

Lyon/Pleasant Ridge PTA Minutes
September 8, 2006

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

In Attendance: Kevin Dorkin, Matthew Rich, Chris Northwick, Liz Price, Robin Hinrichs, Dee Dee Gross, Miriam Biales, Angie Katsumakis, Sandy Brennan, Yuko Aimi, Kellie Kopach, Joanne Eenigenburg, Rula Marziani, Meg Carpenter, Maggie Wall, Eileen Grant, Vicki Schurer, Kathleen Butler, Gloria Pedrelli, Kristi Carroll, Lisa Dickholtz, Amy Schneider, Dianna Gordon, Denise Tener, Ana Cassorla, Gina Brunswick, Kay Laurie, Kristen Borth, Cheryl Kasner, Bridget Cienkus, Jen Farber, Jeanne Freeman, Breland Nelson, Beth Schmidt, Gloria Cabrera, Deb McMahon, Jennifer Wirtz, Mairead Smialek, Mimi Bommarito, Jen Farber, Betsy Garvey, Natalie Weber, Brett Clark, Ellen Dean, Leslie Howell, Eleni Athas, Karen Friedman, Peggy Hopkins, Peggy Callas, Laura Heyser, Anne Prikos

I. Approval of the Minutes

The minutes of the June 6, 2006 meeting were approved.

II. Officer's Reports

A. Treasurer—Dee Dee Gross presented the final budget for the 2006-2007 school year. (See attached). She noted that the year ended with \$14,500 in revenue over expenses - \$2,200 more than anticipated. Six line items were reviewed that changed from the preliminary budget approved last June. They were:

- 1) A \$1500 increase to Office supplies to fund the purchase of two laptop computers for PTA
- 2) A \$450 increase in printing expenses to fund the printing of the PR bi-weekly newsletter out of house
- 3) A \$200 increase to Art Enrichment to fund the purchase of additional/updated artwork for both schools.
- 4) A \$250 increase to PTA Council to fund expenses related to PTA Council
- 5) Global Language has been added as a budget item (See Line 12 in the budget)
- 6) Included Interest Income of \$400

Dee Dee noted that the net worth report shows that we have accumulated excess revenues over the past several years that we will use this year by increasing wish list (PTA School Grant) expenditures and making some delayed purchases, such as the laptops computers.

Motion made, seconded and approved to accept the new budget.

B. President—Chris Northwick gave an official welcome to the new principals, Matt rich and Kevin Dorkin. She then discussed the theme for PTA for this year:

“When you get involved in your child’s life, you child does better.” Chris then thanked everyone for coming and being a part of PTA this year. Hopefully, PTA will grow in active members this year. She then thanked board members who had been hard at work all summer setting up for the beginning of school: Mimi Bommarito and Laura Shaw for designing, selling, and distributing school spiritwear; Debbie Berg and Mimi Bommarito for organizing and distributing school supplies; Sue Swaringen and Lynn Howland for organizing volunteers for lice checks; Joanne Eenigenberg for providing treats for the teachers first day; Angie Katsumakis for planning the school open houses; Sandy Brennan for creating a data base of all the volunteers; Meg Carpenter and Rula Marziani for setting up the luncheon and first day bagels at Pleasant Ridge; Denise Tener, Gina Brunswick and Ana Cassorla for revamping the Global Language program; Kellie Kopach for sending out summer emails and electronic communication; Amy Schneider for revamping the Lyon Art Enrichment program; Miriam Biales and Denise Gross for putting together the final budget and overseeing the finances, Eileen Grant and Maggie Wall for recruiting the room moms and setting up preparations for curriculum nights; and Robin Hinrichs and Liz Price for assisting in preparations for this meeting.

Chris Northwick identified 2 key goals for the year: 1) Communication: We hope to increase use of the Lyon/PR PTA website to spread information about school and PTA events. We also have over 600 email addresses on our PTA email list. 2) There will be Special topics and speakers at each PTA meeting this year to provide parents with access to more information about our school and issues that affect our children.

C. 1st Vice President—Liz Price thanked Chris Northwick for all her hard work this summer. She instructed all PTA board people to check your boxes for mail and pick up a binder if you need one. Please sign the sheet if you take a binder. This year agendas will be emailed in draft form before each meeting. Please respond to Liz if you would like to speak at the meeting. Liz will then finalize the agendas and send them out 1 week before the meeting. We are trying to streamline the meetings to allow for time for speaker so every committee does not need to report at every meeting.

