

Lyon/Pleasant Ridge PTA Minutes
December 12, 2008

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

In Attendance: Kevin Dorken, Matthew Rich, Kristen Borth, Jennifer Massarelli, Robin Hinrichs, Laura Olsen, Karen Toomey, Debbie Wells, Susan Desmond, Chris Northwick, Amy Schneider, Karen Friedman, Stacey Saef, Liz Price, Karen Anderson, Cheryl Kasner, Susie Feldstein, Ana Cassorla, Rula Marziani, Meg Carpenter, Sue Swaringen, Sabrina Briggs, Deb McMahon, Sandy Brennan, Gina Divito-Snyder, Susan Ohlandt,

Approval of the Minutes

The minutes of the November 17, 2008 meeting were tabled. They will be reviewed next month.

Officer's Reports

Treasurer—Laura Olson reported that November was a slow month. If you have questions about the financials, contact Laura. Laura passed out a summary of the Spiritwear sale. Sales of spiritwear exceeded those of last year. This is due partly to this year's sale included kindergarten spiritwear, which is usually sold at kindergarten registration (which should have occurred last fiscal year). We will be selling spiritwear again in March. Although our profit was minimal, Laura emphasized that PTA does not sell spiritwear to make money, but to promote a sense of community in the schools. Laura thanked everyone for turning in receipts in a timely manner. Please continue to do that.

President—Kristen Borth

1st Vice President—Jennifer Massarelli asked everyone to check the box for information.

Teachers' Representative Reports

Stephanie Harris, a fourth grade teacher at Pleasant Ridge, reported that each pod is working for the students. The 3rd grade is wrapping up their Native American units. Each pod will be sharing their research throughout the pod. In the fourth grade, Mrs. Barnett's pod is starting a new joint social studies unit. The other pod is using the pod to form reading groups. They are doing the northeast. One fifth grade pod is reading *Tuck Everlasting*. They are using writing, and technology to make advertisements about the books.

Mrs. Williams reported for Lyon School. Lyon is also doing a lot of fun things with technology. They are using the laptop carts a lot for centers and whole class activities. Mrs. Williams told about a teddy bear and a dog that are going around the world as a world-wide project. Each class takes pictures of this animal and tells other classes about their town. Everyone gets to learn about places all over the world. The 1st grade is working on history over time. They are now talking about their families over time. They did a field trip to the Grove to discuss pioneer families. Mrs. Schmidt who retired last year is coming back to give a report about the history of Glenview for all the students. The winter music show is also next week.

Committee Chair Reports

Benefit—Jen Farber reported about the benefit. The committee is making a push for parent donations. They have gotten some good items from the business community, and now are going to solicit the parents. They will be looking for sports tickets, theater tickets, vacation homes and sign-up parties.(marigarita party, paddle party, etc.) Jan reported that some schools are getting away from doing a benefit. We do one not only to raise money, but because we are also trying to bring the school community together to have a good time.

Holiday Helper—Deb McMahon reported that Holiday Helper was a success. The Saturday wrapping was an amazing gathering of parents, students, and children who got together to wrap and sort presents for the families of our school. Deb thanked everyone who helped. She stated that all but the last 2 families were sponsored by someone within in our group. The committee went a little over budget (about a \$100). This year there was only about \$100

in cash donations. The committee also passed out all of the Scandinavian Ski Shop coats. This added a lot to our donations. The committee included coats for many of the adults and students in the packages. The committee has 2 coats left and 8 pairs of snow pants that they couldn't match up to people on the list. PTA decided to donate these to Youth Services.

Environmental—Jen Roberts reported that the snack cups seem to be a big hit with the students. The committee has sold an extra \$100 of cups. The Green Team also sponsored the afternoon showing of Wall-E. It was the biggest after school movie ever with free popcorn and lemonade. Jen drew everyone's attention to the Green Guide that was in the newsletter. There is extra information on [HYPERLINK "http://www.TakeBabySteps.com"](http://www.TakeBabySteps.com) www.TakeBabySteps.com. Look online.

Lyon/PR Spring Book Fair—Liz Price reported that she is starting work on the book fair. We will be getting in touch with Anderson books in January

Skool Aid—Deb McMahon reported that we can still bring in gently used clothing. Look for more projects after the break. Another book drive will be done at the spring book fair.

NSSSED—Robin Hinrichs reported that the next NSSSED workshop will be "Autism: The Diagnosis, Causes and Treatment of Autism Spectrum Disorders" with Dr. Bennett Leventhal. Dr. Leventhal is a professor of psychiatry and the Director of the Center for Child Mental Health and Developmental Neuroscience at the Institute for Juvenile Research at University of Illinois, Chicago. This presentation will be held on Tuesday, January 20, 2009 held on January from 9:30-11:30 at New Trier West on Happ Road in Northfield.

