

Lyon/Pleasant Ridge PTA Minutes

May 13, 2008

President Liz Price opened the meeting at 9:15a.m. in the Lyon Multipurpose Room.

In Attendance: Kevin Dorken, Matthew Rich, Liz Price, Kristen Borth, Robin Hinrichs, Miriam Biales, Chris Northwick, Laura Olsen, Ana Cassorla, Jen Roberts, Sue Swaringen, Deb McMahan, Sandy Brenna, Maggie Wall, Rula Marziani, Marcia Bellair, Wendy DiBiaso, Sue Raben, Cheryl Kasner, Ellie Walsh, Tammy Burke, Ellen Girard, Michelle Wick

Approval of the Minutes

The minutes of the April 8, 2008 meeting were approved.

I. Officer's Reports

Treasurer—Miriam Biales distributed the proposed 2008/2009 budget. She asked everyone to review it and verify that the committee expense and revenue numbers are accurate. If anyone finds discrepancies in the budget, let Miriam or Liz know. The budget will be voted on at the next PTA meeting.

Miriam then reviewed the year-to date financial data. The biggest change from last month is that Kindergarten registration receipts are included in the monthly totals. Miriam encouraged all members to submit all receipts for expenditures as soon as possible. We are trying to close the books at the end of June. Miriam has been working hard this year updating our bookkeeping with Quick Books. Next year our financial reports will look different next year because we will be generating our report out of Quick Books. It should have the same information only in a slightly different format. Look for that in the fall.

President—Liz Price announced that the 2008/2009 PTA board has been completed. If you are completing a job in June, please meet with whoever is taking over your job to make sure they have all the information they need. If you have year end summaries about your committee, please email them to Liz.

If you have any local businesses that donated items and/or provided help to your committee this year, please forward that information to Liz this week. The PTA Council is buying a “Thank you ad” in the Glenview Announcements. The information is due to PTA Council May 21st.

Liz reported that PTA Council has been busy this year. PTA Council is made up of the 4 PTA presidents and 1st vice presidents. They meet with the District administration to discuss district-wide issues. Chris Northwick, the chair of the PTA Council, reported the council has been discussing middle school education. They have established a middle school task force made up of parents, teachers and administrators. If you are interested in their progress you can find out about this on: <http://d34mstaskforce.ning.com>. Some of the basic issues the task force is reviewing are: 1) middle school vs. junior high school models; 2) best practices for middle school and junior high school models 3) ways to maintain consistent teams (or groups of students), schedules, and curriculum from year to year when the number of students fluctuates each year. The task force is also talking about curriculum equity between schools. Chris also announced that PTA Council is also looking for people who are interested in cultural arts and legislation who would like to join the council next year. Talk to Chris if you are interested.

1st Vice President—Kristin Borth reminded everyone that the deadline for ordering School supplies and PTA registration is May 30th. The District registration is May 16th. Kristin asked everyone to please complete the survey at the end of the PTA registration. The survey will help her plan next year's PTA meeting and event schedule.

II. Teachers' Representative Reports

Pleasant Ridge--Wendy DiBiaso reported thanked PTA on behalf of the Pleasant Ridge staff for the staff lunch and the gift certificates celebrating Teacher Appreciation Week. She reported that Pleasant Ridge is getting ready for Literature Alive which is next week. The students are reading stories, decorating the school, and designing a T- shirt in honor of Kevin O'Malley's author visit on May 23rd. The students have also put up a poetry tree full of kids' poems in the library. Mrs. DiBiaso also reported on what Pleasant Ridge students are working on. TREE is completing their final project on "altruism". They are also participating in the "Relay for Life" at Glenbrook as a demonstration of their own service to others. 5th grade is completing a writing project about "Everything I learned in 5th grade". 4th grade is studying plant stages and stages of pollination. They are growing their own plants and doing experiments about how plants grow. One 4th grade team is studying the Midwest and reading the Magic Tree House book "Twisters on Tuesday. The other 4th grade team is reading Top Secret a fantasy story. 4th grade Math students are working on percents and fractions while the accelerated math class is beginning 5th grade skills. Next week the 4th grade will be taking a field trip to the Grove to identify plants. The 3rd grade is working on their human body unit. They went on a field trip to Whole Foods to discuss nutrition. Today they are having an in-class field trip done by Hi tech -Hi

