

## Lyon/Pleasant Ridge PTA Minutes

April 8, 2008

President Kristin Borth opened the meeting at 9:15a.m. in the Pleasant Ridge Library.

In Attendance: Kevin Dorken, Matthew Rich, Kristen Borth, Robin Hinrichs, Miriam Biales, , Chris Northwick, Laura Olsen, Mary Kalogeropoulos, Ana Cassorla, Jen Roberts, Susie Feldstein, Sue Swaringen, Sabrina Briggs, Deb McMahon, Karen Friedman, Jen Farber, Kate Leckenby, Cheryl Kasner, Ellie Walsh, Tammy Burke, and Mary Hershey.

### I. Approval of the Minutes

The minutes of the March 11, 2008 meeting were approved.

### I. Officer's Reports

President—Kristin Borth presented the President's report in Liz Price's absence. Local School Council elections are coming up. Pleasant Ridge needs a new representative. This is a 2 year commitment. You need to have a child enrolled in Pleasant Ridge for 2008-2009 and 2010. If you are interested in this position, look for an application in your child's backpack in the next few weeks. Kristin announced that Liz will be organizing a "closet cleaning" of the PTA closet in the Lyon School basement on May 9<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>. She alerted committee chairs that if your committee has supplies in the closet, please come and help sort your stuff to make sure that it won't get purged.

Kristin also announced that PTA will be changing spiritwear suppliers for next year. This decision was made to streamline to ordering process and to make it easier to transfer the committee to a new chair every year. With the new supplier there will be one spiritwear sale in the fall and another in the spring. There will be 5 items available for each school, and all items will be preordered and delivered to the school with the child's name and classroom clearly labeled. We are also considering having a spirit day once a month at each school next year.

Kristin and Chris Northwick also announced that PTA registration will be attempting to go online for next year. Chris is working on a Pay Pal option that would allow PTA dues to be paid online. The District will definitely be doing school registration online. It will be beginning May 1<sup>st</sup>. Hopefully PTA will be able to have a link to this process. Details will be forthcoming. Look for them.

Kristin made the following general announcements:

1) District 34 is starting a new task force to study the uses for a new school building. The District is projecting an increase of 1,000 new students by 2012. This will necessitate building a new school. The District task force will be looking at the how to use the building. More information will be coming later in the year.

2) The District PTA Council will be placing an ad in the Glenview Announcements to thank vendors that have donated supplies and services to the PTAs in the District. IF any committee chairs have vendors to include on the list, send them to Robin Hinrichs by mid-May.

3) Thursday April 24<sup>th</sup> has been designated Family Night by the District. There will be no homework. Families are encouraged to plan an activity to do together. This is during TV Turn Off Week. There will be more information coming in the backpacks in the next couple weeks about activities available during TV Turn Off Week.

4) Committee Chairs need to review their job descriptions. Please make any additions and/or corrections before the June meeting. At that time your records and information will be passed on to the new committee chairs. There will also be an end-of-the-year luncheon after the June meeting.

Kristin also stated that she is beginning to plan the calendar for meetings and events for next year. She asked for a show of hands about the PTA meeting times/dates. She suggested the following options: 1) keep all meetings on Tuesday, 2) move back to alternating Tuesday and Friday, or 3) one or two evening meetings. If anyone has input, let Kristin know.

Treasurer—Miriam reported that on April 17<sup>th</sup> she, Liz, Laura will be creating a provisional budget for next year. This budget will be presented at the May meeting. Committee chairs should look at their revenue and expenses, and let them know if changes need to be made for next year.

## **II. Teachers' Representative Reports**

Mary Kalogeropoulos reported about the storytelling committee at Lyon. They are creating a visual display to culminate their yearlong study on storytelling. This study has been done throughout the school in individual classrooms as well as through the fine arts team. They have decided that for young children, the children's story is synonymous with their family story. They have developed 2 ideas. They are developing a montage of the families at Lyon. Each child has been asked to bring in a picture of their family that will be included in a montage of all the families at Lyon School. These will be displayed prominently in the hallways. The children have also been asked to bring a 4x6 note card stating one thing that the child's whole family shares. The note cards will also be displayed throughout the building.