Parent Education—Miriam Biales sent an email report. The Parents in Partnership workshop had more attendance than ever before--200+ people. The feedback on the workshops was very positive.

Jump Rope for Heart—Dr. Rich announced that Jump Rope for Heart will be February 13th at Pleasant Ridge. He acknowledged that it is the Friday before a 3 day weekend, but stated that this was the only day that could be scheduled in a

very busy month.

PTA Council—Deb Mc Mahon reported that the middle school ask force has finished its work. The task force was started at the request of a group of parents in February or March of last year. It was made up a group of parents, teachers, and school board members. The final report will be presented on Monday. Deb reported that big recommendations are being made. The committee has some concerns about how the recommendations will be implemented. The meeting will be 7:30 at the administration building. The recommendations are listed on the website. HYPERLINK "http://www.D34mstaskforce.ning.com" www.D34mstaskforce.ning.com. The surveys are also listed on the website. The focus of the last PTA council was focused on the Green Team. They heard from the Environmental Educator for the district. The goal is of the Educator is to reduce the energy consumption at school. They hope to do this by changing behaviors. These include things like closing all the doors of the classrooms because the buildings are heated room to room. Dr. Rich stated that the schools get regular visits from the Environmental Educators to check how well we are doing. He encouraged parents to dress the kids in layers to deal with the differing temperatures in various parts of the buildings..

Principals' Report—Kevin Dorken

Matt Rich reported for both buildings. He stated that in January assessmenstudents assessments begin again. At Lyon students will do CBMs. At Pleasant Ridge students will do CBM and NWEAs again. Teachers have the option to do them (or not) in the winter, but most all of the teachers will be doing them this year. There is also the Access testing for ELL students. That has a reading, writing, listening, and speaking components. Dr. Rich announced that next week Pleasant Ridge will have its first musical. Both performances will be streamed online and then will stay on online. This is done for people who can't attend. Dr. Rich explained that part of the reason the musical isn't at night is parking. The musical will be performed by the 5th grade. There will also be a song by the 4th grade and a recorder song by the 3rd grade. Tracy Mariano, the music teacher, is also planning a 4th grade musical

in February and a 3rd grade musical at International Night. The orchestra and band will have a concert in May. Dr. Rich announced that they will be streaming the holiday show at Lyon on their website as well. He also announced that the GEF grants came out and Pleasant Ridge got \$7500 for stage lighting. With the additional funds from PTA grants, Pleasant Ridge is now about \$3500 from its goal. Lyon got a Smart Board grant from GEF.

Pleasant Ridge's Dad's group is planning for the science fair which is March 14th. The rules will come out next week. Also there will be a dad's breakfast January 16th and a Dad's sponsored Family Movie night on January 30th. The movie will be *The Princess Bride*. It will follow the same parameters as an after school movie. Dr. Rich also announced that the next Principal's Coffee is February 19th.

Kristen Borth also announced that Lyon School Holiday Program will be videotaped. Checks can be made out to PTA and cost will be \$20.

Unfinished Business/New Business

Communication Procedures—The PTA and principals have been discussing how best to communicate PTA information. Dr. Rich, Mr. Dorken, Kristen and Jen have decided that all PTA information should be reviewed before it goes into the school newsletters. Please send your information to Kristen the Friday before the newsletter is going to be printed. E-blasts will be sent out on the off weeks. If you want to send something to Kellie Kopach for the E-blast please cc Kristen. This will help coordinate all the things that are going out in the newsletter. Also please try to limit the notices to a half page.

Sandy Brennan reported that the Middle school PTA will be doing a "Yes, We Can" food drive for the Northfield Food Pantry to coincide with the inauguration. If you have ideas, let Sandy know.

Cheryl Kasner reported that the next Cultural Enrichment at Pleasant Ridge is a storyteller today. The next presentation is February 27th. Face to Face is doing their Lincoln production for his 200th birthday. On April 9th there will be a green team global warming assembly.

Announcements

December 17—Lyon School Holiday Program

December 18—Pleasant Ridge Holiday Program

January 13—PTA 9:15 at Lyon followed by the Holiday Luncheon

January 16—Dad's Breakfast 7:10-7:40, Pleasant Ridge

January 30—Dad's Group Presents Family Movie Night 6-8 p.m. in Pleasant Ridge Gym

February 13—Jump Rope for Heart

February 19—Principal Coffee, Pleasant Ridge

February 28—PTA Benefit, Sunset Ridge Country Club

March 12—Kindergarten Registration

March 14—Pleasant Ridge Science Fair

Adjournment—Kristen Borth adjourned the meeting at 10:25 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Robin Hinrichs, PTA secretary