

## **Lyon/Pleasant Ridge PTA Minutes**

**September 8, 2009**

President Jennifer Massarelli opened the meeting at 9:15 a.m. in the Lyon School Multi-purpose Room.

In Attendance: Kevin Dorken, Matthew Rich, Jennifer Massarelli, Lindy Hood, Anne Carreon, Jon Everson, Greg McWilliams, Tiffany Sapienza, Chris Northwick, Susan Ohlandt, Dina Silver, Debbie Wells, Michele Brennan, Mary Hershey, Karen Friedman, Jennifer Hastings, Kristin Daus, Cathy O'Shaughnessy, Wendy Ban, Kaylee Durow, Colleen MacKimm, Christa Leone, Phil Schneider, Rula Marziani, Kathy McCarthy, Michelle Langenbach, Susie Feldstein, Paula McDonnell, Jen Farber, Jen Roberts, Laura Olson, Kristen Borth, Sandy Ella, Sue Swaringen, Ana Cassorla, Chris von Helms, Gloria Pedrelli, Beth Huzjak, Kirsten Bergin, Sabrina Briggs, Helen Ermolov, Doug Morgan, Mandy Chiarieri, Matina Ingallinera, Angie Katsamakis, Cheryl Kasner, Rose Metzger, Meg Costigan, Beth Schmidt, Kim Wiersma-Kay, Halleh Akbamia, Patty Baeckelandt, Mai Hanh Leifke

### **Approval of the Minutes**

Motion—Mary Hershey

Second—Gloria Pedrelli

The minutes of the June 2, 2009 meeting were approved.

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

#### ***Treasurer—Karen Toomey***

- Asst. Treasurer Jon Everson presented on Karen Toomey's behalf
- We usually review and approve the budget at the first meeting of the school year. We will wait until the next meeting due to recent requests for change, which need to be reviewed
- The budget is tight. If any chairs have questions or concerns, please notify Karen immediately

***President—Jennifer Massarelli***

- The following topics were discussed at the September PTA Council meeting:
  - Youth Services is holding a book drive starting today. Gently used books are being collected at both schools
  - Hearts of Glenview is a charity event put on by the Chamber of Commerce to benefit kids in need in the community. They auction off plaster hearts made by kids at each school. In the past these have been made with the assistance of the art teachers. The PTA is now being asked to take this on if we so choose. Please notify Jenn if you are interested in working on this project
- International Night: Val is looking for a co-chair
- New PTA website:
  - There are currently 4 websites relating to our schools (Lyon, PR, Lyon/PR PTA and District 34). Community flyers are also being posted online. An insert will go in the next newsletter to help parents navigate the various sites and determine what information can be found on each site
  - Parents also suggested adding a “Frequently Asked Questions” section to the website. Work will start on that this week. Please send suggestions to Jenn for this section
  - A “suggestion box” will be added to the PTA website. We will try to address some of these postings at each PTA meeting
- If someone in the community helps you with an event you are running, please send an e-mail to Jenn with this information

***1<sup>st</sup> Vice President—Lindy Hood***

- PTA Council consists of the PTA presidents and VPs from all the clusters, as well as a PTA Council board. At the September meeting, Judy Freedman, author of Easing the Teasing, spoke on the topic of bullying
  - Teasing and bullying are along the same continuum
  - It is important to give kids strategies to cope with bullying

- We will discuss this topic in more detail at the October PTA meeting

## **II. Teachers' Representative Reports**

- No report at this meeting due to guest speakers

## **III. Committee Chair Reports**

### ***Pumpkinfest—Susan Ohlandt and Dina Silver***

- Event will be held on Friday, Oct. 23<sup>rd</sup> from 4:00-8:00. There is no school on this day
- Still need 4 chairs: 2 for food sales, 1 pocket lady chair, 1 prize chair
- Food chair buys paper goods and works the kitchen for one shift, either 4:00-6:00 or 6:00-8:00
- Pocket lady: dresses up and roams the school with prizes
- Prize chair orders prizes for carnival games
- Gina Divito Snyder will be coordinating volunteers

### ***Room Parent Program—Debbie Wells and Tiffany Sapienza***

- Miss Heilwagen's 4<sup>th</sup> grade class needs an additional room parent
  - *Note: This opening was filled after the meeting*

### ***Global Language—Laura Olson***

- Registration closed on Friday, Sept. 4<sup>th</sup>
- Program starts the week of Sept. 21<sup>st</sup>

### ***Environmental—Mary Hershey and Jen Roberts***

- Stainless steel water bottles being sold to encourage the use of reusable water bottles, rather than disposable
- Cost is \$5 and order forms will be going home on Friday
- Cost was based on making them affordable to all rather than making money

***Spiritwear—Greg McWilliams and Nikki Krysa***

- Displays and flyers are up in both schools. Flyers also went home in backpacks
- Deadline is Monday, Sept. 14<sup>th</sup>
- Discounts were given last year for teachers and staff. We will continue this. An announcement will be sent to the principals and they will notify the staff
- Looking at new vendors and considering changes for next year. Please touch base with either chair if you have any suggestions