III. Teacher’s Representative Reports

Debbie Shefren—Ms. Shefren stated she would be the Lyon School teacher representative for this year. Lyon is beginning a special program called Pinwheels for Peace next week. (See Principal’s report below for details.) The teachers at Lyon are all adjusting to their new classes and that is going well. Part of this process involves formal and informal assessments. All kindergarten students received an initial assessment in May. All new students enrolling since then have received an assessment in the past 2 weeks. First and second graders have received their fall tests of early literacy to determine the need for reading support. Second graders have also

concluded their CBM fluency measurement. Reading support is available for all students identified through these assessments. Parents will be hearing about the results soon. Reading support should begin the week of 9/25.

Bobby Johnson— Mr. Johnson, a third grade teacher at Pleasant Ridge School, stated that Pleasant Ridge would be sending rotating teacher reps to PTA meetings this year. He was delighted to be here for the first meeting. He thanked the PTA for all work we do: supplying bagels on the first day of school, planning and staffing walk-in days, sending teacher treats, and running the school store. He also mentioned that the work that room moms do is especially helpful for the teachers. He reported that Pleasant Ridge is off to great year. There has been a lot of change to adapt to, but that the change has been great. He especially thanked Dr. Rich for his enthusiasm, which has been contagious to all the staff. He predicted that this would be great year with everyone working together.

IV. Committee Chair Reports

PTA Publicity—Angie Katsumakis reported that she had seen a lot of high energy at both schools. She noted that people were waiting at the doors for Lyon's Open House to begin. She thanked all the parents that helped at the Open House events and stated that PTA had been able to provide goodie bags for the kids who were new to the school. She also discussed some possible events to encourage some new members for PTA. She suggested the possibility of a spa night, a golf night at Dicks, or a movie night at one of the schools. These events would be aimed at letting parents have a chance to sit and talk, meet other parents, and hopefully get involved. If anyone knows someone who would host a spa night, movie or golf night, let Angie know.

Volunteer Database—Sandy Brennan has been working on the PTA database. She asked that room parents please send back the sheets of information on their classes. Hopefully next week Sandy will send out revised spreadsheets to room parents and chairs of committees listing emails, phone, etc. about possible volunteers. If anyone needs assistance with the information, contact Sandy.

Directory—Yuko Aimi reported that work on the directory has begun. If anyone has any information that they want to clarify, contact Yuko by email. The directory should come out the end of October or early November. At the end of October Yuko will be looking for volunteers to help her put it together.

Electronic Communication—Kellie Kopach reported that she had sent out first email. If you did not get it, contact her. She also passed out a schedule of upcoming emails. The schedule shows the purpose of the email, the date that Kellie needs information, and the delivery date. If you have an event that you want to publicize in a specific way, send the information to Kellie by deadline. Remember she has to get all the information approved by the principals before she sends it out.

Staff Appreciation—Joanne Eenigenburg reported that they provided a snack breakfast for the PR staff before school started. It was a success. She is looking forward to staff appreciation week in May.

Hospitality—Rula Marziani and Meg Carpenter started something new this year providing snacks the first day of school at Pleasant Ridge. They would appreciate feedback on their effort. They then invited the board to the luncheon today in the Lyon resource center.

Room Parent Program—Maggie Wall and Eileen Grant reported that the room moms are doing a great job. The process is becoming much more organized and worked well at both curriculum nights. They said “Thank you” to the room moms for coming to the PTA meeting. Maggie Wall also stated that the Lyon room moms were going to try to put together a small group meeting about equity in teacher gifts and money requests. Maggie will send out an email soon with more details.

Pumpkinfest—Vicki Schurer reported that plans are going well. She already has over a 100 volunteers on her list. She discussed that in the past PTA has sold cotton candy at Pumpkinfest. It hasn’t sold that well or been very good. She is exploring selling something else this year. She suggested possibly magnetic bumper stickers instead. A show of hands of the members showed interest in this. Kellie Kopach will get us more information on costs and availability.

Cultural Enrichment—Miriam Biales, Gloria Pedrelli, and Kristi Carroll reported on plans for the fall. Kristi Carroll stated that Pleasant Ridge’s 1st assembly will be Dr. Rich sometime in Sept. The date has not yet been finalized. Gloria and Kristi went to a showcase this week at Center East to see what programs are. They found some good possibilities. They reminded PTA that parents are always welcome to attend assemblies and that pictures of the assemblies will always be available on the school and PTA website. The 1st Lyon assembly will be Thursday September 14th. It is the Imagination Theater’s play on Respect. It will be at 10 am and 1:30p.m.

