

Lyon/Pleasant Ridge PTA Minutes

February 10, 2009

President Kristen Borth opened the meeting at 9:15 a.m. in the Lyon Multipurpose Room.

In Attendance: Kevin Dorken, Matthew Rich, Kristen Borth, Jennifer Massarelli, Robin Hinrichs, Laura Olsen, Karen Toomey, Susan Desmond, Jen Farber, Kathleen Butler, Colleen Mackimm, Karen Friedman, Krsitin Miller, Ana Cassorla, Nicki Krysa, Sabrina Briggs, Deb McMahan, Sandy Brennan, Martina Ingalleria, Anne Carreon, Lisa Zimpler, Ali Messing, Jessica Krec

Approval of the Minutes

The minutes of the January 13, 2009 meeting were approved.

I. Officer's Reports

Treasurer—Laura Olson encouraged the committee chairs to look at their line items on the “budget to actual” report to see how they are doing. She asked everyone to turn in any outstanding expenses. She is trying to determine how we are doing towards the end of the year. Laura reported that the accountant has approved our stuff from last year and the taxes are presently being paid. Laura also presented the final Fall book fair numbers. We were down about 25% in overall revenue from last year. This was expected due to the present economy coupled with the fact that last year our revenue was much higher than usual. This year we netted \$5000 from the book fair when we budgeted \$3500. If anyone has any more expenses from book fair, please turn them in to Laura.

President—Kristen Borth reported that PTA council met with Brett Clark to talk about the online registration process. They decided to continue with the paper format for PTA this year. Next year they will work on the registration process earlier and hopefully it will be online then. School supplies will be on online again this year. The deadline will be early. PTA registration will go be sent home in the backpack about one week later than District registration. Kristen announced that Ana Cassorla has volunteered to be the PTA council Character Counts representative. It was also announced at PTA council that the Principal at Henking has resigned as of the end of the school year. A new principal will be recruited by the District. The District is also considering removing hooks off bathroom doors after incident in Evanston. Dr. Rich announced that Pleasant Ridge has already removed them, but that the middle schools decided that they needed to consider the issue further before acting. Phil Collins also

gave PTA Council a presentation about all the assessments given in District 34 and how they are used. The information is posted on the District website.

Finally Kristen announced that PTA is beginning to look for new people for next year. Present chairpersons should begin to think whether they would like to continue on next year, or move to a different role. We will also need some new people because some chairs will be moving on. Send Kristen an email about your preferences.

1st Vice President—Jennifer Massarelli announced that a great cultural enrichment program was presented last Thursday at Lyon.

II. Teachers' Representative Reports

Ali Messing, a 3rd grade special education resource teacher reported for Pleasant Ridge. She stated that she works with a lot of students in reading. She has been grouping kids by their Lexile scores to find biographies appropriate to their reading level for the biography unit. Her group is reading about Barack Obama and will be writing a letter to him. She also talked about how they are integrating technology into the classrooms. Many of the classes are using the smart boards and online resources for spelling and language arts.

Jessica Kroch reported for Lyon. Jessica is an associate who works in a first grade classroom. She is the one “classroom associate” in the District. She is in this class because the class has acquired an extra child over the District limit. This happened when a new child moved into the District after the school year started. She stated that many of the associates are certified teachers who are hoping to have their own classrooms next year or people who are studying to be teachers. Being an associate in a great school gives them valuable experience. Most of the associates are one-to-one student associates, ELL, reading, or administrative associates. Jessica reported that the associates at Lyon are presently focusing on student behavior. They are trying to catch children being good to provide extra feedback. They also provide sensory breaks for kids, pulling students out to do exercise or just have a break from the classroom noise and activity

III. Committee Chair Reports

Benefit—Jen Farber and Kathleen Butler reported that benefit RSVP deadline is Saturday. Most people are using online system to respond. The system seems to

work well. The committee met with Sunset Ridge and planned the food. It is going to be a series of stations of traditional Louisiana food. The decorations will be very festive. Havelcheck Florist is donating a lot of stuff. The auction has a lot of items. If you still have any items for the preview, send the information to the committee by Friday to get into the program. The preview will be coming out on the 20th in the backpack. The businesses have been very generous with donations, and this year we are making a bigger deal about the donors. Jen encouraged everyone to talk up the benefit to their friends. The committee is finalizing the list of volunteers. If you have already volunteered, you are on the list. They still need a few more people for check in, check out, auction security from 3-5 in the afternoon, clean-up, and to man the king cakes table at the end. The committee needs 2 fish bowls for the raffles. Jen Farber announced that if all the small class gift items do not sell, they can be sold later individually. Kristin thanked Jen and the benefit committee for all their efforts.

Jump Rope for Heart—Kristin Miller had to leave early, but she had the following announcements: Please write one check for all the cash that your child collected. The PTA will be helping to count the funds on Wednesday February 18th. Jump Rope for Heart will be this Friday, February 13th. If you want to volunteer, please respond to the email that went out this morning.