***School Supplies—Kristen Borth and Beth Schmidt***

- No report

***Lyon Book Fair—Karen Friedman and Kathy Lawler***

- Event will be held on Nov. 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>. Set up is on Nov. 10<sup>th</sup>
- Theme is Destination Book Fair: Read Around the World
- Looking for people who are artistic to help with decorations

***Benefit—Dina Silver***

- Event will be held on Saturday, Feb. 20<sup>th</sup> at Sunset Ridge Country Club
- Theme is Caddyshack
- Brainstorming session was held at Valley Lo in mid-June. More than 20 people attended

- Exploring an online auction. This will reduce the effort on the night of the event, as well as during the following weeks. This may be used for teacher gifts and classroom gifts
- We will still have auction items at the event
- Wine tasting being considered as an additional fundraiser in the future. This will first be offered as a sign up party this year
- Brainstorming meeting will be held on Sept. 17<sup>th</sup> from 9:30am-11:00am at PR
- Still looking for a co-chair for the event and a silent auction chair

***Cultural Enrichment—Gloria Pedrelli and Cheryl Kasner***

- Mosaic artist coming to Lyon in winter/early spring. She will be working with the students to create a mosaic which will likely be placed in the hallway across from the gym
- Planning to hold 2 assemblies at Lyon this year
- At PR, we are trying to get teachers more involved. Planning to hold smaller assemblies for each grade that will be coordinated with their curriculum

***Art Enrichment—Michele Brennan***

- Still getting volunteers
- If room parents took the volunteer forms from curriculum night, please forward them to Michele
- There will be a training session—Date and time to be announced

***Volunteer Database—Michelle Langenbach***

- Please make sure you have signed up for PTA

***Directory—Wendy Ban and Kathy McCarthy***

- Hoping to distribute by the end of Sept/beginning of Oct

***Ways & Means—Susan Desmond***

- Still collecting box tops
- Still collecting old cell phones, but Motorola says we need at least 100. Susan will contact them to see if an exception can be made
- Target and Dominick's both have programs in place to give money back to our schools based on purchases you make. Please consider checking with each store to learn more about how the program works. This money goes directly to the principals and is used to fund needs where there is a shortfall

***NSSSED Liaison—Patty Baecklandt***

- NSSSED serves many kids, from those getting speech therapy to those receiving full NSSSED services
- A parent mentor is available to help navigate the IEP process or to assist in finding therapists
- Disability awareness committee who does puppet shows
- Parent education program is held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of every month at the New Trier professional campus.
  - Topic of Sept. 22<sup>nd</sup> program is supporting literacy at home
  - Must RSVP since the programs do sell out

**IV. Guest Speaker – Karen Jacobsen and Lauren Bondy**

- Parenting Perspectives: Raising Resilient Children, A Key to Success
  - Handouts can be found on the PTA website

**V. Principals' Report—**

### ***Kevin Dorken***

- Early Intervention Kindergarten begins today. This is an all day program for kids with various at-risk factors. Students come from all across the district, but are mostly Lyon kids. Class is held Monday-Thursday and is taught by Rachael Carlson. The cost is covered by the district
- Pre-Kindergarten program starts the week of Sept. 21<sup>st</sup> and is also taught by Rachael Carlson. This program is funded by state grants
- Also taking place at Lyon:
  - Establishing routines in the classrooms
  - Modeling expectations for kids
  - Doing reviews and launching curriculum
  - Conducting math and reading assessments

### ***Matt Rich***

- A parent resource page has been added to the website. This is a work in progress
- Longtime sub/social worker conducting meetings to roll out the FISH! philosophy
- Bus meetings are new this year
  - Once every 8-9 weeks, Dr. Rich will be having conversations with the kids to find out what's happening on the buses
  - Each bus will meet 3-4 times
- Reading CBMs being done to see how quickly students are reading
- NWEA tests taking place now and will be completed this week
  - NWEA parent education meeting being held in the evening on Sept. 22<sup>nd</sup>
- Curriculum Night is this Thursday. Parents wanted to be in the classrooms to hear about instruction, so that will be the focus
- PR Dad's Group runs a variety of activities

- Open to anyone, not just dads
- PR Dad's Breakfast on Oct. 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:15am. Anyone can come
- Sept. 25<sup>th</sup> outing to GBS football game
- Lyon and PR newsletter is combined and will only have content that is directly school-related. Other notifications and flyers can be found on the district website

**VI. Unfinished Business/New Business**

- None to report

**VII. Announcements**

Friday, October 16—Next PTA meeting

September 10—PR Curriculum Night 7:00pm

September 10—Lyon School Pictures

September 11—PR School Pictures

September 20—Rotary Run – funds benefit the Debra Gelfand fund

September 21—Start Global Language Program

October 23—Pumpkinfest

October 29—Principal's Coffee, Lyon 9:30am

November 7—Parents in Partnership 8:30am

**VIII. Adjournment and Call to Luncheon –Jennifer Massarelli adjourned the meeting at 11:40 a.m.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Anne Carreon, PTA secretary

