

Richmond Waldorf School
PA Meeting Minutes

January 06th, 2015

The following are the meeting minutes for the month of January:

Attendance- Kim Washburn, Terry Wyllie, Katie Adams Parrish, Cary White, Roberto Trostli, Elisabeth Corey, Yadira Carrillo de Nevarez, Tim Thurber, Joel McCauley, Ophelia von Ludwig, Niki Randall, Noelle Watson, Megan Chase, Annie Lacy

- Introduction by Kim Washburn & Welcome
- Annie Lacy was introduced and unfamiliar so all those present introduced themselves.
- The December minutes were approved.
- Proceeded to have class updates from each grade. There was a discussion in regards to the class reports from each grade and that maybe they should connect with the ongoing class curriculum. It was brought to our attention that the faculty college is presently finalizing an outline/overview and will be presenting this to the parents in due time and that this curriculum would be what each class representative would expand on in their report. The end result was that this would harbor possibly reports that were too time exhaustive and put more pressure the teachers and reps to provide the report. This idea it was believed would be better suited to be visible at another location, either through the messenger or on the parent's corner. It was suggested, however, that the class reports include a personalized antidote if possible. Other thoughts included organizing another Parent's education evening or maybe an expanded area of the Orientation overview for new prospective parents.
- The following is a brief description by each:
 - Early Childhood: Winter themes, children have been enjoying show and tell.
 - 1st Grade: Just finished their first Nature block, learning about the four seasons, precipitation, diversity of plant species, types of trees, and migration. To tie that into Language Arts they drew pictures, practiced writing some of the words.
 - 2nd Grade: Just started a block of form drawing, math/carrying & borrowing, a lot of reading and reading out loud.
 - 3rd Grade: Studying the Old Testament & Hebrew people, structure of paragraphs, reading, spelling and grammar, drawing pictures and playing games.
 - 4th Grade: Studying verb tenses, grammar, and writing to pen pals. Using pen pal letters as a way to practice the grammar rules.
 - 5th Grade: In a math block, they had been getting ready for the spelling bee, and preparing for their Greek play.
 - 6th Grade: They will finish their lesson block on Roman History. They are moving on to the Geography of Europe. The plan is to alternate learning about the land, peoples, and customs with firsthand accounts of childhood memories from natives of the various areas.
 - 7th Grade: was not recorded.

- Updates for each committee were not voiced but are appended to the Agenda and available on the Parents Corner.
- Financial Report:
 - The Kroger program of tying each individual's Kroger Card to the school has worked out very well. This year to date we have reached approx. \$788.00. Inviting ideas to help all the school parents (who shop at Kroger) to get on board.
 - An Enrollment/Marketing coordinator has been hired, who is not a parent at the school. They will be working from 11-3pm 5 days a week.
- Heads Committee:
 - Parent Education: Working presently with a running list of ideas, such as the fall season being a good time for Parent Education. Last fall a book study proved to be very successful, albeit a lot of organizational work.
 - They are working with the question, "What is helpful those getting into the school?" What would appeal to the later grades? Going through the grades night was a very successful evening in the past and was very successful.
 - Around spring is new enrollment and are working on ideas to help get new parents attention, as well as focusing on retention. Kindergarten used to have much more information talking about ideas.
 - There was a great deal of discussion in regards to events that used to happen that no longer don't and why. The school has gone through many phases and the retention from year to year can be difficult. Part of this discussion led back to a parent education evening so for example, questions about reading when they come up from outside the school can be thoughtfully answered as to the science behind it and why. Apparently reading at Waldorf has been used against us from other schools to prospective parents. This also led to a brief discussion about what the community wants. Are there too many events, how to organize and find out the one that are in the most need.
 - Roberto suggested there not be too many meetings though, maybe only three parent meetings per year.
- Hearts Committee:
 - Annual Teacher appreciation drive reached over \$1880 this year. We are looking for feedback regarding this drive from the faculty, as well as, the parents. It doesn't have to be done the same way every year and are looking for other alternative ideas.
 - Roberto provided some personal feedback in that he would much prefer a personal written note to any money received.
 - For the Annual Fund, timing seems to have been an issue and finding maybe a better time would be preferred. It needs to get out that some don't feel that it was clear that only the pledges were needed at this time. Only the matching gift donations had a deadline. This could have made a big difference apparently.
- Hands Committee:
 - A playground update was written up regarding what has been done to date and what is slated for the future.

- Volunteerism:
 - This topic was headed by Roberto. There has been a lot of important involvement, especially for the Auction.
 - The May Faire festival organization has been started and is to be a very important event for the school and how we can use it to reach the community. Roberto feels that this event should be "THE" it event for Richmond which would greatly help our exposure.
 - Two class basket captains are still needed and since no parent has stepped up, the description will be sent out for any volunteer to take one of the spots.
- Feedback:
 - Some feedback was heard regarding an overwhelming amount of activities after school. This being extremely hard for some of the single parents.
 - Too many activities in general, this may be from the many activities over the holiday season.

This concluded the PA meeting notes for January 6th.