

## Lyon/Pleasant Ridge PTA Minutes

November 18, 2008

President Kristen Borth opened the meeting at 7 p.m. in the Lyon Multipurpose Room.

In Attendance: Kevin Dorken, Matthew Rich, Kristen Borth, Jennifer Massarelli, Robin Hinrichs, Laura Olsen, Debbie Wells, Amy Schneider, Kathleen Butler, Karen Friedman, Gloria Pedrelli, Wendy Ban, Olga Panagakis, Beth Schmidt, Ana Cassorla, Nicki Krysa, Rula Marziani, Sabrina Briggs, Deb McMahan, Karen Stack, Mary Keating, Jodi COfer, Barb Hill, Melanie Peterson, Phil Schneider, Irina Shepotinovshaya, Vicki Schurer, Christa Leone, Halleh Akbarnia, Melisaa Brady, Steve Kay, Ay Norwood, Gina Brunswick, Kathy McCarthy, Kathy Heckler, Meg Kamajian, Amani Solesky, Jack Murphy, Pia O'Bryan, Anne Carreon, Elizabeth Dixon, Paula McDonnell, Lee Remen

### **Approval of the Minutes**

The minutes of the October 17, 2008 meeting were approved.

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

Treasurer—Laura Olson distributed statements. She reported that Pumpkinfest happened in October. The revenue numbers are reported here, but the expenses are not on the year to date sheet. See the Pumpkinfest Expenses sheet. The environmental income is the biggest variance between last year and this year. It is lower this year because of no bag sales. Book fair will be on the November PTA Profit and Loss statements. The PTA membership drive also ended in October. We also had increased income from the Spiritwear sale. We earned \$9000. This looks like a lot compared to last year, but this year we are doing 2 purchase times rather than ongoing income like last year. The balance sheet reflects the present cash position. The first item is the Pay Pal account. We used this for the PTA membership dues this year. It will be drawn down soon. We have a very nice cash position right now. Some of the money is invested in a money market account. Ask Laura if you have any more questions.

President—Kristen Borth said “Thank you” to chairs of October and November events, including the Pumpkinfest chairs, Gina Devito Snyder and Susan Ohlandt. They organized volunteers and helped plan everything. If anyone had a chance to see it and would like to help next year, let us know. It was a great event. The Book Fair was also last week and Stacy Saef and Karen Friedman led the fair. They had Pizza night, grandparents evening, and a Poetry Café with students from Pleasant Ridge.

Kristen also thanked Nikki Krysa and Lindy Hood for their work on the Spiritwear sale.

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President—Jennifer Massarelli thanked everyone for checking their mail.

## **II. Committee Chair Reports**

*Pumpkinfest*—Laura reported that Pumpkinfest this year did very well. It made \$10,000 which is \$2000 more than last year and \$2000 more than our budget. We made \$5000 after expenses. This was an unexpected bonus.

*Lyon/PR Fall Book Fair*—Karen Friedman reported that the Book fair was very successful. We don't have final numbers. Karen reported that she will be chairing the event next year so anyone who wants to help, let her know. The poetry café was awesome. This was sponsored by a GEF grant. Bill Buyzinski did poetry with the all the classes at Pleasant Ridge, led the poetry café at the Book Fair and conducted a student only session in gym classes the next day..

*Benefit*—Kathleen Butler reported that the benefit theme is Madri Gras Mambo. We are trying to raise \$40,000 for PTA grants. She announced that there will be a competition between classrooms for donations of anything that would be of value to bid. There will be a benefit planning meeting this Thursday 9:15 a.m. at Kinkos if you want to help. If you have any inkling to help, let Kristen, Jen or Kathleen know.

*Holiday Helper*—Deb McMahon reported that this year 73 families responded to the request for help from the Holiday Helper Program. We have 24 children still unsponsored and 8 families still unsponsored. If anyone is still interested in sponsoring a child or a family, let Deb or Jennifer Wirtz know. This year we have a total of 190 children we are helping. The outerwear collection was completed last week, and the families picked up the outerwear yesterday. Mr. Dorken told story about child who got a new coat. The girl told him twice how much she liked it. She thought Mr. Dorken had given it to her. All of the families were so appreciative. Now we have drop off for food, presents and gift cards on Dec. 5<sup>th</sup> at Lyon. The wrapping party will be Dec 6<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. We will meet in Lyon gym. Bring tape, scissors and help. We are also accepting donations of grocery store, Kohl's, Target gift cards in any amount. You can drop those at the Lyon School office. We also received a huge donation of discontinued outerwear from the Scandinavian Ski Shop. These will be distributed with the December gifts. Kristen noted that the PTA donates tickets to these families for Pumpkinfest as well.

*Art Enrichment*—Amy Schneider said Thank you to the volunteers.

*Skool Aid*—Deb McMahon reported that Skool Aid is a project that matches a North Shore school with a less affluent an inner city public school. This is a new project this year. We are matched with Stockton School on the Northwest side. 83% of the families at the school are below poverty level. Our goal is to build a long term student to student relationship with the school. This will take time. The teachers will need to integrate pen pals and book clubs over time. But we have begun to help in other ways. We collected gently used outerwear last month and will probably do another drive right after Thanksgiving. We also collected gently used books at the Book Fair. We received a huge amount of books. We will be sorting them on Thursday and take them down next week. We will continue doing this at upcoming book fairs.

*PTA Council*—The PTA Council is a meeting of the Presidents of all the District 34 PTAs, a guest speaker, and the superintendent. Parents are always welcome. At the last meeting, the school calendar survey was discussed. There was a slight margin of people favoring the continuation of a 180 day calendar. There was also a slight margin that parents want a later start to the school year. The Preschool coalition is working on ways to help preschoolers get ready for Kindergarten. The middle school task force also reported. See their webpage (link on the district website) for more information. The school food service program was reviewed. It is self funded and follows the federal food guidelines, offering vegetables and fruit from the carts, 7 different each day. It was announced that the District 34 school board elections will be in spring. If you are interested, contact one of District administrators for an application. The next PTA Council meeting is Thursday Dec. 4<sup>th</sup> 9:15 at the Administration Building. Feel free to attend. PTA Council is also are looking for a representative to Character Counts for PTA. If you are interested, see Kristen after the meeting.

**III. Guest Speaker—Understand What Bullying is and How We Can Help our Children Successfully Overcome this Issue**—Mr. Kevin Dorken principal of Lyon School, Ms.

Linda Brown, social worker at Pleasant Ridge, Dr. Matt Rich, principal of Pleasant Ridge School, Eva Ginis, social worker of Pleasant Ridge School.

**IV. Unfinished Business/New Business**

- A. Youth Service Project—The telethon was very successful. They made over \$100,000

**V. Announcements**

Saturday December 6—Holiday Helper Wrapping  
Friday, December 12—Next PTA meeting 9:15 a.m. at Pleasant Ridge  
Wednesday, December 17—Lyon School Holiday Program  
Thursday, December 18—Pleasant Ridge Holiday Program  
January 13, 2009—PTA Holiday Luncheon  
February 28, 2009—PTA Benefit at Sunset Ridge Country Club

**VI. Adjournment—Kristen Borth adjourned the meeting at 9:05 p.m.**

Respectfully Submitted,  
Robin Hinrichs, PTA secretary