

General Board Meeting
Lyon/PR PTA
Friday, April 17, 2009
9:15 a.m.
Pleasant Ridge School

Members Present: Kristen Borth, Laura Olson, Jennifer Massarelli, Matt Rich, Kevin Dorken, Cheryl Kasner, Chris Northwick, Debbie Wells, Marcia Bellair, Jen Roberts, Halleh Akbarnia, Sue Swaringen, Sandy Brennan, Pam Hartigan, Colleen MacKimm, Ana Cassorla, Liz Price, Greg McWilliams, Susan Ohlandt, Leslie Howell, Patty Wolfe, Joanne Furlong, Jen Farber, Michelle Langenbach

Kristen passed around thank you cards from staff members to the PTA.

The meeting went off- course from the agenda slightly as Jen Roberts had a commitment and needed to leave early, but she wanted to discuss Global Language prior to leaving:

Jen Roberts: Global Lang.-some classes are offered one as well as two days this year, this seems to be a good balance

French and Chinese: 8 or 9 kids signed up for each; Mary Hershey taught a split level in French. Asha Bigelow taught Chinese in the same manner. This turned out to be a nice way to handle the desire to run both french and chinese language programs even though the demand was a little lower. If you are considering having your child participate in either of these languages in middle school, you may want to strongly consider enrolling them in these Global Language programs here at Pleasant Ridge.

We need to bring the demand in to Discovery so that they know what we need.

Jen's message was to please consider bringing the demand to Discovery. Please consider French and Chinese.

The classes next year will be held on Monday, Tuesday and Thursdays after school at PR. Some classes meet twice a week (Chinese) and other classes like spanish give you the option to meet only one day per week.

Kristen stated that today is exciting because we are voting on grants at Lyon and PR. So we will be moving along now.

Laura Olson, treasurer: Laura stated that our financial status is that we are flush with cash, we are moving things to money market, but also please note that money will be moving out as we pay grants. The philosophy with PTAs: don't want to hoard cash, so we like to have approximately \$30,000 to run programs for the following year;

question by Liz Price brought up about spirit wear being over in the line item listing; Laura assured us that this is ok based on clearing up some things from previous year. Next Laura stated that we are looking towards creating the next year's budget, so all chairs need to get any budget input to her by Friday April 24. Finally she stated that there is a liability recognized on the balance sheet which recognizes PTA registration for 2009-2010.

Next, first vice president Jennifer Massarelli urged people to check their mailboxes and get all mail out before the end of the year.

Teacher Reports:

Patty Wolfe from Lyon: thanks for the great benefit, thanks from Sue Raben for the author visit. Here are things going on at Lyon: Tim Joyce from Wild Birds Unltd. -he donated a feeder for the pre-K room, Patty's room will be "bird buddies" with this room; birthday boxes for the Northfield Pantry-each of different classes is donating something to contribute to these boxes; 2nd grade musical is coming up based on the TV show: The Amazing Race-it will be held at 10 and 1:30 on May 1st.

Joanne Furlong: on associate team at PR -how we implement fish philosophy as the resource team-sometimes a challenge and sometimes easy. She explained that she comes from a more old school perspective and is new to these philosophies: one tenet is to "be there": if she sees behavior that is good-she makes a point to note the good action to the student. If she sees bullying on the playground; she uses strategies to divert the bullying.

Associates try to be willing to listen when a child is having a problem: not immediately jump in with a solution, but hear the students out.

Unfortunately, associates can't allow children to share food as a part of "being there." -due to food allergies-offers alternatives: sharing a game.

Making good decisions is reinforced with the children. For example, coming down to a good level on the playground equipment or not tackling too hard while playing football.

Choosing a good attitude: hard to do even as adults, but we need to encourage kids to do this. Sometimes associates make accommodations to help children feel better and have a better day. They try to turn a bad day into a positive situation.

"Play"-this is another part of the Fish philosophy: Associates try to help kids by offering a playful atmosphere-trying to find fun ways to bring a corrective situation about-find fun ways to work out their day-can have creative chaos and still meet learning goals.

Kristen thanked both teachers for sharing with the group.

Committee Chair Reports:

Ellen Girard on Grants:

Exciting day; "Christmas in April": Ellen presented the PTA grant recommendations:

The decision process includes: Administrator input, PTA executive committee input, parent input, and finally a PTA vote

Liz asked how much was asked for in grants: Ellen replied: \$31,000, but we are giving away \$21,000.

Some teachers give a range of what they want funded which is nice because more people get included

Parent input was great this time, 10 or 11 parents came and gave input.

