

Lyon/Pleasant Ridge PTA Minutes

January 15, 2008

President Liz Price opened the meeting at 10:00 a.m. in the Lyon School Multipurpose Room.

In Attendance: Kevin Dorken, Matthew Rich, Liz Price, Kristen Borth, Robin Hinrichs, Miriam Biales, Laura Olsen, Jen Farber, Susie Feldstein, Sue Swaringen, Sabrina Briggs, Deb McMahon, Ana Cassorla, Cheryl Kasner, Dee Dee Gross, Linda Argeros, Cindy Rusher, Lisa Zimbler, Kristin Miller, Chris Northwick, Yuko Aimi, Gina Brunswick, Sandy Brennan, Karen Friedman, Michelle Colletta, Tammy Burke, Pam Hartigan

I. Approval of the Minutes

The minutes of the November 13, 2007 meeting were approved.

II. Officer's Reports

Treasurer—Miriam Biales noted the following changes in the financial statements from October- December. The 3 month CD has been rolled over for 3 more months. It will now mature in April. See the Net Worth statement. The Budget comparison includes Book Fair numbers, the final numbers for Pumpkinfest, bills paid for Cultural Enrichment and some payments for PTA grants. Miriam noted that the Book Fair numbers may look confusing. The \$31,000 includes credit card purchases that go directly to Scholastic. The Book Fair is not expected to earn a lot of money, but we earn about \$6500-7000 in book credit from Scholastic for the libraries at both schools. Miriam encouraged teacher who received PTA grants to be sure they submit the invoices promptly. Some grant purchases may have gone through regular channels. Miriam will check with Sue and Katie to find out what has been ordered and paid for. More information about that will be available next month.

President—Liz Price announced that Board members Lisa Dickholz and Laurie Pellochoud have new commitments that preclude their organizing the Fifth Grade Picnic. Cindy Rourke has agreed to head the committee. See Cindy if you want to help.

Liz also announced that Heather LeBeouf, who is our Teacher Appreciation Coordinator, is moving to Ohio with her family. We will need someone to head up this committee. This job includes coordinating special activities, a lunch, and snacks for teachers at both schools during end of April and beginning of May. Email Liz if you are interested.

The principals are requesting volunteers for Election Day February 5th. We need one person at all times at Pleasant Ridge and preferably two people at Lyon. Volunteers will be watching voters to make sure that they just go to the polling place and leave the building without wandering around the schools. Feel free to bring a book to read or other activity to do

during your volunteer hours. Kristin Borth sent around sign-up sheet for election volunteers. If you want to sign-up later, contact Kristin.

Liz announced that the locations of the PTA meetings have been changed for the rest of the year due to individual school schedules. The February meeting will be at Pleasant Ridge, the March meeting at Lyon, the April meeting at Pleasant Ridge, and the May and June meetings at Lyon.

Liz Price made the following announcements: 1) On Feb. 19 NSSD is sponsoring a workshop entitled "Managing Behavior at home and in the Community". It will be held at 9:30 a.m. at New Trier West. For more information, contact Liz. 2) On Feb. 2nd the Glenview Art League is sponsoring a youth art fair. See Liz for information or watch your school newsletters for more information. 3) Pleasant Ridge is organizing a committee to discuss reorganizing Curriculum Night. They are looking for a few parent volunteers to discuss how to best use Curriculum Night to educate parents. If you sign up, Ms. Leckenby will contact you. Volunteers would then attend a series of 3 meetings later in January.

Liz also discussed the upcoming February 4th District 34 School Board meeting. At this meeting the Board is scheduled to discuss recommendations regarding facilities. This discussion could impact whether there will be class size reduction at intermediate schools. The K-2 schools had class size reductions this year. All of these are full, and grades K-2 are growing throughout the district. It is possible that some of the extra programs that take space in the K-2 schools may be moved to the intermediate schools that have more room. If that happens there may not be enough in the intermediate schools to reduce class size. The Citizens Advisory Board is also scheduled to present their schools information at the next meeting as well.

1st Vice President—Kristin Borth asked committee chairs to please check the mailbox for your mail.

III. Committee Chair Reports

Benefit—Jen Farber reported that there are 18 days left until the Benefit. The committee has a lot of good people working on it. Auction preview flyer will be coming out Jan 25th. Everyone who has bought tickets for the Benefit will receive one. Please RSVP for the Benefit by this Friday. You can RSVP on online. The Benefit will include amazing tickets to shows, trips, and sports memorabilia. There will be fewer consignment items this year. The night of the event there will be a photographer taking prom photos with prom and 80s backgrounds. The committee has decided to start the auction a little earlier and end it earlier. The committee wanted to allow time for dancing. Dancing will be starting at 9:00. Jen Farber noted that she has heard concerns about the dress code. Yes, some people are wearing some fancy prom dresses, even some from the 80s, but feel free to wear any nice clothes. This is not a costume party. Jen passed around a sign-up sheet for volunteers for the day of the event.

She needs people to pick up auction items, sell corsages, and help with set up. She also stated that this year there will be about 40 classroom baskets. There will be a wide variety of items and they “are going to be awesome. “

Holiday Helper Recap—Liz Price reported for Deb McMahon. The holiday helper program was a huge success this year. Liz thanked Deb, Jennifer Wirtz and Mairead Smililek for all their hard work. Doing the outerwear collection in November made the process much easier this year. We had all the families covered by our school families. Liz thanked everyone who donated gifts, money and food for holiday helper.

