

## Lyon/Pleasant Ridge PTA Minutes

March 10, 2009

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

In Attendance: Kevin Dorken, Matthew Rich, Phil Collins, Kristen Borth, Jennifer Massarelli, Robin Hinrichs, Laura Olsen, Karen Friedman, Sabrina Briggs, Liz Price, Jen Farber, Kathleen Butler, Gloria Pedrelli, Cheryl Kasner, Susie Feldstein, Kristin Miller, Halleh Akbarnia, Lisa Zimpler, Debbie Wells, Sue Swaringen, Anne Carreon, Nicki Krysa, Wendy Ban, Mary Hershey, Sandy Brennan, Chris Northwick, Colleen Mackimm, Karen Toomey, Susan Desmond, Margaret Johnson, Meg Kamajian, Renate Zebrok, Greg McWilliams,

### **Approval of the Minutes**

The minutes of the February 10, 2009 meeting were approved.

### **I. Officer's Reports**

Treasurer—Laura Olson gave out 3 reports: Profit and Loss, Profit and loss comparison to last year, and a balance sheet. Laura announced that our present cash position is very good. Laura noted that since the benefit was held on February 28<sup>th</sup>, some of the money from the benefit is reflected in these statements, but some will come in on the March statement. The profit and loss statements also have some benefit income and some benefit expenses included, but these will be updated on the March statement. If you have any questions about committee funds or the overall budget, contact Laura.

President—Kristen Borth said that she had a shortened report today. PTA council's monthly meeting is this Thursday. The presentation will be about a group, MAPA, Maestros (teachers), Alumnos (students), Padres (Parents), Avanzando (Advancing), that Mark Walhberg, the Hoffman principal, started a few months ago to help Spanish speaking parents establish a partnership with the teachers and principals at the schools. MAPA will be hosting a series of events to provide Hispanic parents with information on how to navigate the American education system. Through MAPA, teachers and parents will establish a stronger partnership for the success of the children. Kristen will give us a report on the presentation at the next meeting. Hoffman School recently held its first gathering of.

PTA is also working on the slate of officers and committee chairs for next year. If any committee chairs have not contacted Kristen about your plans for next year,

please call or email her. Also if you know someone who doesn't regularly attend PTA meetings this year, but might be interested in a position, know as well about the open positions. We will for sure need: Vice President, Assistant Treasurer, Art Enrichment, and Benefit Chair. We have a good mentorship system so you don't have to be an expert for any of the positions.

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President—Jennifer Massarelli also announced that Jen Roberts will be stepping down from the Global Language position. If you are interested in doing that next year, let Kristen know.

## **II. Committee Chair Reports**

*Jump rope for Heart Recap*—Kristen Miller reported that Dr. Jones organized a fantastic Jump Rope for Heart event. This is an event at Pleasant Ridge that raises money for the American Heart Association. Kristin thanked all of the parents who helped their kids collect money and the parents who volunteered to count the money. Pleasant Ridge has raised \$46,500 so far. Whereas many schools saw their proceeds go down 30%+ this year, Pleasant Ridge's proceeds only went down about 6-8%. This reflects the effort that everyone puts into this event. Last week the Physical Education team handed out participation certificates and Subway coupons to all the kids who participated. Kristin also announced that a number of kids also qualified for the American Heart Association's raffle for a trip to Disney.

*Benefit recap*—Kristen Borth thanked that benefit team for all their work on this wonderful party. Jen Farber reported that the benefit was a huge success. IN the end 332 guests came which was a record. In the past, the highest attendance had been 285 guests. The benefit team had been unsure about how successful the benefit would be in light of the bad economy. They think that the location helped, the fun theme drew people in and the final publicity push increased interest. At this point we have made \$45,000 in profit. The committee was really pleased. This year they had double the amount of sign-up parties, and they were a great success. The class gifts also went very well. We did a pre-sale of the small class made items, had them at the benefit itself and are doing a post-sale of any that are left. The small take away items allowed people to take something for a small amount which was great. There were only a couple of gifts left at the end, and a couple of sing-up party spots left. Jen announced that there will be a follow-up coffee for the team on Thursday, March 12th at Einstein's at 9:30. Anyone is welcome to come and bring their feedback on the benefit whether they are on the team or not. Jen Farber offered special thanks to Lisa Zimblar (Event chair), Kathleen Butler (Auction Chair), and Angela Ehrlan (Finance chair). She also thanked everyone else who headed a committee and volunteered. It took lots of hands to make this event a success.