Criteria:

- Number of kids impacted
- Pilot for broader student impact
- supports schools strategic plan
- direct impact to learning
- innovation
- educator priority
- parent priority

First set of grants to be approved:

- books for independent reading-\$600
- CD read alongs-4th grade-\$1000
- Listening centers CD players/CD-\$2,500
- Math games 3rd grade-\$2,029
- Vocab/reading games-\$1,341
- Non fiction readers 1st grade-\$2,200

Technology grants to be approved:

- Redcat Lightspeed microphone - \$1,090
- stage lighting for stage at PR -\$3,500
- dance dance revolution - \$1385
- SMART ideas 5 software- \$2500

Matt Rich gave further explanation of these items. Microphone: specifically helps kids with auditory processing difficulties; currently it is housed in TREE.

Dance Dance Revolution: Helps support the use of centers in P.E. and helps with cardio fitness levels with kids.

Stage lighting: It's the final installment!

SMART ideas software will be implemented by having staff trained on how to use the program

Student Programs:

Garden grant-\$1,900

SocialEmotional Games-\$331

Ukuleles with cases - \$503

Dave Jones has done a great job soliciting businesses for donations for garden but more is needed at this time to reconstruct and continue to build the garden.

Linda Brown will use the social emotional games with her caseload, but they are also available to the population at large.

Ukuleles are great for teaching tougher concepts in music like harmony and chords.

Chris Northwick commented that the grant requests are creative and diverse and wondered why this seems to be a change from some years when more conventional items were sought: principals commented-Matt asked teachers to be creative and Kevin noted that it is becoming more common for teachers to realize they can seek grant money and use this money for innovative ideas.

A member at large stated that it would be a good idea to note what grants were applied for and also what didn't get funded for the sake of comparison.

Liz Price moved to approve the grants and it was approved.

Liz Price next reported on the upcoming spring book fair:

Currently, there are 4 weeks left until the book fair.

This year our featured author is Sally Walker.

There will be a storyteller night on Wed May 20th, then the evening of the 21st is literature alive -we need help with setup.

We also need folks to help during the day and into the evening.

Critical times for help:

Helpers needed on Thur the 21st in the evening

Helpers needed for set-up.

Literature Alive: The committee is brainstorming ways of getting the students involved and interacting with the author-

Each pod will select some questions; winners (kids) get to have lunch with author

-Also, books available for purchase and signing with Sally Walker

Other exciting opportunities during Literature Alive are:

the Poetry Cafe

Story night on Wednesday

10% discount for teachers

gift certificates for free and reduced lunch students

Also, at literature alive 5th graders will do the drama performance

There will be a bus from the Lyon school parking lot -shuttle service will be available due to the limited parking at Pleasant Ridge

Next, international night was reported on by Sue Swaringen.

International Night: Sue Swaringen

We are currently two weeks away from International Night.

The countries represented this year include:

China/Taiwan/Italy/Greece/Russia/Armenia/India/Germany/Japan/Mexico/So.Korea/
Russia/Ukraine/Ireland.

This year a new concept is the "International Club" - so far countries represented here are: the UK, Dominican Republic -instead of not being represented, they will have face painting and flags of countries to share since they don't have enough activities to make a full room necessary.

That night:

-3rd graders are doing a show; this is exciting, but takes away from our volunteer pool and we are also a little light on performers. (NOTE: by that evening, Sue had a full line-up of performers in place).

Next, Pam Hartigan reported on school supplies.

School Supplies: Pam Hartigan

Spread the word that May 15 is the deadline for ordering school supplies from Schoolkidz.

We mark the cost up 10% to pay for the free and reduced lunch students to all have supplies.

If people want to make a donation they can do it online or they can give Laura Olson

a donation.

Environmental: Marcia Bellair

Next week is Earth Week!

Earth day is on Wednesday.

It is important that the kids are hands-on involved with something.

The following are some things planned at Pleasant Ridge:

Kids in art are weaving a peace quilt: in fact, at both schools, kids should bring in a scrap of fabric that will be reused to weave a peace quilt.

Friday-ride your bike or walk to school

stay and cheer the kids on until 5 to 8:00 am PR only.

In music, the kids have created instruments from recycled things and will give performance.

Environmental group will be tallying the use of reusable cups.

Another fun activity that the kids love is to shoot the milk chug or water bottle into recycling bins.

Also, used athletic shoes are being collected: this activity is sponsored by NIKE they take the rubber soles off the shoes and recycle into sport courts for communities that need this resource.

Marcia noted that our student group the "planet protectors" from PR took 2nd and 3rd place recently for their environmental videos in a contest sponsored by SWANNC (swancc.org).

