

Lyon/Pleasant Ridge PTA Minutes

September 9, 2008

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

In Attendance: Kevin Dorken, Matthew Rich, Tracy Murdoch, Eva Ginis, Kristen Borth, Jennifer Massarelli, Robin Hinrichs, Laura Olsen, Karen Toomey, Susan Desmond, Chris Northwick, Amy Schneider, Colleen Mackimm, Jen Farber, Kathleen Butler, Stacey Saef, Liz Price, Karen Anderson, Gloria Pedrelli, Cheryl Kasner, Mary Hershey, Marcia Bellair, Olga Panagakis, Susie Feldstein, Betsy Garvey, Beth Schmidt, Krsitin Miller, Miriam Biales, Lis Williams, Ana Cassorla, Rula Marziani, Meg Carpenter, Sue Swaringen, Deb McMahan, Jennifer Wirtz, Sandy Brennan, Liz Quilici, Gina Divito-Snyder, Susan Ohlandt, Ellen Girard, Amy Davis, Tammy Lundal, Wendy Ban, Jen Roberts, Val Rosenberg, Pam Hartigan, Halleh Akbarnia, Angie Papalas, Tiffany Sapienza, Mary Plante, Gretchen Flowers, Marlene Balling, Liz DeMattia, Margaret Johnson, Amy Eccleston, Nikki Krysa, Christa Leone, Lisa Zimble, Vicki Schurer, Cathy O'Shughnessy, Ellen Girard, Tammy Burke, Anne Carreon, Matina Ingallingra, Elina Ozci, Heather McPhilliamy, JungHee Kim, Janet Mulvey, Gina Brunswick, Chris Coleman, Sheila Wapz, Peggy Callas, Linda Argeros

I. Approval of the Minutes

The minutes of the June 6, 2008 meeting were approved.

II. Officer's Reports

Treasurer—Kristen Borth thanked Laura Olson, treasurer, for all the time that she has put into redoing the financial paperwork to correspond with our new record-keeping process. Laura distributed copies of the final Profit and Loss statement for last year (July 2007- June 2008), a Profit and Loss Budget Overview for July 2008-June 2009, a Profit & Loss Previous Year Comparison for July and August, and a Profit and Loss Budget Overview. All of the sheets are reconfigured from last year due to our transition to Quick Books for our financial records. Laura asked everyone to peruse the Final sheets for last year and see her if you have any questions. She then went over the Profit and Loss Budget Overview highlighting the changes from the proposed budget approved in June. The first change is in the way we record sales for the book fairs. Since the accountant wants us to operate on a cash basis, we will only be reporting our cash sales in the budget. The credit card receipts go directly to Anderson or Scholastic. These will no longer be listed on the budget as income. The full expected sales have been listed as an addendum on the 3rd page. The next change is in the environmental budget. The environmental committee now has income listed

on the budget. These are residual green bag sales. The environmental team has also asked for another \$330 in expenses. This will extend the PTA commitment to recycle milk jugs one month until the district recycling contract begins in November. The school supply and Spiritwear income will be listed as service income because we are doing these online with minimal money running through our books. We will continue to collect donations to fund school supply scholarships for the students that need them. The final change to the budget is the elimination of the Gelfand Fund from the budget. Legally, as a non-profit organization, we are not supposed to collect money for other non-profits. We will continue to collect money for the Gelfand Fund at our events, but we will give it directly to them.

Laura asked for discussion. There were questions as to why we are projecting a loss this year. Laura reported that this is a very conservative budget. She noted that we projected a loss last year but made a profit. Our goal is to end with a zero balance for the year and to give away as much as possible.

The budget was brought up for a vote. Jen Farber made a motion to approve the budget for 2008/2009. It was seconded and approved. Laura Olson then showed the year to date financials. There are the following differences from last year. We are starting our Spiritwear sale later. Sales are due in the next 2 weeks. Also because PTA registration was done online, it is still listed in the liability line. It will be listed in the income line later. She also reviewed the Balance sheet. It shows how liquid we are. Laura explained that we are trying to keep enough liquidity to pay bills, but keep as little in the checking account as possible. If you have any questions, see or call Laura.

