

**Lyon/Pleasant Ridge PTA Agenda**  
**November 19, 2013**  
**General PTA Business Meeting**  
**9:15am - 11:00am Pleasant Ridge**

**In Attendance:** Mandy Chiarieri, Alison Sipe, Anne Burke, Anne Carreon, Halleh Akbarnia, Maggie Rogula, Andie Harrigan, Natalie Jachtorowycz, Paris Raghian, Jen Chastain, Dina Silver, Rachel Gilles, Kristin Pilant, Alec Knight, Dana Palmer, Shari Isaacs, Karen Hitzman, Karen Friedman, Kim Yagelski, Kevin Dorken, Frank Rottman

Mandy Chiarieri called the meeting to order.

**Minutes Approval**

Motion – Anne Carreon

Second – Dina Silver

**Guest Speaker:** Beth Tsoumas, District 34 Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment – “Common Core Standards”

**Thank You’s**

- Book Fair – Dana Palmer and Shari Isaacs – book fair did very well!
- Directory – Sally Claffey and Aimee Walters – directory went home last week. Ad sales made \$1500.
- Spiritwear – Cindy Robbins and Kristin Pliant – sales going well
- Holiday Helper Team – Amy Eccelston and Liz DeMattia – first phase is over.

**PTA Council**

- Character counts food drive – 9100 items collected for food drive. Primary grade collection was low; looking for ideas to boost participation for next year. Perhaps ask teachers to promote more in the classroom.

- Holiday Helper – Going on now. This is a cluster-only program which helps families within our cluster who have asked for assistance.
- GEF – Fund drive just completed on Friday. Phon-A-Thon was on Tuesday. It did well. Currently GEF has raised \$98,000. The goal is \$150,000.
- Fall Grant Cycle – Usual fall grant requests are \$20,000. This year's requests are already at \$200,000. GEF is looking for more donations. Will be voting on fall grants on December 4, reviewing them January and decisions will be made in February. People can check the GEF website for more on the history of grant approvals.

### **Treasurer's Report**

- Anne Burke is taking over treasurer duties for Cyndi Hackl. She will have a report next month with the results from book fair. Protocol will remain the same for reimbursements, etc.

### **Committee Chair Reports:**

**School Board Liaison** - Kim Yagelski reported on the November 11<sup>th</sup> School Board Meeting.

**Book Fair** - Dana Palmer and Shari Isaacs

Thank you to all who participated – especially principals and volunteers. We had a great turnout!

**Holiday Helper** – Allison Sipe

We have 47 families participating in the Holiday Helper program. All families who requested assistance have been covered by sponsors, and we have a waiting list of sponsors in case more families request assistance.

We are in need of grocery card donations. We have received \$350 in cash donations, which is down from last year. Hoping that contributions keep coming in. The Holiday Helper food drive has started and ends Dec. 6. We are looking for sponsors to subsidize the cost of

turkeys – we are approaching the new Subway and Red Rooster. The deadline for donations is December 6. The pack-up party is Saturday, December 7.

### **Environmental – Marg Plante**

- Kicking off the TREX challenge – Nov. 15-April 20
  - o Will need volunteers to help – weigh bags at each school and then deliver them to either Jewel
  - o Competition to win a bench – PR won last year

### **Special Needs – Karen Hitzman**

- Parent Support Group going well.
- Social worker is now affiliated with Glenview Youth Services. Meetings are held at Glenview Youth Services. GYS rep will come to next meeting to discuss support groups available through GYS.
- Have eliminated evening meetings due to lack of participation.
- December 4 meeting – will have a presentation of social workers from the district – one from each cluster. Will talk about types of stressors for kids especially around the holidays.
- End of January – will have a forum/open house with community reps available to talk to parents of special needs on how to incorporate community in everyday world.
- Working on a spring program on acceptance. More information to come.

### **Spiritwear – Kristin Pilant**

- Just finished delivering all fall orders
- Would be beneficial to have a flyer (hard copy) sent home rather than electronically through eBlast
- Have extra inventory for Lyon and PR – contact Kristin or Cindy if you are looking for items before the next spring sale.
- Maybe sell items at Winter Program

### **Principals' Reports**

#### **Kevin Dorken – Lyon**

- Great Book Fair – we appreciate the support

- Questions about Common Core – it is written for full day Kindergarten. There are no plans to have full-day kindergarten in the district by 2014. A proposal has been brought to the Education Committee for full-day kindergarten, but it is in the early stages of the process. Stay tuned over the next few years...

- Winter Program – House of Lyon #makeyourmark  
Letter going home regarding the ticket policy – Every family gets 2 tickets to the show. No assigned seats – first come, first serve.

- Lots of exciting work going on with Common Core.
- Busy and exciting time from now to winter break.

### **Frank Rottman – Pleasant Ridge**

- Thanks to the PTA on behalf of our families and staff. It was a special night giving out our Holiday Helper outerwear. Looking forward to December 9 when the rest of the Holiday Helper items are delivered. Looking for volunteers for December 7 to pack up Holiday Helper items.

- Thank you to the PTA for all of the nice events recently.

- PR News – Discussions going on about teasing and bullying. Kids are tired of “Orange Wednesdays”. Looking for a new color. Seeing results from anti-bullying and teasing. Seeing kids using the appropriate language.

- Safety issues – working on keeping the hallways clear. “Hook it and Zip it.” Keep backpacks on hooks and zipped.

- Teachers have been advised to keep an eye on students for stresses at this time of year.

- Common Core – focusing on implementing Common Core in the classroom.

Meeting adjourned – 11:06 by Mandy Chiarieri