touch doing about human body. 3rd graders are also working on their Chicago unit. They will be going on an Architecture tour next week. The 3rd grade is also getting ready for the incoming 3rd graders visit to Pleasant Ridge. They will be writing letters to their buddies and doing a podcast to show the new students what Pleasant Ridge is like.

Lyon School--Sue Raben reported that Lyon's Professional Learning Communities have been meeting every other Thursday for one hour before and one after school. The idea behind the PLC's is that all children in the school are all our children and all the staff tries their best to help all of them. The 2nd grade team chose writing as their focus to help prepare for writing on the 3rd grade state testing. The teachers identified essential outcomes for writing. Each child then made writing samples, and the teachers evaluated these. The group will read them out-loud to decide what criteria they were looking for and then reevaluated the samples to be sure that all the teachers know what we are looking for. Then next year we will be able to group kids across classes to work on similar things. All these assessments are intended to formative, meaning that the information gained is used to decide how we can help the kids get better at writing. It is not intended to be an end point in itself. Kindergarten has chosen phonetics as its focus. 1st grade is doing science as its focus. Mr. Dorken states that next year Lyon may do a building -wide focus on one subject.

Mrs. Raben also thanked PTA for support for author visit and for teacher appreciation activities.

III. Committee Chair Reports

Teacher Appreciation Week—Liz Price thanked Ana Cassorla and Sabrina Briggs for picking up this committee mid year and doing a wonderful job with it. Ana Cassorla reported that they did push breakfast carts one day at each school. They took bagels and treats right to the teacher's rooms. The students signed posters of appreciation at the entrance of each school. There was a light lunch for each school Friday and there were daily raffles for prizes at each school. It was all well received.

International Night—Liz thanked Sue and Susie for all their work on International Night. This is a special PTA event because it is focused on building community within the schools. At least 500 people attended. Sue Swaringen thanked all the people who volunteered to help. Sue is looking for a co-chair for next year. It is a really a fun event to run. Call her if you are interested.

Spring Book Fair-- Liz Price reported that the Spring Book Fair is next week at Pleasant Ridge. The committee is still looking for volunteers for Wednesday and Thursday night, especially on Thursday night. It gets very hectic that night because of Literature Alive. Liz reminded Lyon parents that there will be a Storyteller at the

Book Fair Wednesday night. This may be the ideal time for Lyon students to attend. It will be much calmer than Thursday night. Dr. Rich reminded everyone that there will be Shuttle service from Lyon on Thursday. Ride the bus instead of trying to park your car.

Global Language—Jen Roberts reported that we have finished our first year with Discovery Language running our Global Language program. PTA made changes in the program this year. At Pleasant Ridge classes were only one day a week for the first time. After surveying parents, the committee is adjusting the schedule for next year. The French program will continue one day a week. Chinese will be offered 2 days a week. It will be a combined beginning and continuing class. Spanish will be offered both one day a week and two days a week. Depending on the enrollment, there may be beginning and continuing classes or not.

At Lyon, the committee will be considering a kindergarten class in the fall, if there is enough response. The 1st and 2nd grade classes will continue in the same manner as this year. However, in January there will be the option to extend the program for an extra 4 weeks of purely cultural instruction.-

Grant Committee--Ellen Girard reviewed the grants that have been submitted to the PTA for spring funding. 14 applications were submitted from staff at Lyon and Pleasant Ridge. Ellen reviewed the process by which grants are evaluated. Input is obtained from the principals, the PTA executive Board, and a parent committee. Then the grants are voted on by the whole PTA. The grants are evaluated according to how many students are impacted, whether the program could be expanded to more kids later, whether it is innovative, how well it reflects the District strategic plan, how it is rated by the principals, and how it is rated by the parents.

