

Lyon/Pleasant Ridge PTA Minutes

May 12, 2009

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

In Attendance: Kevin Dorken, Matthew Rich, Toby Pleszkun, Deb Shefren, Kristen Borth, Jennifer Massarelli, Robin Hinrichs, Laura Olsen, Karen Toomey, Debbie Wells, Cheryl Kasner, Susie Feldstein, Sandy Brennan, Krsitin Miller, Sabrina Briggs, Jen Farber, Mary Hershey, Liz Price, Ana Cassorla, Lis Williams, Pam Hartigan, Susan Desmond, Wendy Ban, Michelle Langenbach, Deb McMahon, Lindy Hood, Greg McWilliams, Val Rosenberg

Approval of the Minutes

The minutes of the April 17, 2009 meeting were approved.

I. Officer's Reports

Treasurer—Laura Olson asked everyone to look over the monthly financials and call her with any questions. She then presented the budget for 2009-2010. Laura highlighted the differences between this budget and last year's. 1) International night—The expected income was increased to \$1500. (We made \$2000 this year.) The international night expenses were also increased to \$2200. to allow them to have more money to fund the country rooms. NOTE: International night is planned to develop a closer sense of community within the cluster. It is not expected to make money. 2) Environmental—There is \$2500. Of income included in this year's budget because the environmental committee is planning to sell stainless steel water bottles in the fall. The \$2050.00 expense listed under environmental is the initial outlay to purchase the water bottles. 3) The Subscription line item is broken down differently in the 2009-2010 budget. There are separate line items for paper subscriptions and electronic subscriptions. In the past the electronic subscriptions (Brain Pop and Brain Pop, Jr.) have been funded as grants, but will now be a line item. The "subscription" line item is the *Time for Kids* and Scholastic newspapers that the kids get. 4) There is a new "Bus Expense" line item this year. This funds shuttle buses from Lyon to Pleasant Ridge for International night and Literature Alive and buses to sunset village for Jump Rope for Heart and International night. This is to encourage Sunset Village families to take part in school events and helps with the limited parking at Pleasant Ridge. 5) The Literary Program line item is the money used to fund author visits at both schools.

Laura explained that our goal is to have a balanced budget. We want to spend what we make, but not to overspend. We have been encouraged by our accountant to keep 1 year of finances in reserve, about \$30,000-\$35,000 in case one year we don't have a successful benefit. So far we have been fortunate to have an active PTA and successful benefits that allow us to fund all these things. Kristen Borth thanked the PTA chairs and Executive committee for working on the budget. Laura opened the floor for questions. Discussion was held. A motion was made to accept the budget. It was seconded. A vote was taken and the preliminary budget was approved. (It may be revised if needed after the books close on June 30th.)

President—Kristen Borth suggested that PTA Council is a way that PTA members can find out what is going on in other PTAs in the District. The Presidents and 1st Vice Presidents of each of the cluster PTAs in District 34 as well as some District-wide committee representatives attend PTA Council. All PTA members are invited to come and hear about what the other District PTAs are doing. They usually meet on the first Thursday of the month at the Administration building at 9:15 a.m. They also have good guest speakers on topics of interest to the District.

II. Guest Speaker— Toby Pleszkun, gifted teacher at Pleasant Ridge and Deb Shefren, reading specialist at Lyon

The teachers discussed the importance of keeping children reading over the summer break. See notes on the PTA website and Toby Pleszkun's page on the Pleasant Ridge website for details.

Toby Pleszkun also discussed author Sally Walker's visit to Pleasant Ridge next week for the Literature Alive celebration. In preparation, Ms. Pleszkun has been using Sally Walker's books at Pleasant Ridge to teach students the features of nonfiction text and its use in research. Specifically, each pod is working on writing questions to ask Ms. Walker about her books. A group of 4th graders have also been doing text mapping of the nonfiction information from some of the books. They are making a 12 sided Bloom ball with 12 different pentagons of information based on books by Sally Walker. The balls will be on display at Literature Alive. Ms. Pleszkun will also be bringing the 4th grade students over to Lyon and teaching the on of the 2nd grade classes what they've learned. The 3rd graders are also making book marks to invite Lyon kids to Literature alive.

