their intention to stay on in their present position or desire for a new position with her. Also if anyone knows of anyone else who would like to join the Board, please let Stacy know.

Chris encouraged all parents to complete the District 34 survey at the website. It discusses class size, technology, communication, and other issues. At the last Board meeting, the district reduced class sizes for grades K-2 to 20 students per class. Chris reported that 103 Lyon and Pleasant Ridge parents completed our recent online class size survey. 90% of these parents felt that class sizes were too large. 86% of these parents fully supported that the Board of Education to spend the funds to lower the class size limits. Dr. Rich noted that class sizes were not reduced in grades 3-5 this year due to lack of space. This will probably be reviewed again next year after completion of the additions. Grades 6-8 did not want to reduce size without discussing the program changes along with it, so this was tabled until a later date as well. Dr. Rich also noted that to facilitate the extra sections of K-2 at Lyon, the Wesley all day kindergarten program may be located at PR next year. This will allow the older kids to partner with the younger kids in new way

Finally Chris expressed PTA's heartfelt thanks to Jen Farber and the entire benefit team for a great benefit.

1st Vice President—Liz Price asked all committee chairs to check their mailboxes. She also related that the state of Illinois has mandated an expansion of safe walking routes for schools. The state has dedicated money to develop these policies. Liz will be chairing a committee to identify safe walking routes for Lyon and Pleasant Ridge. Committee members should have children who walk to either Lyon or Pleasant Ridge. Issues will be considered such as: Needs for additional sidewalks, stop signs, etc. The work of this committee will begin in April and go on for the next year. Liz noted that 70% of money allotted by the state will go for infrastructure upgrades (stop signs, sidewalks). The rest will go for training and other one time costs, not salary for crossing guards.

Liz is also starting to look at the calendar for next year. Liz asked for a show of hands regarding the days and times of PTA meetings. Most members favored the days and times remaining the same. Liz also sent around a sheet for suggestions for topics and/or speakers for next year.

Treasurer—Dee Dee Gross presented the monthly financial report (see attached). She reiterated the importance of committee chairs assisting in budget planning for next year. Please look at the expenses and revenue that you had this year and send along comments for next year.

III. Committee Chair Reports

Benefit—Jen Farber reported that the benefit was a success. People had a great time. The committee had projected revenue of \$44,000 and made a little more than \$47,000. The expenses were a little higher than projected, but they included one time purchases of the software package and laptops. Jen noted that the teacher gifts pulled in \$5200. and the newly revamped class gifts brought in \$4500. The benefit had 160 items. Usually the benefit has 200 items, but this year we made more money because we focused on quality. Jen Farber also announced that most of the committee members want to continue on the committee next year. The committee will spend the rest of the year working on beginning plans for next year including the site and date. Dr Rich presented a signed poster and flowers for Jen and Michelle Allison for their work on the benefit.

Lyon/PR Spring Book Fair—Breland Nelson reported that the Book Fair committee is gearing up full force. The Book fair will be at Pleasant Ridge on May 23-24 in conjunction with Literature Alive. The committee will soon be sending out emails for volunteers. They are also still working on ideas for the 2nd night to encourage Lyon students and parents to attend. There will be an author visit with Dan Gutman, and Shelly Riskin, the Pleasant Ridge librarian, may do a power point on how to choose appropriate books for your children. Further details and more plans will be presented at the April meeting.

Fifth Grade Picnic—Pat Hartigan and Tammy Burke reported that the 5th grade picnic will be June 8th. The first planning meeting will be at 9:15 in the multipurpose room at Pleasant Ridge on Wednesday March 21st. The committee will be breaking down tasks into small pieces so it will be easy to sign up for a small job. The picnic will be structured differently this year. The committee is planning to do lots of team building activities. They also have already gotten a lot of their supplies donated: fresh fruit, pizza, hot dogs, etc. Hopefully, the PTA will give a T-shirt to each kid this year. In the past, parents have bought T-shirts, but that meant some kids did not get one. If anyone knows a sponsor who could help with the T-shirts, let Pat or Tammy know. The committee also encourages some 4th grade parents to attend and help this year in preparation for next year's picnic.

International Night— Kristina Hourihane reported that International Night will be May 4th at Pleasant Ridge (hours TBA). She reported that the committee is highlighting 8 countries so far. The countries were chosen because Lyon and Pleasant Ridge families offered to sponsor them. They are: Italy, Ireland, Germany, Poland, India, China, Greece, and Norway. There will an international café that will hopefully include food donated by local ethnic restaurants. The

committee is also planning performances by ethnic dance troupes. The kids will be given passports at the door and will visit all the countries to complete an information “scavenger hunt”. Each country will have a classroom with displays of artifacts and an easy craft or activity relevant to that country. If the students fill out their question hunt sheet, they will win a small prize. Tickets will be sold for food, but prices will be kept low so that everyone can participate. Anyone who wants to help or sponsor another country, contact Kristina or Ana Cassorla.

Chris Northwick noted that International Night is an addition to the PTA events this year. She proposed that Kristina Hourihane and Ana Cassorla be added to the PTA Board as chairs of the International Night committee. The motion passed. Then Kristina Hourihane asked for approval to spend up to \$2000.00 for International Night. She stated that she did not think that the committee would need that much and would return the unspent money. Chris noted that International Night is planned as a community building, not a fundraising event. She also noted every fundraising event this year has netted more than we anticipated. A motion passed and the \$2000 budget was approved.