Ms Lakenby reported about the fitness and nutrition program being implemented at Pleasant Ridge. She stated that 50 students and staff members have started training for a 5K race. They are training at recess and after school. The race will be run at the beginning of May. This is open to 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grades. Kids can still join if they want. Ms Leckenby also announced that 2 of the 4<sup>th</sup> grade classes have been studying nutrition for the last month. The physical education teachers are expanding this to all the classes next week. The students will be discussing and playing games to identify “Go Foods”, “Slow Foods” and “Whoa Foods”. Hopefully, this will help the students make more nutritious choices. Finally, Ms. Leckenby showed some video clips of the students recent dance creations.

### **III. Committee Chair Reports**

*International Night-* Susie Feldstein and Sue Swaringen reported that International Night is May 2<sup>nd</sup>. They are very excited about the preparations. There is a volunteer meeting right after this morning’s PTA meeting. Stay if you would like to help. They are seeking volunteers. They need a person to head the decoration committee; people to run country rooms; and volunteers to pass out tickets, etc. that night. There will be a few changes in International Night this year. The café will open the festivities at 5:30. At 6:00, there will be a parade of nations and then the country rooms will open and the entertainment will begin. The committee has rooms for: China, India, Japan, Italy, Ireland, and Germany. They are working on people to man rooms for Greece, Korea, Mexico, France and Poland. They assured members that heading a room is not a hard thing to do. You just put together a craft and set up the room that night. Please call Sue and Susie if you have any questions. Also if anyone knows a restaurant that would be interested in donating any ethnic food for the night, let them know.

*Spring Book Fair—*It was announced that volunteers are needed for the Book Fair. If you are interested, contact Breland Nelson. Chris Northwick announced that author Kevin O’Malley will be at Pleasant Ridge on May 22<sup>nd</sup>. He will be at the Book Fair to sign books Thursday night. Students will be able to pre-order signed books. The order forms will go home on Friday. This year, instead of providing a \$15. gift certificate for students on free and reduced lunch to buy books at the Book Fair, these students will be able to spend that \$15 for signed books by Kevin O’Malley. There will also be a T-Shirt that students can purchase to go with the author visit.

*Cultural Enrichment—*Cheryl Kasner reported that Pleasant Ridge has had all of its Cultural Enrichment assemblies for the year. The committee will be paying for the poet for Literature Alive, however. She will also begin working on the first assembly

for next year. Kevin Dorken reported that Lyon is looking forward to Ricky Recycle's assembly on April 18<sup>th</sup> and the Jesse White tumblers for Field Day June 6<sup>th</sup>.

*Fifth Grade Picnic*—Ellie Walsh reported that the committee has begun working on the 5<sup>th</sup> grade picnic. The picnic will be similar to last year's. The students will start out at Pleasant Ridge. They will work to Cole Pak for team building activities and a picnic and then return for a D.J. and dancing for the afternoon. Cindy Rusher will be there speaking about the Olympics. She will show her medals, talk about team building, and the possibility of a Chicago Olympics. If anyone wants to volunteer or knows of anyone who would like to donate food or supplies for the picnic, let the committee know.

*Grant Committee*—Robin Hinrichs announced that PTA has \$15,000 allocated for spring grants. Dr. Rich stated that the Pleasant Ridge teachers are very excited about writing grants this spring. All the grant applications from both schools will be evaluated by the principals, PTA executive committee and a parent group before funding. Robin Hinrichs passed around a sign-up sheet for volunteers to help evaluate grants. This process will hopefully be completed the week of May 5-9.

*Teacher Appreciation*—Ana Cassorla and Sabrina Briggs reported that Teacher Appreciation Week will be the week of May 5th. There will be a series of fun events for the school staff, including a breakfast and a raffle the last day that the principals will be conducting. It should be a fun week. Anyone who has suggestions or wants to help, let Ana and Sabrina know.

*TV Turn Off Week*—Kristin Borth announced that TV Turn Off Week is April 21-25. There are a few things planned at each school. Thursday is District wide no homework night. Tuesday morning, April 22<sup>nd</sup> Margaret Read McDonald will be coming to Lyon. She will have an evening storytelling program at Springman that afternoon. Kevin Dorken announced that since Ms. Mac Donald will only be doing 1 show at Lyon in the morning, afternoon kindergarten will meet in the morning that day. Check with your teacher if you have any questions. The Pleasant Ridge Tlaen Show will be Friday Night April 25th. They are starting auditions now.