The total grant requests totaled about \$24,000. We have \$16,500 available for grants in the budget. The committee recommended funding a total of \$14, 972. 00, including:

Reading /Math Support Grants

Cluster subscription to Brain Pop Grand Brain Pop Spanish	\$1395
Reading Comprehension Games	\$ 320
Rewards program by Sopris West	\$173
Orton Gillingham Multi Sensory Education training	\$ 900
Math Picture Books for PR	\$ 440
Reading Materials for 3rd Grade	\$1136 based on NWEA data

Technology Grants

10 Digital Video Cameras	\$1699
Sound System for Stage at PR	\$4262

Student program Grants

PR Garden Complex Rebuild \$2922
Gym Mat Locking System \$1724

There was some discussion about what grants were not recommended for funding. Dr. Rich and Liz Price explained that the PTA has decided that to fund item that have the most direct impact on student learning. PTA has funded most of what the teachers have asked for. The items that were not approved were primarily decorative items for the schools themselves. Upon questioning, both principals assured the PTA that the teachers at both schools do not want for materials. Our District provides a lot for all the teachers, and the teachers have other opportunities for money for special projects.

A motion was made to approve the committee's recommendations and fund \$14,972.00 of grants. It was seconded and voted on. The vote was unanimous approving the grant funds.

If anyone is interested in more information on the grant process or the items that have been funded in the past, see Liz. Also, in the fall, PTA will review the grant process to make sure it is effective.

Nominating Committee—Liz Price presented the slate for officers for 2008-2009. See Appendix at the end of the minutes. The following additions were made to the proposed slate: Sabrina Briggs will co-chair Teacher Appreciation with Ana Cassorla. Colleen Mackimm will co-chair Environmental with Mary Hershey at Lyon and Jen Roberts will co-chair Environmental with Marcia Bellair at Pleasant Ridge. A motion was made to approve the 2008-2009 slate as amended in the meeting. The vote was approved.

5th Grade Picnic—Ellis Walsh reported that after the email flash went out last week, the committee received new donations. They will hopefully come in close to budget. They are still looking at the possibility of having the kids tie-dyeing their T-shirts. If anyone has any expertise in this, let Ellie know. The committee has ha lined up some inflatables, a stilt walker, food for the picnic and a DJ in the gym. Hopefully, the weather will be great.

IV. Principals' Reports

Kevin Dorken—Thanked the PTA for the Teacher Appreciation activities. He related that Lyon is hiring and planning for next year. As of now Lyon will have 7 sections of Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd grade. If that stays the same over the summer, then the hiring for next year is finished. Kindergarten should have 4 sections in the morning and 3 in the afternoon. There will be 2 new teachers at

Lyon next year: 1) Katrina Cleaver will be teaching 2nd grade. She is transferring to Lyon from Henking and Hoffman. She wants to complete her National certification and wants to work with Mrs. Neudecker to do that. 2) Kristin Hock will be teaching 1st grade. She has experience teaching Kindergarten and 1st grade. She has a Bachelors degree in Elementary education and a masters in Reading. Mr. Dorken did say that he has a few part-time allocations to work out during the summer, including drama and PE. Look for more complete information in the summer newsletter.

Matt Rich—Dr. Rich reported that Pleasant Ridge will be adding teachers due to the reduce class size in the intermediate grades. Pleasant Ridge will have 8 sections of 3rd grade and 7 sections of 4th and 5th grades. Consequently, 4 new teachers have been hired for Pleasant Ridge for next year. Lindsay Daudelin will be teaching 5th grade. She is currently completing her student teaching in a 3rd and 4th grade multi-age classroom at Lakeview Elementary School in Hoffman Estates. She has a Bachelor's of Arts in Business Administration from Bradley University and is earning her Master's Degree in Elementary Education from Roosevelt University.

