

Lyon/Pleasant Ridge PTA Minutes

June 2, 2009

President Kristen Borth opened the meeting at 9:30 a.m. in the Pleasant Ridge Library.

In Attendance: : Kevin Dorken, Matthew Rich, Kristen Borth, Jennifer Massarelli, Robin Hinrichs, Laura Olsen, Karen Toomey, Debbie Wells, Jen Farber, Susan Desmond, Colleen Mackimm, Karen Friedman, Liz Price, Cheryl Kasner, Mary Hershey, Wendy Ban, Betsy Garvey, Michelle Langenbach, Ana Cassorla, Rula Marziani, Sue Swaringen, Sabrina Briggs, Sandy Brennan, Susan Ohlandt, Lindy Hood, Greg McWilliams, Dina Silver, Maria Woltmann, Lisa Zimble, Laura Smith, Halleh Akbarnia, Jon Everson, Kathy McCarthy, Kathy Lawler

Approval of the Minutes

The minutes of the meeting May 12, 2009 were approved.

I. Officer's Reports

Treasurer—Laura Olson reviewed the monthly Balance sheet. PTA presently has a little over \$60,000 in assets, including \$38,000 in Money Market funds and \$20,000 in a CD. The balance will drop significantly in the next month as we pay out the rest of the grant funds and pay all the year-end expenses. The financial books will close on June 30th. Laura reminded everyone that she will need all receipts by then. You can't be reimbursed from this year's budget after that. If for some special reason, you need an exemption, let Laura Know. The grant expenses are steadily coming in. We have paid out \$11,000 in grants so far and are awaiting another \$10,000 in expenses in the next 30 days.

President—Kristen Borth passed around thank you notes to PTA from the teachers.

The approval of the by-laws was tabled until September.

1st Vice President—Jennifer Massarelli asked everyone to double check the PTA mail box, so that things that can be cleaned out at the end of the year. She also thanked Kristen Borth for holding the retirement reception for Debbie Shefren and Rita Davis.

Both teachers received rose bushes in their honor that have been planted in the Lyon School garden.

II. Committee Chair Reports

Spring Lyon/ Pleasant Ridge Book Fair—Liz Price thanked everyone for helping with the Book Fair. We received about \$13,000 in revenue. Only cash sales are listed on the financial report. The credit card sales go directly to Anderson. The sales were down about 20-25% from last year. This is a similar situation to last fall's book fair. We will probably make \$2000-25000 in profits once the final numbers are in.

Literature Alive—Kristen Borth reported that there was a great turnout. Kevin Luthardt and Sally Walker signed books. The 5th graders did their skits and the author visit went well. Thank you to everyone who helped and/or attended.

Environmental—Mary Hershey reported that they have altered the design for the water bottles that will be sold in the fall. They will still be \$5.00 and will have a pop top, a clip for the backpack, and a place for your name. They have preordered a few for display. These will be delivered in late June. If you want one then, contact Mary. The big sale will be in the fall. It will focus on water bottles, but will include reusable bags as well. Order forms will go out in September. The sale will be District-wide. Lyon/PR PTA will get a portion of the sales sold in our cluster. Mary also reported that the kids at both schools made special Earth Day projects. The Lyon project is on display in the hall. Thank you to Karen Toomey for helping with the Lyon Display.

Registration-- Sandy Brennan reported that registration is going well. We have more members so far this year than we did at the same time last year. Please continue to register if you have not already. They haven't done the drawing for the Target gift card yet, but will do that next week.

Skool Aid—Deb McMahon sent a message that the pen pal program is in place. 4th and 2nd graders are paired up with Stockton students. The feedback from Stockton is great. 750 books were collected at the Book fair for Stockton and a few readers and teacher books will go as well. Deb thanked the Pleasant Ridge student council for boxing the books. The committee will also be collecting school supplies to send to Stockton. At Pleasant Ridge if you want your kids to bring their school supplies home at the end of the year, sign the sheet that was sent home last week. Otherwise, all supplies will be donated to Stockton. The committee is looking for people for to help transport the supplies to Stockton after school is out. Contact Cathy O'Shaugnessey if you can help. They are also collecting white shirts and blue pants, (uniform-type clothing). If you have some, leave them in the boxes at both schools. If you have friends that go the OLPH then you might ask if they want to donate some used uniform clothes as well.

School Board Report—Susan Desmond reported on the School Board meeting. Everyone should be registered for school by now. Parents please fill out District 34 survey online or in the office. Parents of Springman and Attea graduates also have a separate survey. The District Early Childhood Education program will have a blended classroom next year. This will be a preschool classroom of special needs and regular preschool children. The District also announced that Middle school gifted programs have been changed for next year. Top tier students will receive 100% of their Language arts and reading instruction through the gifted program. The next tier students will receive 50% of their instruction from the gifted program. Both will be a pull-out model. The District also announced that Green initiatives are continuing to expand in the District. They are implementing more middle school service projects. Attea will be starting an environmental club next year.

5th Grade Picnic—Sandy Brennan announced that plans for the picnic are set. She sent out an email for all volunteers this morning. If you didn't get it, contact Sandy. She will update. Hope for good weather. Congrats to Susie and Olga for all their hard work.

III. Principals' Report—

Matt Rich—Dr. Rich welcomed everyone to the last PTA meeting of the year. He reported that it has been a busy year for Pleasant Ridge and the PTA. He thanked PTA for all the activities. He then announced Pleasant Ridge new personnel for next year:— Sabina Byer will be a full time ELL teacher. Marlo Lansmin will be a 4th grade teacher. She comes from Skokie where she was a special education teacher. She has also been involved in technology. Tracy Mariano, the music teacher will be following her fiance to Connecticut. We have hired Sarah Smith, a NU grad, to take that position. She presently runs a children's choir for a Catholic school.

Matt also encouraged all parents to search through the lost and found. The lost and found will be gotten rid of on Thursday. Announcements: Friday is the 5th grade picnic and Wednesday next week will be field day, the Ginny Bates Peppel award assembly, and yearbook signing.

Kevin Dorken—Mr. Dorken reported how nice it is to be able to tell new teacher candidates what a supportive parent community we have. Thank you to the PTA for another outstanding year. A lot is going on at Lyon now: Friday is Field day, and each grade level will be doing various kinds of end of year picnic things. Check your child's backpack for details. Staffing updates::2nd grade teacher, Karen Lapping will be coming the Reading Specialist in the fall. New teachers include: 2nd grade teacher Amanda Tarkinton who went to school in District 34 and has been teaching in Arlington Height; Kristy Miller—who taught for 4 years in Lake in the Hills, and Anete Mlynski who is coming from the Golf district. 1st grade: Mary Hoyland, a current teacher at Henking. Kindergarten: Mrs. Matzkin will become full time. Mt. Dorken also announced that Tracy Murdoch will be leaving. They will be hiring someone over the summer to replace her. Lyon will also get an extra ELL teacher that they will share with Hoffman. Will be sharing a ELL person with Hoffman.

IV. Adjournment Kristen Borth adjourned the meeting at 10:30 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robin Hinrichs, PTA secretary