

Lyon/Pleasant Ridge PTA Minutes

January 13, 2009

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

In Attendance: Kevin Dorken, Matthew Rich, Kristen Borth, Jennifer Massarelli, Robin Hinrichs, Laura Olsen, Debbie Wells, Susan Desmond, Chris Northwick, Halleh Akbarnia, Natalie Weber, Gretchen Flowers, Liz Price, Cheryl Kasner, Krsitin Miller, Sue Swaringen, Gloria Pedrelli, Jen Farber, Kathleen Butler, Karen Friedman, Pam Hartigan, Sandy Brennan, Sabrina Briggs, Colleen MacKimm, Lisa Zimbler, Ana Cassorla, Jen Roberts, Cathy O'Shaughnessy, Susie Feldstein, Karen Toomey, Mary Hershey, Nicki Krysa, Michelle Langerbach, Melissa Brady, Susan Ohlandt

Approval of the Minutes

The minutes of the November 18, 2008 and December 12, 2008 meeting were approved.

I. Officer's Reports

Treasurer—Laura Olson passed out copies of the year to date revenue and expenses as well as the total PTA assets. She noted that there was not a lot of activity during December. Through the end of December, PTA had raised \$42,500 in income. The expenses are also below budget projections, so if anyone has any receipts that haven't been turned in, please get them to Laura. Most of the grants expenses have been submitted except for the bill for the lighting for Pleasant Ridge which will be forthcoming. The final numbers for the book fair will be included in the January statement. If you have questions about finances, contact Laura.

President—Kristen Borth reported on the PTA council meeting last week. Phil Collins, Assistant Superintendent for District 34, gave a brief overview of the middle school taskforce report. A group of teachers, parents and administrators created the task force about a year ago. Overall, the findings were that the middle schools are in good shape. Grading, amount and use of homework, and student:teacher ratios will be reviewed to determine if adjustments should be made. The task force also proposed some guidelines for curriculum. These will be phased in over time. Tomorrow, Brett Clark will be talking with PTA presidents and registration chairs about how to implement registration for next year. As of January 12th all new teachers will be receiving laptops when they are hired. The visitor stickers used at all District 34 schools will soon be replaced with lanyards. Once this starts, everyone will need to stop back in the office when you leave to return

the badges. You will write down the badge number when you sign in, and staff will be calling to get them back if you take them with you accidentally.

Kristen also announced that Loyola Academy's Health and Wellness committee will be doing a presentation about Stressed out Girls tomorrow at the East gym 7 p.m. This will be geared toward middle and high school girls. On January 30th the Pleasant Ridge Dad's group will be doing movie night in the gym. This is open to all Lyon and Pleasant Ridge students. PTA will be selling popcorn and water bottles to raise money for the Debra Gelfand fund. Kristin passed around a sign up sheet for volunteers.

II. Committee Chair Reports

Benefit—Jen Farber reminded everyone that the Benefit is February 28th. The invites will be sent out the last week of January. You can RSVP online or by mail. Tickets will be \$75.00. At the benefit, PTA will sell king cakes. These are traditional Madri Gras coffee cakes. Three Tarts bakery will be making them for us. PTA will pre-sell the cakes for \$10. We are able to get them for \$4.50, so \$5.50 will go to the PTA. This year the benefit will once again have a \$100. raffle. This year's raffle will be a "Dream day at Wrigley field". It will include four tickets to the game, pictures with players and other amenities. Another change is that this year the benefit RSVP card will offer the opportunity to sponsor a staff ticket for a reduced price. This will be in essence be a donation to PTA because usually PTA pays for these.

The committee needs more parent donations for the auction. You can Email a donation to Kathleen or send the forms with the child in the backpack. Kathleen can create a gift certificate for a donation if you need it. There will be a notice about this in the newsletter this week. Think about any unique things that you might have to offer—group parties, tickets, vacation homes, or special services. Encourage people who haven't gone to the event in the past to go with you. It should be a really fun party with a band, a king nomination, jesters, and a Mardi Gras parade. There will be teacher gifts as usual. Jen needs 3 groups of volunteers: 1) set up 9-12 the day of the benefit; 2) finance team—requires people to be the finance room from 8-the end; 3) auction security—for a husband or someone who wants to sit for a one hour shift and watch the items from 1-5:30 p.m. on benefit day.