Kari Klein will be teaching 4th grade. She is teaching 5th grade at St. Anastasia School in Waukegan. Prior to that, she served as the Jr. High Reading Teacher at St. Anastasia. She has a Bachelor's of Arts in Elementary Education from University of Illinois-Chicago and is endorsed in Social Studies.

Rita Poulakos is currently completing her student teaching in 4th grade at Wescott Elementary School in Northbrook. She has a Bachelor's of Science in Speech and Hearing Science from University of Illinois and is earning her Master's Degree in Elementary Education and Special Education. She will be teaching 3rd grade

Laura Zerull is currently completing her student teaching in 3rd Grade at Oakland Elementary School in Bloomington, Illinois. She is finishing her Bachelor's of Science in Elementary Education at Illinois State University. She is endorsed in both Language Arts and Social Studies and has a significant level of experience in technology. She will also be teaching 3rd grade. In addition, Lisa Hoye will be back at Pleasant Ridge full time to accommodate the added sections of drama, and Dr. Rich will also be adding .4 PE teacher that will be shared with Glen Grove.

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

VI. Announcements (Calendar Overview)

May 22 and 23rd—Spring book fair at Pleasant Ridge

May 23rd—Literature Alive at Pleasant Ridge

June 3rd—PTA meeting at Lyon School at 9:15 a.m. followed by the End of the Year lunch

June 6th—5th Grade Picnic

VII. Adjournment—Liz Price adjourned the meeting at 10:45 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robin Hinrichs, PTA secretary

PTA Board for 2008/2009

Executive Board		
President		Kristen Borth
1 st Vice President		Jennifer Massarelli
2 nd Vice President		Susan Desmond
3 rd Vice President		Debbie Wells
4 th Vice President		Chris Northwick
Secretary		Robin Hinrichs
Treasurer		Laura Olson
Assistant Treasurer		Karen Toomey
Standing Committee Chairs		
Art Enrichment		Colleen Mackimm
		Amy Schneider
Benefit/ Social Fund Raising		Jen Farber
		Kathleen Butler
Book Fair		Stacy Saef (L)
		Karen Friedman
		Liz Price
		Karen Anderson Papajohn
Cultural Enrichment		Gloria Pedrelli
		Cheryl Kasner
Directory		Tammy Lundal
		Wendy Ban
Electronic Communications - website, e-mail updates		Kellie Kopach
Environmental		Mary Hershey (L)
		Colleen Mackimm (L)
		Marcia Bellair (PR)
		Jen Roberts (PR)
Fifth Grade Picnic Coordinator		Olga Panagakis
		Susie Feldstein
Global Language		Karen Anderson Papajohn (LY)
		Jen Roberts
Health and Safety		Betsy Garvey (L)
		Beth Schmidt (PR)
Hospitality		Rula Marziani
		Meg Carpenter
International Night		Sue Swaringen
Jump Rope for Heart Coordinator		Kristin Miller

Lyon Love/PR Pride		Deb McMahon
		Jennifer Wirtz
Membership Database		Sandy Brennan
		Michelle Langenbach
NSSSED Liaison		Robin Hinrichs
Parent Education		Miriam Biales
PTA Publicity/Welcome - head volunteer fairs, welcome coffees		Liz Quilici
Pumpkin Festival		Gina Divito-Snyder
		Susan Ohlandt
Staff Appreciation		Ana Cassorla
		Sabrina Briggs
Volunteers		Anne Prikos (LY)
		Sue Swaringen (PR)
Ways and Means (fundraising programs & school pictures)		Lis Williams
		Lis Williams
	(School Suppl)	Amy Davis
	(Sportswear)	Lindy Hood
	(School Suppl)	Pam Hartigan
	(Sportswear)	Nikki Krysa
PTA Grants		Ellen Girard