III. Committee Chair Reports

Spring Book Fair—Liz Price stated that she had a lot of volunteers for the Book Fair, but she could still use more on Thursday night. The facility people will be setting up the tables on Monday. Volunteers will set up the books from 12-2:30 on Tuesday and the teacher preview will be on Tuesday afternoon from 2:45-4:45. The Book Fair will be open to parents and students Wednesday and Thursday. The librarians' summer book lists will be on the tables for parents to pick up. The book fair books will focus

on the middle reader. There will be books for Lyon students, but not as many kindergarten books as there are at the Lyon Book Fair. On Wednesday there will be a storyteller at 7 p.m. for the Lyon school kids. On Thursday there will be Literature Alive activities along with the Book Fair. There will also be shuttle buses on Thursday from Lyon because of the limited parking. The student Council is also collecting gently used books for Stockton School, our sister school in the city, during the book fair. Please bring some books to share.

Literature Alive—Liz Price announced that Sally Walker will be coming on Thursday to work with all the kids at Pleasant Ridge on nonfiction. She will be back to sign books at the Book Fair in the evening 6:30-7:30. The illustrator Kevin Luthardt will also be there. He just completed the mural in the new hallway at Pleasant Ridge and also illustrated Sally Walker's most recent book. The 5th graders will be presenting plays in the multipurpose room from 6:30-8:30 and there will be a poetry café in the library with Bill Buczinsky and Dr. Jones (as Bongo Billy).

International Night—Kristen Borth thanked Sue Swaringen and Val Rosenberg for their job at International Night. Val Rosenberg reported that the attendance this year was over 600. With the new flow pattern of the school it did not seem as crowded as in past years. There were 14 country rooms and 8 new head room people. There was even a fashion show of traditional clothing in the multipurpose room that was put together at the last minute. It ended up being wonderful. Holding the performances in the multipurpose room was also a wonderful change. People could sit and watch while they ate. Many area restaurants donated food. Val thanked all the volunteers for their help. Val is still looking for a co-chair to help her next year. Anyone who is interested, talk to Val and/or Kristen.

Local School Council—Debbie Wells reported on local school council for the year. Debdebwells@comcast.com The Council has discussed creating a positive classroom atmosphere, bullying, summer vacation and how to prepare your kids, and parent-teacher conferences. The meetings are made up 1 parent representative from Lyon, 1 Parent Representative from Pleasant Ridge, both principals, and 2 teachers from each school and the 3th and 4th Vice Presidents of PTA (the room parent coordinators). It is a place that issues are discussed and sometimes new program are initiated in the schools as a result. Both international night and Disability awareness education have come from Local school council in recent years. A seat on the Council is a 2 year position. Next year we will need a new at-large representative from Lyon. Anyone who has at least one child at Lyon can apply. Meetings are usually

Wednesdays from 3:45-4:45 pm. See Debbie Wells or read to notice in the school newsletter if you are interested.

School Supplies—Pam Hartigan reminded everyone that Friday is the very last day to order. The ordering seems to be moving along very well. Kristen Borth thanked Pam Hartigan for chairing this.

Environmental—Mary Hershey announced that environmental will be selling stainless steel water bottles in the fall. The cost will probably be \$5.00. The proceeds will go into PTA. They will also try to use the sale to increase water awareness. The District is also continuing to try to implement environmentally friendly changes. They are going to try to use biodegradable cafeteria trays for the occasional events, such as International Night, when we can't use the regular plastic trays are not feasible, and they are also providing hormone free milk starting today.

Teacher Appreciation—Kristen thanked Ana Cassorla and Sabrina Briggs for their work. The staff appreciated it. They had a daily raffle of gift cards, a rolling cart breakfast at Pleasant Ridge one day, a sit down breakfast at Lyon one day, and a catered lunch at both schools on Friday.

PTA Registration—Sandy Brennen announced that the initial PTA registration deadline is this Friday May 15th. She said that you can send these in, in your child's backpack. If they are sent in by Friday, you will be entered in a raffle.