Cultural Enrichment—Cheryl Kasner announced that the “Baby Steps Program” sponsored a Ricky Recycle program at Pleasant Ridge last week. It was well received by the students. The next program at Pleasant Ridge is February 26th at 9:00 & 10:00 a.m... It is a dance program by the group BAM. They do a variety of dance moves, but primarily tap. Ricky Recycle is also coming to Lyon in April.

Jump Rope for Heart—Sabrina Briggs announced that Jump Rope for Heart will be Wed. Feb. 20. Sabrina will need volunteers from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. on February 20th and from 1-3 p.m. on February 19th. Volunteers will be counting money and checking the students’ envelopes during the school day as well as handing out fruit and water bottles to the kids while they are jumping. This year should be easier. We will have laptops to record money.

Lyon/PR Spring Book Fair—Breland Nelson was not at the meeting. Chris Northwick, who is on the Literature Alive committee, announced that author Kevin O’Malley will be at Pleasant Ridge on May 22nd. Kevin is a writer and children’s illustrator. He wrote “*Once upon a cool motorcycle Dude.*” The Literature Alive committee is planning to have a drawing contest for the kids to depict characters from the books. The committee will make the winning drawings into T-Shirts. Students will be able to purchase the t-Shirts when they buy books by the author.

International Night—Sue Swaringen reported that the committee has begun working, but will not be seeking volunteers until after the Benefit. They will be having a planning meeting in the next week. International Night will be May 2nd at Pleasant Ridge. There will be more information at the next meeting.

IV. Guest Speaker—Doree Lattanzio and Dr. Dave Jones, Physical Education Teachers and Lyon and Pleasant Ridge, Topic—*Special Topic: Project Adventure*

V. Principals’ Reports

Lyon School—Kevin Dorken thanked Dave Jones and Dorrie Lattanzio for their presentation. He compared their group dynamics work to the new Professional Learning Communities initiative in District. This Thursday will be first collaboration meeting. At

Pleasant Ridge the teachers will meet together for 2 hours after school. At Lyon the teachers will meet for 1 hour before school and 1 hour after school. Each of the teaching teams has selected a specific academic area to focus on first, i.e. the 2nd grade will begin by working on writing. They will be considering the following questions: 1) What skills do the teachers want the students to demonstrate in writing? 2) How can they best assess whether the students have learned the identified skill? 3) How can the teachers best help the kids who haven't learned the skills successfully? and 4) How can the teachers best help the students who could demonstrate the skills even before the learning unit started? After the team finishes this curricular area, they will begin working on another part of the curriculum in the same way. Mr. Dorken stated that as a result of this process parents may see differences in the way that curriculum is taught and/or in who is teaching it. The teachers might decide to divide the students into different groups to give each student exactly what they need. Consequently, sometimes a student may get some subjects from a teacher who is not their homeroom teacher. The District is trying to get teachers that think that all of the students are their responsibility, not just the kids in their individual class. Mr. Dorken announced that there will be no winter NWEA tests at Lyon. Some classes in K-2 will continue piloting the NWEA tests in the spring, however. After spring testing, the District will make a decision about whether to include these tests on a regular basis for the primary schools. They may decide not to use them, or to use them for 1, 2, or all 3 grades.

Pleasant Ridge School—Dr. Matt Rich encouraged everyone to come to Principal's coffee on Jan 24th 9:30-11:00 in the Learning Center at Lyon School. This is a great place to ask questions of both principals. At Pleasant Ridge this is the time to work hard on the core curriculum for each grade. Starting today, January 15th, all students will be taking NWEA tests. All students are taking the reading test; almost all will take math; and some of the students will take the language arts test. The results will not be sent home. The students are taking the tests to help the teachers with curriculum planning. Parents, however, should feel free to contact the teacher to find out how your kid did. Email the teacher when your kids are all done with their tests. ISAT tests are in March. The ISAT data is used by the state to rate the district's performance; however, the NWEA tests provides data that teachers can use day to day to improve individual student progress. The Professional Learning Communities at Pleasant Ridge will initially be working on reading, and the Encore team will be working on the social emotional learning piece.

VI. Unfinished/New Business

Liz Price announced that next month PTA will begin to plan for next year. She asked all Board members to consider 1) whether you want to stay in your present position for next year; 2) You want to try a new PTA position next year; 3) or whether you need to take a break from

a Board Position. Please let Liz know your decision and also let her know, if you know someone who would like to get more involved in PTA next year.

VII. Announcements (Calendar Overview)

January 24, 2008 --Principal Coffee at Lyon School at 9:30 a.m.-11:00 a.m.

February 2, 2008—PTA Benefit

February 12, 2008—Next PTA Meeting at Pleasant Ridge, Guest Speaker—Dr. Matt Rich –
Topic--FISH Program

February 20, 2008--Jump Rope for Heart at Pleasant Ridge 2:30-5:00 p.m.

VIII. Adjournment –Liz Price adjourned the meeting at 10:40 a.m. Liz invited everyone to come to the PTA Holiday Lunch at her house after the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robin Hinrichs, PTA secretary