Mary Hershey reported on things happening at Lyon:

On Monday there will be a surprise lunch inspection: this is to regenerate excitement and awareness with recycling- "Inspectors" will see what a normal day looks like and then they will peek in later in the week and see if reusing and recycling further improves.

Lyon students will also contribute to the weaving of the quilts.

On Friday: There will be activities and games to celebrate earth week: for example, a big ball toss where students catch it and say something about how to save the earth; another example is the chalk gallery, still looking for helpers this day at lunch from 12-1.

Also, for all of the art appreciation parents: the Masterpiece of the Month features environmentally geared lessons this month; Colleen MacKimm wrote one based on The Lorax by Dr. Seuss.

Kindergarten will have mini assemblies with SWANNC to give interest to reusing and recycling.

Also, next week is TV Turn-off week.

Lice Check: A huge thanks to Betsy Garvey and Beth Schmidt for organizing the lice checks at both schools.

Staff Appreciation: May 4th is when this fun week begins.

Ana Cassorla reported that a few of the activities planned for this week are:

breakfast cart

lunch for teachers

note from room mom coordinators asking kids to give a personal note to their teachers expressing appreciation

Registration: Sandy Brennan and Michelle Langenbach reported on Registration Forms:

Updates: we are going back to paper for this year

Registration will be coming out in two weeks in your child's backpack

School Board Meeting: Nothing to report

Principal Reports:

Matt Rich: next week begins NWEA assessments as well as earth week, tv turnoff and also talent show

Kate Barnett is retiring

two special ed teachers will also be retiring

The biggest class of 3rd grade is going to 4th so some switches will be made with the staff to accomodate this

The PR talent show is Friday, April 24th at 7 pm, even if you can't see it live it will be streamed.

Kevin Dorken principal at Lyon stated:

busy time of year

ISEL assessments in May

CBM-literacy and math quick assessments are used to reflect on growth

pre-K program: Lyon houses a pre-kindergarten program for children that are identified as needing extra help by the social workers and various screening instruments; also socio-economic factors are taken into consideration.

The children in this program are 4 years old; after being identified these children participate in a special program at age 4 and then they attend a full instead of half day for kindergarten.

In many ways, the program strives to get the children and their families linked and invested in the Lyon learning community.

One of the ways that they bring the families together into the school is to host regular monthly theme nights.

ONE NEW PROCEDURE FOR BOTH SCHOOLS:

Lime green lanyards for visitor badges: new procedures for check in and check out to make visitors more visible from the front and back

5th grade Friday: 5th graders will wear their special picnic t-shirts the two Fridays prior to picnic to be able to increase the usage of this special shirt.

NSSSED: On April 25th, an open house will be held at the Lake Street Police station from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. It is an opportunity to introduce your special needs child to the police officers so that the child is more comfortable with emergency personnel. Parents can also fill out a profile of their child so that the police, fire and paramedics will know how to best approach the child in an emergency. Profiles include a picture, medical information, emergency contacts, and special considerations. More information is available by contacting Officer Carver at the Glenview Police Station at 847-729-0000 ext. 6125.

Skoolaid: They will be collecting used clothing that is in good condition: only want items noted in the newsletter: this is because Stockton School only wants gently used clothing that the children at that school can wear as part of a required school uniform. They DO NOT WANT used pajamas, socks, underwear etc. Only bring the specific clothing items for donation that are listed in the school newsletter. (Gently used: blue, white or solid shirts and tops, blue pants or shorts, gently used spring jackets. The sizes should be 4T to adult small, male and female.) Also, it was reported that the pen pal relationship is running between 2 2nd and 2 4th grade classes and there will be more information on that at the next meeting.

PTA Council: The PTA Council is currently looking for people to get involved on the slate-issues important to our schools discussed there: contact Kris Haramaras, current PTA Council president.

Kristen reported from last months PTA Council meeting: there were reps from GBS as well as the middle schools talking about learning that goes on within our district building relationships between latino community and how we can all best support these children

Kristen: Approval of Minutes from last month

Kristen read announcements from calendar:

April 21-May 8: NWEA at PR

April 24: PR Talent Show

May 1: Second Grade Show, Lyon School -10 am and 1:30 pm

May 1: International Night: PR -5:15 to 8 pm

May 1: Third Grade Musicals @ International Night

May 4-8: Teacher Appreciation Week

May 20, 21: Ly/PR Spring Book Fair @ PR

May 21: Literature Alive @ PR, 6-8 pm

May 28: Lyon Open House 6-7:30 pm