*International Night*—Sue Swaringen announced that International Night will be May 1st. It will be similar to the events of the last 2 years. This event highlights the diversity of our cluster. It consists of rooms on a variety of countries with food, crafts, entertainment, and games for each country. This year they may set aside one room people to depict multiple countries that want a smaller space to share with someone else. Sue passed around a volunteer sheet. The committee will be looking for people to take countries, man rooms, work at the front desk, serve food and organize entertainment. This is a very fun event open to all ages. The committee has not determined which countries will be included. That will be determined by which countries individuals want to sponsor. Sue will be contacting the people who sponsored rooms last year to determine their interest. If anyone else is interested, contact her. There will be 10-12 rooms.

*Lice Check*—There will be lice checks at both schools after spring break. Watch for information to volunteer.

*Lyon/Pleasant Ridge Spring Book Fair*—Liz Price announced that the book fair will be May 20-21, 2009 at Pleasant Ridge. There will be a teacher preview and set up the day before. Liz will have sign-up sheets for volunteers after Spring Break. Liz is working with the Literature Alive committee to coordinate nighttime events.

*Registration*—District registration will be sent out the week of April 13<sup>th</sup>. PTA will be sent out the next week at the District's request. It will come out in the backpack around April 20<sup>th</sup>. Parents will also have the opportunity to order school supplies online. The dates for ordering will be posted right after break, probably April 1–May 15. Remember school supplies cannot be ordered after deadline.

*NSSSED*—Robin Hinrichs announced that the next APS workshop is Tuesday March 24 from 7:30-9:30 p.m. at New Trier West on Happ Road in Northfield. The topic is “Looking Forward: Perspective from Young Adults with Special Needs”. A panel of post high school students with special needs will talk about the realities of their lives as adults with special needs. The discussion will include educational choices, housing options and job experiences.

*School Board Report*—Susan Desmond reported. Kindergarten registration is on March 12<sup>th</sup>. Lunch fees will go up next year. Lunch fees prices will be \$2.45. for 1<sup>st</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> grades and \$2.60 for the middle schools.. The school Board also approved continuing “double block” instruction in reading and language arts for the middle schools. This will allow for more concentrated instruction for the students.

Additional reading and language arts revision will take place next year in the middle school.

*PTA Grant committee*-Kristen Borth reported for Ellen Girard. The three main things that PTA funds go to are grants, extra support for kids on free and reduced lunch and cultural enrichment programs. Kristen announced that we try to allocate some of the money from the PTA benefit for grants. We were able fund grants for the schools in the fall and that we now have money available to fund grants this spring as well. Ellen has sent out a letter to teachers to encourage them to submit grant applications. The grants will then be reviewed by the principals, the executive committee of PTA, and a committee of parents. Kristen sent around a sheet for volunteers to join the parent review committee. There will be a review meeting to do this the first week after spring break. If you sign the volunteer sheet or contact Kristen, you will be notified when the meeting is scheduled. We hope to vote on the grants at the April PTA meeting.

*5<sup>th</sup> Grade Picnic*-Susie Feldstein says that picnic planning is starting. She has a list of volunteers and will be looking for more help closer to the event. The volunteers will hear from Susie in the next month. A theme has also been selected which will be shared with the principal and the students soon.