*Environmental*—Jen Roberts reported that April 21-25 will also be "Love the earth week" at Pleasant Ridge. There will be Waste Free Week for lunch and snack all week and Planet Protector announcements each morning. There will be a Milk jug challenge in gym on Tuesday. Wednesday is walk, ride or carpool to school day. If anyone has any more ideas, questions or suggestions, contact Marcia Bellair. Mary Hershey announced that the school are collecting shoes for the "Nike reuse a shoe" program. There is a bin outside at Pleasant Ridge now and will be one at Lyon beginning next week. The shoes will be donated to Nike who will make them into

new playgrounds. Lyon will also be encouraging waste free lunches. They will be doing chalk pictures on the playground during recess, dedicating the tree from the reusable bag sale and picking up trash around the grounds. The Green Team also has art parent lesson plan that is environmentally focused.

Nominating Committee—Laura Olson reported that PTA has many volunteers for the committees for next year. There are some spots still open, however. These include: 1) 1st VP--This person will be an assistant to Kristin for next year and then be the President for 2009-2010. If anyone knows someone who would be interested, let Liz know. 2) Assistant Treasurer This person helps the Treasurer on big cash nights, learns procedures, and is the Treasurer for 2009-2010. 3) Benefit chair. This person coordinates the benefit. There are very good subcommittee chairs already signed up to help. We just need someone to coordinate it all. You can talk to Jen Farber or Liz about this job. There are also a few smaller roles, if anyone but needs a more limited job.

#### **IV. Principals' Reports**

Kevin Dorken—Mr. Dorken announced that there are a lot of things going on at Lyon now. They are looking forward to TV Turn off /Earth Day week and its many activities. He also announced that there are many tasks that the teachers do this time of year that impact the teachers' time in the classroom. These include master schedule planning, fine arts planning, organizing class lists for next year and individual student assessments. There are times when the teachers will be pulled from the classroom and a substitute will cover the class for part of the day. Students may also get pulled by the associates for some individual evaluations. The classrooms that piloted the NWEA tests will be completing them again this spring. The District will then be evaluating whether the tests will be used District wide in the fall. It will probably be adopted for at least one grade for the fall.

Mr. Dorken also announced that April 23rd the Administrative Professional day. The principals are trying to take the secretaries and health nurses out to lunch. To do that, the school will need help to cover the desk for a couple of hours. If you can help, let Kevin or Matt know.

Matt Rich—Dr. Rich announced that there are a lot of activities coming in the months of April, May and June. Please watch closely for announcements and attend. He announced that the District wide interviewing process for next year is starting. This year Pleasant Ridge will be adding new staff for the reduced class size. This may also allow for changes in some programming. Pleasant Ridge is also beginning to discuss how to use the space in the new addition. In preparation

for next year, Pleasant Ridge is also preparing to welcome new 3<sup>rd</sup> grade families into the building as soon as tonight. Dr. Rich also announced that the new playground should be done by August. However, next year we will have the same limitations on field space in the fall that we have had this year. The planting for the new field should begin soon, but depending on the weather this summer it may or may not be ready for use by the fall

**V. Unfinished/New Business**—There was no unfinished/new business.

**VI. Announcements (Calendar Overview)**

April 8<sup>th</sup> --6:30 p.m. 3<sup>rd</sup> grade Orientation PR  
April 15-- 9:00 a.m. 3<sup>rd</sup> Orientation at PR  
April 15--TREE Information Night7.p.m.  
April 22--Lyon Author Visit --Evening of storytelling at Springman  
April 25<sup>th</sup> -- Pleasant Ridge Talent Show--at 7 p.m.  
May 2<sup>nd</sup> --Lyon 2<sup>nd</sup> grade program 10:30 p.m. and 1 p.m.  
May 2<sup>nd</sup> --International Night at Pleasant Ridge, 5:30-8:00 p.m.  
May 5-9-- Teacher Appreciation Week—  
May 7<sup>th</sup>-- Pleasant Ridge Spring concerts— Band and Choir 7 p.m.  
May 8<sup>th</sup> --District String Concert at Attea at 7 p.m.  
May 8<sup>th</sup> --Lyon Open House 6:30-7:30  
6:00 Reception for Sandra Schmidt and Ira Ramras  
May 9<sup>th</sup>--PTA closet cleaning  
May 13<sup>th</sup>--Next PTA meeting at Lyon  
May 16<sup>th</sup> --PTA closet cleaning  
May 21 and 22—Lyon/PR Spring Book Fair  
May 22—Literature Alive  
May 29—2<sup>nd</sup> Graders visit Pleasant Ridge

**VII. Adjournment**—Kristin Borth adjourned the meeting at 10:45 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robin Hinrichs, PTA secretary