President—Kristen Borth thanked Liz Quilici for first day of school and new family gatherings at the beginning of the year. She also said thanks to Pam Hartigan and Amy Davis for organizing the new School Supply system which worked very well. Anne Prikos was thanked for organizing the beginning of the year volunteers for the buses and first week lunch room at Lyon, and Betsy Garvey and Beth Schmidt were thanked for organizing beginning of the year lice checks at both schools.

Kristen Borth reported on PTA Council. The PTA council which includes the presidents of all the PTAs in the District meets at the District office the 1st Thursday of the month. Parents are welcome. They discuss district-wide issues. Chris Northwick reported that the first meeting of the year included a discussion of the school calendar. There was discussion about how long the school year is and how short the summer is. The PTA council decided they would like to poll a broader group of parents to hear their opinions. Consequently, the District will be putting out a survey in the next couple weeks about this for parents. Chris encouraged everyone to take the time to complete the survey. The Council was seeking a Character Counts

chairman and a person for the Parents in Partnership planning committee from each cluster. Kathy Heckler volunteered to be our Character Counts person. The Parents in Partnership representative will need to attend a couple of meetings, be the cluster's contact person, and be there the day of the workshops. See Kristen if you are interested.

Chris Northwick also gave a report about the Glenview Education Foundation (GEF). GEF gives grants to teachers and school throughout the District for special programs. They are hosting a benefit on Nov 8th at the Chevy Chase Country Club. There will be a raffle for a Smart Car: \$100 for 1 ticket; \$300 for 4 tickets. There are 3 or 4 members of our cluster on the Board of GEF this year. Chris encouraged everyone to attend the benefit. There will be more information coming in a few weeks in the school newsletter.

III. Teachers' Representative Reports

Tracy Murdoch, the Technology director at Lyon reported on the state of technology across the District. The District has instituted training for teachers called LITE: Leading Innovation in Teaching and Education. They discuss the Best Practices use of technology in schools. 15 teachers at Lyon are now participating and to 32 at Pleasant Ridge. They all attend classes at the administration building. They will be exploring ways to impact student learning in new ways. The 1st meeting for the year was last night. Both schools have also started getting projectors installed in classroom. These will allow teachers to project information from laptops so that all the children can view it simultaneously. At Lyon the Flip Cameras that were financed by the PTA last year have arrived, and teachers are learning how to use them. This will allow a whole class to document field trips and projects. There are also 3 laptop carts that go out on a regular basis to use in classroom. Tracy announced that she is starting a program of parent tech helpers. Parents would volunteer and be taught how to log in to classroom computers and how to use the programs. Then Tracy would call you in to help in the classroom. Kristen passed out a sign up sheet for volunteers. If you have questions about the program, email Tracy Murdoch: tmurdoch@glenview34.org

Eva Ginis reported about Pleasant Ridge. Mrs. Ginis is the PR Social Worker. Pleasant Ridge is off to a good start this year. The teachers were excited about Meet and Greet Night. There was a great turnout. It was also fun to have the Encore teachers do a scavenger hunt that let families see the Fine Arts rooms and teachers before the 1st day of school. Pleasant Ridge teachers are excited about Curriculum Night, September 11th. This year it will focus on what individual teachers are doing in the classroom and what PTA has done for them through grants.

IV. Committee Chair Reports

Pumpkinfest—Gina Divito-Snyder introduced herself. She is the chairman for Pumpkinfest. Susan Ohlandt is the co-chair. Pumpkinfest is the fun wonderful carnival that we have in October at Lyon School. The public is welcome. It includes a scary haunted house, a gym full of inflatable moon walks, a variety of games, karaoke, and pizza, cotton candy and snacks. This year new events include Skee ball, a photo booth, and a gold fish toss. Please make sure that you come. It is October 24th from 4-8. Gina noted that planning is going well. She already has 75 volunteers. She still needs someone to organize the food staffing. This person would buy drink and stock the refrigeration with drinks Thursday night as well as organize the volunteers to serve food. Gina also needs someone to write announcements for the school newsletter. Kristen passed around a sign-up. If you have any questions, contact Gina.