**III. Principals' Report**—Kevin Dorken reported that this is the time of year principals begin to talk about staffing for next year. Lyon is projecting an increase in students and sections next year. They expect to have 8 sections of all grades. This will require another half-time kindergarten teacher and 1 new position in each of 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grades. Mr. Dorken also announced 2 : Rita Davis (2<sup>nd</sup> grade teacher) and Debbie Shefren (reading specialist). There will probably be a reception for them prior to the Lyon Open House in May. These are the new positions that Mr. Dorken knows he will need. Lyon may also need another ELL teacher part –time and another part-time fine arts teacher. Mary Tapia , who is now 80%, will probably become full-time. The District started screening for teachers in January. District 34 usually receives about 4000 applications and hires about 1-2% of them. Applications go through online screening, in person screening, and then building level interviews. Mr. Dorken said that he will hopefully announce some new hirings near the end of the school year. Mr. Dorken also announced that the last 2 parent-teacher conference day there has been a break-in at a car in the Lyon school parking lot. He encouraged parents that when Lyon has a big event, please don't leave valuables in plain sight in your car. The Glenview police will be on alert as well. He also announced that Lyon is focusing on bus behavior this month. Bus lines, bus video cameras and bus drivers

will be providing feedback on behavior. The best behaved bus will be awarded a “bus of the week” award. Mr. Dorken assured parents that bus behavior is not “totally out of control”, but that they want the kids to understand that buses are not a place to play around. The kids need to sit in their seats with their seat belts on so that everyone stays safe on the bus.

Matt Rich—Dr. Rich reported that this is a “great day for Pleasant Ridge”. The students are starting ISATs today. Today the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grades are doing their writing tests, while 4<sup>th</sup> grade is doing science tests. Dr. Rich reminded everyone to get your kid to school on time. If they are late, it disrupts everybody’s ability to do their test. Consequently, no one is allowed in the halls after 8 a.m. Any students arriving later will be sitting in the multipurpose room all morning and will take their ISATs late. Dr. Rich also announced that the teachers are making sure that every child has PE every day this week. The teachers, including Dr. Rich, will be running multiple classes at various parts of the school at the same time. Students will also have all of their specials. This week we try to make the ISATs a tolerable requirement for the kids and the staff. Dr. Rich encouraged parents to tell their kids that this test will not make a huge problem for them. Their scores will not affect any class work or grade. Dr. Rich also announced that the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Pleasant Ridge Science Fair is this Saturday from 9-12. The purpose of the fair is to touch kids in a different way from the other after school programs. Some of the 4<sup>th</sup> grade teachers have incorporated this into their curriculum, but it is mostly to spur interest. Please attend and support the kids, but don’t expect huge elaborate projects. There was one last year, but most of the projects are just to experience working with science. Dr. Rich that there will be a few retirements this year at Pleasant Ridge, but he will announce them later after discussing them further with the individuals involved. Otherwise, Pleasant Ridge expects few staff changes next year. There may be one change in Fine Arts, but otherwise, at this point, it looks like staff should remain the same.

**IV. Guest Speaker**—Phil Collins, Assistant superintendent for District 34, Phil Colliins presented an overview of the Assessments used in District 34, primarily the ISAT and NWEA

**V. Unfinished Business/New Business**

**VI. Announcements**

March 12—Kindergarten registration at Lyon 4:30-7 p.m.

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

March 30- April 3—Spring Break

April 6—Lyon Lice check

April 7—Pleasant Ridge lice check

April 17—Next PTA meeting at Pleasant Ridge at 9:15 a.m. (Note: This is a Friday.)

April 24—Pleasant Ridge Talent Show

May 1—Lyon 2<sup>nd</sup> grade program 10 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.

May 1—International Night (3<sup>rd</sup> grade musical)

May 4-8—Teacher Appreciation Week

May 20-21—Lyon/Pleasant Ridge Spring Book Fair Literature Alive/Pleasant Ridge  
Author Visit

June 5<sup>th</sup> –5<sup>th</sup> grade picnic

**VII. Adjournment**—Kristen Borth adjourned the meeting at 10:43 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Robin Hinrichs, PTA secretary