Parent Education and Park District Happenings—Lisa Dickholtz reported that the Parents in Partnership Workshop be will on November 11th at Attea. She passed around a sheet requesting specific workshop ideas in the areas of child behavior, nutrition, and education, She also asked if anyone had ideas of people that might be interested in being a guest speaker to list those as well.

Park District Happenings in Glenview: The Heritage Center will be opening on September 16th at Wagner Farm. This will allow farm to be open all year round. It houses a Museum, science classrooms, a general store, and a green house. It will support more field trips and offering for families. The new playgrounds at Attea and Springman are finished, and the kids have been very excited about them. These are also open to the public. The Park District Foundation, a non-profit

organization that has given 2 million to Park district projects, financed the playgrounds. Our PTA also contributed to this project.

Art Enrichment—Amy Schneider and Dianna Gordon reported that they are implementing changes to the program this year. Amy has developed a series of 10-12 standardized lesson plans for artwork that exists at Lyon. Parents can use these or adjust them as they wish. They have also been trying to prioritize the artwork that children are exposed to each day. These are now displayed on the walls around the school. The art used in the program this year will be linked to the classroom curriculum and Mrs. Tapia's art class. The objectives of the program will be for the students to be able to: 1) Identify the masterpiece, 2) identify the artist and 3) name 1 interesting fact about the masterpiece. All lessons plans are multimedia. There will be reading, an art concept, an art (not craft) project, and music A CD attached to each lesson plan to serve as background. This will be the "masterpiece of the month". There are 10 to 12 - 60 minutes lesson plans. Each is in six 10-minute segments. The parent can use whatever fits the individual class and the time span allotted. The lesson plans include all supplies. There will be training session on Sept 27th for all art parents. By next year Amy and Dianna hope to catalogue all the artwork that is available at Lyon and for K, 1st, and 2nd. This will be expanded to PR soon. For more information, contact Amy and Dianna. They still need some more volunteers. Donna is cataloging the art pieces at PR and is going to figure out how that can tie into the curriculum.

Global Language—Gina Brunswick reported that the Global language program starts Monday with 83 students up from 61 last year. One of the teachers has a vocabulary list that will be on website. There will also be a progress report page that will be distributed throughout the year. PTA has also hired an attendance person at PR who will notify parents when their children do not attend.

Wish List—Kay Laurie reported that last spring the suggestion was made that we get teachers to identify their "wishes/needs" in the fall and let this determine our fundraising goal for the benefit. The new process is called The PTA School Grant review process. This fall the committee will distribute to the teachers soon for them to identify needs. There will be a review committee made up from PTA members. The review committees will meet with the principals to review the forms and determine the needs. This will then determine our fundraising goals for the benefit. If you interested in being on one of the review committees, contact Kay Laurie.

Lyon Book Fair—Susie Feldstein reported that she had attended the Scholastic book fair workshop this week and was excited about their offerings for this year. The Book Fair is scheduled for Nov 15-17. There will be a Pizza night the first night, and they are going to try to do plan something special on the second night as well. Susie reported that she identified a credit from a previous year's book fair that PTA will need to determine how to best use. She also reminded everyone that

besides the PTA cash profits from the Book Fair, the school uses profit towards getting twice that value in books, the teachers and kids on free and reduced lunch all get \$5.00 certificates and PTA buys all teacher wish list books that don't get purchased by parents.

School Supplies Program-- Debbie Berg reported that the school supply program overall sold 285 supply kits. She presented her preliminary financial reporting stating that they were able to fund 23 supply kits for kids at Lyon on free and reduced lunch. This year they did purchase some Lyon School pencils and folders. These have gotten some mixed feedback from teachers. They will consider whether to do this again next year. There is approximately \$900 that will go towards the overall PTA budget. The figures are still being finalized.

Sportswear Program-- Mimi Bommarito modeled the new Pleasant Ridge t-shirt. She reported that this year a lot of merchandise was ordered in advance so please buy some of the new designs. Shirts are available for purchase today and/or order forms can be picked up and sent in to Lyon or Pleasant Ridge. School Supplies at Pleasant Ridge were done differently this year. They were available for pick up before school started allowing parents to label them in advance and be ready the first day of school. The process seemed to go well and will probably be repeated next year.

School Board Meeting Report-- Kristin Borth reported that the Springman and Attea playgrounds are completed. The district is presently interviewing professional construction companies to add on to the three intermediate schools. Proposals will be discussed at the next board meeting and hopefully construction will begin on at least some of the projects next summer. The Board also added money for additional support services for the middle schools similar to the reading support programs in the primary and intermediate schools.