Jump Rope for Heart—Kristin Miller reported that Jump Rope for Heart will be February 13th 2:30-4:30. It is the 30th anniversary for Jump Rope for Heart. This event allows the children at pleasant Ridge to engage in some community service. They ask their families and friends raise for money to support the American Heart Association. The children then jump rope to combat heart disease. Kristin asked for volunteers to help count the

kids pledge money both Thursday and Friday. During the actual event, PTA provides water bottles and oranges for the jumpers. Volunteers will be needed to pass out fruit and bottles. After the event PTA, will be sponsoring a shuttle bus to take the Sunset Village kids home so they can participate as well.

Environmental—Mary Hershey announced that you still can buy snack cups if you want more. A suggestion was made to bring them to the next meeting for sale. Mary also asked for ideas about how the kids can help more with environmental issues. The committee is hoping to do something during April to coordinate with the art enrichment project of the month.

Skool Aid—Cathy O’Shaughnessy reported that they are continuing to collect books for K-8 and outerwear. There are still boxes at both schools for items—at Lyon in the office and at PR by the multipurpose room.

NSSSED—Robin Hinrichs reported that the next NSSSED workshop will be January 20, 2009 from 9:30-11:30 at New Trier West on Happ Road in Northfield. The topic will be “Autism: The Diagnosis, Causes and Treatment of Autism Spectrum Disorders” with Dr. Bennett Leventhal. Dr. Leventhal is a professor of psychiatry and the Director of the Center for Child Mental Health and Developmental Neuroscience at the Institute for Juvenile Research at University of Illinois, Chicago.

School Board Report—Susan Desmond reported that District 34 is seeking aren’t and community input on technology. There is a survey on the website. Summer school registration is also now available. The summer school catalog will not be going home with every child. You can find it on the website. This year there are also more fun elective classes available for all ages. Susan also announced that anyone who wants to file to run for school Board can file starting on January 20th. The Caucus has come out for 3 candidates: Chris Northwick, Jack Murphy, Cathy Russe. Chris passed around petitions for the candidates for anyone who wanted to sign. The next School Board meeting is January 26th at the Administration Building.

Lyon/PR Spring Book Fair—Liz Price reported that the Lyon/ Pleasant Ridge Spring Book Fair will be May 20-21. Liz is looking for a new co-chair. Her co-chair is having a baby in June. They will be going to book fair training at the end of the month. She will have more information at the next meeting and will be asking for volunteers after the benefit.

International Night—Sue Swaringen announced that International Night will be May 1st. She will be looking for volunteers soon.

5th Grade Picnic—Susie Feldstein announced that the 5th grade Picnic will be Friday June 5th. They have already contracted the DJ, started on a theme and will be looking for volunteers closer to the date.

Ways and Means—Laura Olson reported for Lis Williams. She reminded parents to send in box tops for education. The deadline for PTA to submit box tops for this year is February 20th. You can just send them in your child's backpack. Also send in cell phones and ink jet cartridges. PTA can turn these in for rebates as well.

III. Guest Speaker—Kevin Dorken, Principal at Lyon School and Dr. Matt Rich, Principi at Pleasant Ridge School. **Topic:** Response to Intervention--Utilizing Educational Resources to Improve Student outcomes for All—Panel: Jason Rehfeldt, Psychologist at Lyon and Pleasant Ridge, Jill Bose-Dekins, NSSSED psychologist, Toby Plezkun, Gifted and Enrichment teacher at Pleasant Ridge, and Karen Lapping, teacher at Lyon School

IV.

V. Unfinished Business/New Business

Kristen Borth announced that there are Lyon Holiday program DVDs available for \$20.00. Send your money into the office at Lyon.

Kristen also announced the PTA Holiday luncheon will be today at Rula Marziani's house at 1455 Glenwood Avenue after the meeting.

VI. Announcements

January 16—Dad's Breakfast 7:10-7:50, Pleasant Ridge

January 30—Dad's Group Presents Family Movie Night 6-8 p.m. in Pleasant Ridge Gym

February 10—PTA meeting at 9:15 a.m. at Pleasant Ridge

February 13—Jump Rope for Heart 2:30-4:40, Pleasant Ridge gym

February 19—Principal Coffee, Pleasant Ridge, 9:30-11:00 a.m.

February 28—PTA Benefit, Sunset Ridge Country Club

March 12—Kindergarten Registration

March 14—Pleasant Ridge Science Fair

VII. Adjournment—Kristen Borth adjourned the meeting at 11:05 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Robin Hinrichs, PTA secretary