Hospitality—Rula Marziani and Meg Carpenter invited everyone to the luncheon after the meeting. They also proposed that the Holiday luncheon be moved from December to January. Last year it was moved due to a December snow day and seemed to work better in January. A motion was made, seconded and approved.

Announcements—Jen Wirtz made announcements about workshops of interest to parents. The *Family Awareness Network of New Trier* is sponsoring a workshop “Bounce Back! Childhood Resilience and the Positive Life” by Suniya Luthar PhD Thursday Sept. 25 at 8:00 at New Trier West Campus. More Info at www.fan-ntts.org. The *Parents University-4 week Parenting Workshop in Northbrook* in November

Volunteer Database—Sandy Brennan reported that she and Chris Northwick have spent many hours taking information from the database to compile volunteer lists for the committees. An initial list is available now from Sandy. A second version should be available in a few weeks. Sandy reminded everyone that you have to have registered for PTA to get a student directory. So please register in the next week if you have not already done so. Sandy also encouraged chairs to contact the volunteers on their lists soon so they don't get nabbed by someone else.

Directory—Kristen Borth reported for Tammy Lundal. The directory is in process. Hopefully it will be out at the end of September.

Electronic Communication—Kristen Borth reported that Kellie Kopach sends out the next e-blast next week. The E- blasts will alternate weeks with the newsletter. To be

included in the e-blast, send your information to Kellie the Wednesday before the e-blast is sent out.

Room Parent Program—Chris Northwick stated that the room parent program is started. She thanked everyone who volunteered to help.

Cultural Enrichment—Gloria Pedrelli reported that the first assembly at Lyon is on September 15th. It will be Linda Goren who is a storyteller who will focus on Character Counts. The assemblies will be at 10 a.m. and 1:15 p.m. The Lyon school assemblies at Lyon this year will be integrated in with the fine arts curricular. At Pleasant Ridge the first assembly will be a Motivational speaker Matt who was born without legs. It will be at 9 a.m. and 10 a.m. The focus of assemblies at Pleasant Ridge his year will be diversity. Remember that parents and younger siblings are always welcome at the assemblies.

Art Enrichment—Colleen Mackimm reported that the Art Enrichment program is getting organized. They still need volunteers for some of the classrooms. It is a fun job. You merely present programs on artists 6 times throughout the year in a classroom. All of the programs are online. Colleen and Amy will be having an orientation sometime this month. Contact Amy or Colleen if you are interested

Global Language—Karen Anderson reported that this is the 2nd year we are using the Discovery Language Program. At Pleasant Ridge we will have Spanish is 2 times a week. The French and Chinese programs need more students. At Lyon there will be several sections of beginning and continuing Spanish, but the French class did not have enough students. We are also trying to start a Kindergarten program. To do this, we need 8 kids for the program. We have 7 now. Registration will be open for one more week to see if we get enough students for the French and Chinese classes at Pleasant Ridge and the kindergarten program at Lyon. Classes will begin on September 22nd. If you are registered, you should be receiving an email with your schedule in the next few days.

Lyon/PR Fall Book Fair—Stacy Saef reported that the Book Fair is just around the corner. It will be November 12-13. Stacy needs a chair for couple of parts. If you are interested, see Stacy. She will be looking for more volunteers later. The Book Fair will be open Wednesday and Thursday. Wednesday night will be Lyon school night and Thursday night Pleasant Ridge students will be presenting poems from the poet in residence workshops.

School Supplies—Pam Hartigan reported that the online school supply sale went very well. Pleasant Ridge was able to buy 56 scholarship boxes. Pleasant Ridge made around \$800. Lyon ended up losing a little money so PTA should come out about even. If anyone has comments about the online process, let Pam or Amy know.

Sportswear—Kristen Borth reported for Lindy Hood. The new merchandise flyers have gone home. The fall sale is going on through September 18th.