Skool Aid—Cathy O’Shaughnessy and Deb McMahon visited Stockton last week. The school was so grateful for the books and the outerwear that they sent a poster back to the schools. The poster will be displayed on a rotating basis at Lyon and Pleasant Ridge. They may also put it up at the benefit. Stockton has only one color printer at the school and no color toner. They would love a donation of a printer or toner if anyone knows where to get either. We are done collecting outerwear and winter clothes for this year. We will be collecting blue and white tops, which are the school colors in the spring. We will also do the school supply collection and gently used backpacks at the end of the school. The Pleasant Ridge student council may help with that. We will also collect books again at the spring book fair. A couple of 2nd and 4th grade teachers have just started working on the pen pal program. We will hear more about that in the future. Stockton also has a “teacher for a day” program in the spring. Adults from the community come and read a book to a class. We will publish that date in the newsletter and parents and teachers will be invited to take part.

NSSSED—Robin Hinrichs announced that the next APS workshop is February 24, 2009 at New Trier High School. It will be on *Planning for Children and Adults with Special Needs for Today, Tomorrow and the Future* presented by Brian Rubin and

Sherrri Schneider. They will be talking about ways to plan for your special needs children financially throughout their lives.

School Board Report—Susan Desmond reported that summer school registration is now open online. It closes April 9th for enrichment classes and in late May for reinforcement classes. The District adopted the 2009-2010 calendar. School will start August 26th and end June 10th. You will find the complete calendar on the District website. She also reminded us that Kindergarten registration is March 12 4:30-7.

PTA Grants—Kristen reported for Ellen Girard that the bills for all fall grants have been submitted and paid for, except for the stage which is in process. If the benefit goes well, we will do another round of grants in the spring.

IV. Principals' Report—Kevin Dorken reported that this is a great time of year at Lyon. It takes until about now for the kids to understand the expectations of the classroom. Now the classes are able to begin doing a lot of fun projects. Lyon is also beginning to use the assessment data that was gathered right back after winter break. They are using CBMs to adjust and/or add interventions for students as needed. Mr. Dorken also reported that this is an exciting time for the District in regards to technology. They complete a broad technology plan that impacts funding every 3 years. We are particularly advanced in this cluster with laptops and smart boards. Brain Engle, the District technology coordinator is working on plans for next year, including a projector for every room with a document camera that will project books up on the screen, smart boards, and a initiative for laptops for all teachers. Now all first year teachers will get a laptop. The District has sent representatives to the ICE conference, the biggest technology conference in the area. This will change the skill level of every teacher. They will be talking about how to use this expertise throughout the buildings. This week the topic is data storage which is how technology will work to store assessment data so it can be easily accessed to help teachers coordinate the teaching of kids. Mr. Dorken stated that he will update the staff for next year at the March meeting. He announced that the district is starting to screen applications of 4000 people for 42 positions in the District. He also announced that May 1st is the date of the 2nd grade program.

Matt Rich reported for Pleasant Ridge. He thanked the dad's group. It sponsored its 1st movie night January 31st. They had a great showing with 40 people. PTA supported it with popcorn. Dr. Rich reported that February is very busy. Some highlights include the 4th grade musical. This is the first 4th grade musical. It is the story of slaves moving from south to the north. This brought up much discussion among the staff. Should we do spirituals? How much should we teach the

importance of church in this movement? They decided that they couldn't teach this part of history without including the importance of religion to the slaves. Dr. Rich acknowledged that there are so many places that religion has an impact on the history. The teachers are excited that a lot of the 4th graders have written a lot of the script for the play. He also announced that Jump Rope for Heart is at the end of this week. Valentine may be happening, but Pleasant Ridge is focusing on the jump. 300+ kids are participating. ISATs will be next month. This is a state required test. We hope you see the results before the next test, maybe they will be available in September. This test is not used for instruction, but all children are required to take that test. Every student needs to be in the building at 8 a.m. If not, they will sit in the cafeteria with Dr. Rich for the whole morning. 3rd grade will take a practice test on Monday March 9th. The actual tests are Tuesday-Friday. One group may go into the next week. The tests usually take all morning. There is a Principal's coffee February 19th at 9:30 at Pleasant Ridge. The 5th grade will also be visiting middle schools on Thursday. Science Fair registration is going on now until end of February. The Science Fair will be March 14th from 9-12 in the gym. A student can do a project alone or in pairs. The fair is trying to get kids to explore science in a fun way. Dr. Rich announced that all students must purchase yearbooks by February 20th. There will be none sold at the end of the year.

V. Unfinished Business/New Business

Kristen Borth announced that the following positions will definitely be open for next year: Vice President, Secretary, Assistant Treasurer, Art enrichment, Benefit, Assistant Directory, 5th grade picnic, International Night, Holiday Helper to work with Deb McMahan, Pumpkinfest Assistant, and a web page manager. Kristen is also seeking a couple people to head up the nominating committee. Let her know if you are interested in any of these positions.

VI. Announcements

February 13—Jump rope for heart

February 19—9:30-11:00 a.m. Principal's Coffee at Pleasant Ridge

February 28—PTA Benefit

March 12—Kindergarten Registration at Lyon 4-7 p.m.

March 14—Science Fair 9a.m.-12 p.m. at Pleasant Ridge

March 17—Next PTA meeting at Lyon School at 9:15 a.m.

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

Respectfully Submitted,
Robin Hinrichs, PTA secretary