NSSSED—Bridget Cienkus made announcements about 2 upcoming NSSSED events.

1) There will be a workshop on Response to Intervention on March 20th from 9:30-11:30 at New Trier High School. 2) In celebration of National Autism Awareness Month, the NSSSED autism task force is sponsoring open houses at the area police stations. Parents of autistic children are encouraged to bring their children in to meet the officers and make the officers aware of the kids and their problems. The District will be passing out profile forms for families to fill out about their children. The Glenview Open House will be Saturday April 14th from 2-4 p.m. at the Lake Avenue Police station. Additional information will be coming out in the school newsletters.

Cultural Enrichment— Chris Northwick reported for Kristi Carroll. The next assembly at Pleasant Ridge is “Novel Ideas” on Wednesday April 11th at 8:30 and 9:30. It is a two part assembly where the children write stories after the first assembly, send them in, and then the performers return in May to perform eight of the stories.

School Board Meeting Report --Kristin Borth reported that the school board lowered class sizes in K-2 at the last meeting. Early dismissal and early release was discussed but was not voted on. Kristin also discussed a homework helper program in the Henking/Hoffman cluster. Some volunteers from one of the synagogues pick kids up from school and help them with homework 1 day a week. When the kids finish their homework, games and other activities are provided. The program focuses on bilingual students. Chris and Kristin stated that our cluster might want to consider a similar program sometime in the future.

Teacher Appreciation—Tammy Burke discussed how valuable our teachers are to our kids’ education. She suggested that we increase what we do for teacher

appreciation week. Joanne Eenigenburg is in charge of this committee and will discuss this at the next meeting. Teacher Appreciation week is scheduled for May 7-11.

Parent Educators—Lisa Dickholtz discussed that the week of April 23rd is National TV Turn off Week. She suggested that PTA offer more ideas/activities for families during this time. Lyon will be having a Family reading night on Tuesday night April 24th. Lisa proposed 2 ideas: 1) 1 week before we help the kids take ownership of the plan to turn off the TV. She suggested that teachers spend 15-20 minutes of school time to have the kids write ideas of what they would like to do during this time. Have these sent home with the kids. 2) Room moms could also try to plan one group activity, class get together, or activity that could be done at home and displayed to promote what the kids were doing instead of watching TV. Lisa will draft a note for the room moms to get feedback and encourage participation.

Grant Committee—Kay Laurie announced that the PTA will be funding teacher grants this spring with the proceeds of the benefit. Sign up if you want to be a part of the grant approval committee. The committee review process will be done in April, and the reviewed grants will be presented for PTA approval in May.

IV. Guest Speaker-- Kimberley Radzinski, District 34 Director of Food Services

V. Principal's Report

Lyon School—Kevin Dorken reported this is an extremely exciting time of year. 98 kids registered for Lyon at Kindergarten registration last night. Mr. Dorken stated that Lyon is planning for 7 sections of Kindergarten, 8 sections of 1st grade, and 9 sections of 2nd grade for next year; however, with this many students already registered, Lyon could end up with 8 sections of Kindergarten. They will know more in June after the Ice Cream social. Mr. Dorken said thanks to the volunteers who helped for Kindergarten registration.

Mr. Dorken announced that the 1st and 2nd graders are preparing for spring assessments. These are used to determine academic growth from the fall and to determine what things are needed for before next fall. ISEL assessments are coming in early May. Math assessments are only done at the end of the year. Reading CBMs will also be done around that time. At this time, MAP tests have only been given 3-8 grades. NWEA has created a MAP assessment for K-2. Now Lyon is trying this out in 1 classroom at a time. It is more involved than the 3rd -5th grade assessment, so the trial will work out the procedure before the tests are given to all the students.

Pleasant Ridge School—Dr. Matthew Rich reported ISATs were this week. He thanked parents for supporting the kids getting there. There were only 2 tardies for 3 days this week and none one day this week. He stated that he hoped that Pleasant Ridge could continue having all kids arriving on time. The teachers

thought hard about new ways to help the children be successful on their tests and made adjustments accordingly. Dr. Rich also noted that Pleasant Ridge has 60 kids who are 2nd language learners who took a different test (IMAGE). Parents should also have gotten the ISAT test scores for last year last year. We are hoping that we will have this year's by June. The Pleasant Ridge staff review the scores to see how the school compares to the state and if any adjustments should be made. Dr Rich stated that Pleasant Ridge students arrive exceeding state standards. 88-90% of incoming 3rd graders exceed the state reading standard and 90-95% of incoming 3rd graders exceed state math standards. Pleasant Ridge had a fabulous Jump Rope for Heart. As of today, they have raised \$60, 090. Pleasant Ridge's talent show will be March 22nd with performances at 1p.m. and 7p.m.. Dr. Rich acknowledged that all kids did not make their auditions, but they are trying to include all the kids in some way. In conclusion Dr. Rich said thank you to the benefit committee and to all the people who came out for it to the benefit.

VI. Announcements—(Calendar Overview)

April 10, 2007 PTA meeting at 9:15 at Pleasant Ridge School—Guest speaker---
Kathleen Hart, the district 34 Director of Student Services discussed special education/NSSSED and other student services offered by the district.

May 4, 2007 International Night

May 23-24 Lyon/PR Spring Book Fair at Pleasant Ridge School

IX. Adjournment—Chris Northwick adjourned the meeting at 11:00 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robin Hinrichs
PTA Secretary