Glenview Educational Foundation—Chris Coleman reported that the nonprofit Glenview educational foundation is holding its annual benefit event Nov 4 at Glen View Club in Golf. Teachers can apply to GEF for grants for special educational needs and projects that are not funded by the Board of Education. She urged PTA members to consider attending and contributing.

V. Guest Speakers—Topic—School Safety

John O'Connor from District 34 Administration, Connie Ryszma, District 34 Transportation Coordinator, Terry Urbonowski, Sergeant, Glenview Police Department, Kevin Dorkin, Principal of Lyon School, Dr. Matthew Rich, Principal of Pleasant Ridge School discussed the importance to school safety. See attached for highlights of the talk.

VI. Principal's Report

Lyon School—Kevin Dorkin reported that Lyon School is off to fantastic start with children, parents and staff all working hard. He appreciates everyone's help. Next week

Lyon School will begin a Pinwheels for Peace project. This idea came from the librarian Sue Rabin. Each child will have the opportunity to plant a Pinwheel on the grounds outside the school. The project will begin with an assembly on the lawn on September 11th. The project will include elements from all the Fine Arts disciplines. The art classes will make the pinwheels with poems about peace on the back. Music classes will be composing music about peace and music that sounds like pinwheel movement. Drama classes will work on elements of movement similar to those of a pinwheel. The first pinwheels will be planted on the lawn on Sept 21 and the pinwheel garden all will be planted by the 28th. The study of pinwheels will culminate with holiday program themed with peace.

Pleasant Ridge School—Dr. Matthew Rich thanked PTA for enabling the newsletter to be printed off site. It was taking up a lot of office and instructional time. The newsletter will also be available online. Kellie Kopach will be sending out email announcements to tell people when the newsletter is online. The email edition will have clearer, color pictures of the students, so you may enjoy it more. To receive the online version only send a request to Dr. Rich at: Mrich@glenview34.org, and you will no longer receive the printed version. Dr. Rich thanked the parents who came in to help prepare textbooks. He also thanked the Lyon Parents who helped with curriculum night to allow Pleasant ridge parents to visit their child's classroom

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

VIII. Announcements—(Calendar Overview)

- October 10—Next PTA Meeting 9:15 in the Pleasant Ridge Learning Center
Guest Speaker—Brian Wegley, GBS principal to discuss finances and needs at GBS
- September 11—Start of the Global Language Program
- September 14---Lyon Cultural Enrichment
- September 21---PR School Pictures
- September 29---Lyon School Pictures
- October 20---Pumpkinfest (4:30 p.m.)
- November 11---Parents in Partnership workshop at Attea

Information about Traffic Safety around Lyon and Pleasant Ridge Schools

Whenever there is a school bus stopped with the red STOP arm out and its lights flashing, you **MUST STOP** even if the bus is parked in a school parking lot. If you go around a stopped bus with its arm out, you risk a \$250.00 ticket.

When there is a yellow line in the middle of the street (like there is on Sunset Ridge in front of Pleasant Ridge School), this denotes a no passing zone. In all No Passing Zones, U-Turns are illegal; consequently, do not make a U-Turn into the drop off lane by the Pleasant ridge playground. In the same vein, it is legal to turn left off Lake Avenue or Waukegan Road into Lyon School, but it is **ILLEGAL to drive** down the median on Lake Avenue or the double turn lane on Waukegan before you turn. They will ticket, if they see you.

It is Illinois State Law to stop for pedestrians in crosswalks; consequently, stop for all kids walking or biking in the crosswalks near the schools.

If your child rides the bus, meet your child on the side of the street that the bus door opens on, then while the bus is still stopped, cross the street in front of the bus. Tell your child to tell the bus driver that he must cross the street, then make eye contact with the bus driver. The bus driver can see any oncoming or turning traffic and will wave you across the street when it is safe.

Also note the bus drivers are trained to never let adults on the bus for the children's safety, so if you need to speak to the driver, stand at the street beside the bus.

There has been some concern about street safety around Pleasant Ridge School. The Glenview Police Department and Cook County are presently doing traffic studies and changing signage in the area. When results are completed, traffic signs, flashing lights, or other things may be adjusted. We will keep you updated when information is available.

If you have questions about school safety, feel free to contact John O'Connor at the District Office or joconnor@glenview34.org

If you have questions about bus safety, feel free to contact Connie Ryszma, District 34 Director of Transportation at cryszma@glenview34.org

If you general traffic questions, contact Theresa Urbanowski, Sergeant of the Glenview Police Department at (847) 901-6021 or turbanowski@glenview.il.us