Benefit—Jen Farber reported on the Benefit. The benefit will be February 28th at the Sunset Ridge Country Club. The theme will be Mardi Gras. The committee is also trying to make it a Green benefit year. They are trying to look to curb excess stuff and focus on ways to raise money. They have already booked a great band and are planning to have a really fun night. Jen and Kathleen Butler will be having a mini forum on the benefit on Friday September 19th in the PR LRC at 9:30 a.m. They are looking for people with new ideas and new ways to do things. Please attend.

Environmental—Kristen Borth announced that Mary Hershey and Tammy Burke were featured in today's Chicago Tribune for their recycling effort. The whole District is now recycling plastic, and starting Nov. 1 with parental encouragement the District has found a creative way to pay for the recycling. Mary Hershey announced that Marcia Bellair is trying to help students reduce the snack waste. Lyon and Pleasant Ridge use 270-0 baggies a week for snacks. Marcia wants to provide every kid with a cup for them to bring their snack in. Marcia has a way to do this for \$250.00. Mary proposed that PTA release \$250. of the Environmental budget to purchase the cups. A motion was made, seconded and approved. Kristen also reported that she and Tammy had put in a grant for the International Walk to School Program. The Lyon/PR grant won and we will receive \$500. prize grant \$100.00 for snacks and a bunch of freebies. We will also be encouraging students to walk every Wednesday after that in October.

Grant Committee—Ellen Girard reported that we release money for grants in the fall and the spring. This fall we are looking to release approximately \$10, 000. The principals, PTA Board, and parents review the grants submitted for funding. If you want to volunteer to review the grants, contact Ellen or sign-up on the sign-up sheet. This is only a one -two hour commitment. We are hoping to vote on the grants at the next meeting.

Holiday Helper—Jen Wirtz reported that the Holiday Helper program will operate similarly to last year. Families will be assigned as soon as they are identified. The outerwear will be due on November 14th. The food collection will be from November 10th – December 5th. The presents will also be due December 5th. Remember this is a

program that benefits families in need in our schools. The food that we collect will stay here, not go to the food pantry. Call Deb or Jen if you have questions or are interested in sponsoring a child or a family.

V. Guest Speaker—Mark O'Brien, Vice Principal of GBS –Topic—Balancing family time and implementing core skills for your child

VI. Principals' Report—Kevin Dorken reported that Lyon is starting off well. He thanked everyone who came to curriculum night. The turnout was great. Lyon started that year with 7 sections of all grades. The number of students was just about max for all the classes. One section of 2nd grade has gone to 21, which is above the maximum allowed class size. Once this happens, the class is not divided. Instead, Mr. Dorken announced that they add an associate to the classroom. Jessica Krek is a certified teacher who will be assisting Mrs. Neudecker for the large class. All the new staff at Lyon is adjusting well. Teachers are working on building community within the classroom. They have also been doing assessments 1 on1 with kids. All 1st and 2nd graders have completed ISEL (Early Literacy tests) tests 1-1- with teacher. Kindergarten students completed alphabet assessments.

Dr. Matt Rich reported on Pleasant Ridge School. He reported that there is no power at Pleasant Ridge today. The students are still having a normal day; however, all NWEA tests have been postponed. We will be bringing in lunches from other schools. We do have the bells and PA system. ComEd is working on everything. (NOTE: At 10:30 Dr. Rich reported that the power was restored with 6 generators. The original problem is still being worked on.) Dr. Rich encourage all parents new to Pleasant Ridge to attend the NWEA parent orientation on September 17th at 7 p.m.

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

VIII. Announcements

Friday, October 17—Next PTA meeting 9:15 a.m. at PR

September 18—PR School Pictures

September 19—Lyon School Pictures

September 22--Start Global Language Program

October 8--International Walk to School Day

October 24—Pumpkinfest at Lyon 4:00-8:00 p.m.

November 15—Parents in Partnership 8:30-12:30 p.m.

IX. Adjournment—Kristen Borth adjourned the meeting at 11:45 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robin Hinrichs, PTA secretary