School Board Report—Susan Desmond reported that District 34 is being recognized highest category of financial achievement for school districts in Illinois. She also announced that Henking has a new principal Dr. Ivy Sukenik. The school year has been extended one day for snow. The last day of school will be June. The other main business at the School Board Meeting was the report of the new school task force. They determined that a new school is not needed although a few schools, Hoffman and Glen Grove particularly may exceed capacity for a couple of years. Over the next year the District will be exploring options to deal with the overcrowding.

5th Grade Picnic—Susie Feldstein announced that the theme of this year's picnic is *Rock on to Middle School*. Each class has picked a favorite musician, and they are working on a dance or program about that. Sandy Brennan is charge of volunteers. If you know anyone who wants to help, contact her. The invitation/permission slip will go home in the backpack on Friday. May 22nd and May 29th will be 5th grade Fridays. The students are being encouraged to wear their shirts on those days.

Skool Aid—PTA is presently collecting navy blue pants and white tops. Put these in the Skool Aid boxes at both schools.

IV. Principals' Report—Kevin Dorken reported that there are a lot of trips going on at Lyon right now, including walking trips to Wagner Farm, a 2nd grade trip to the Glenview Community Church with Mr. Wendt learn how a pipe organ works, and a 1st trip to learn about the village of Glenview and map reading. These are all walking trips, but there is bus back-up available if needed. All the trips are also curricular activities tied into units in the classroom. Lyon is also working to improve the transition from 2nd - 3rd grade. Dr. Rehfeldt is working on sharing information about any students who have received interventions at Lyon so they can be continued if needed at Pleasant Ridge. The principals have also decided to use this Thursday's teacher collaboration meeting to talk about the 2nd grade kids are moving to Pleasant Ridge. The 2nd grade teachers will be paired up with a 3rd grade teacher to talk about individual students. It is also important to have parent information to help with student placement, so please turn in the parent information forms if you have not.

Matt Rich reported that Pleasant ridge is a very busy place right now. Tomorrow night at 7 p.m. there is a year end music program for band, orchestra, and chorus. He encouraged parents to come and listen. If you miss it, a lot of the kids will also be performing at Literature Alive. He thanked PTA for the Staff Appreciation lunch, notepads, etc. Dr. Rich also announced that NWEA year end testing is finished. The teachers have the results. The District is still determining how to distribute the NWEA scores. When that is finalized, the scores will be released to the parents.

V. Unfinished Business/New Business

PTA Council Report—Kristen announced that another position has been added to PTA Council. It will focus on maintaining communication with social workers at each school to assist in keeping in touch with Hispanic students and their families. Brett Clark has also asked parents to complete a survey on the District website by May 18th. The District also announced that it may lease part of the 2nd floor of the new Glenview Youth Services building on West Lake Avenue. In turn the District would agree to help Youth Services with some technology services.

2009-2010 PTA Board—Kristen Borth passed out the proposed slate for the 2009-2010 PTA Board. (See attached) She noted that following corrections: 1) the second person listed for the Directory should be Cathy McCarthy not Joanna Nelson. 2) Tammy Lundal will be the Health and Safety person for PR. We still have some positions that need to be filled—2nd VP (to report on school board meetings), Art

Enrichment people for both schools, International night co-chair, and 2 benefit chairs. A motion was made to approve the preliminary slate. It was seconded and approved.

Anyone who is interested in the open positions, please contact Kristen Borth or Jennifer Massarelli. Also Kristen asked that any chairperson, who is leaving their position after the June meeting, please prepare a report or folder to pass on any relevant information to the new committee chair.

Vote on PTA by laws

VI. Announcements

May 20-21--Lyon/PR Spring Book Fair

May 21--Literature Alive

May 28—Lyon Open House, 6:30-8:00 p.m.

Retirement Reception at 6 p.m. for Rita Davis and Deb Shefren

June 2—PTA meeting and End of the Year Luncheon, 9:15 a.m. Pleasant Ridge

June 5—5th Grade Picnic

June 5—Lyon Field day

June 10—Last day of School

VII. Adjournment—Kristen Borth adjourned the meeting at 11:10 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robin Hinrichs, PTA secretary