

Richmond Waldorf School  
PA Meeting Minutes

September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2014

The following are the meeting minutes for the first PA meeting of the 2014-2015 school year:

Attendance- 22 total – Kim Washburn, Katie Adams Parrish, Cary White, Tim Thurber, Terry Wyllie, Michael Jones, Ali Hale, Jennifer McCall, Lilah Sol, Kathy O'Bryan, Vanessa McCauley, Suzanne Rosenhammer, Megan Chase, Irina Baranova, Elisabeth Corey, Judge Barr, Sarah Knaup, Tracy Haines, Niki Randall, Ophelia von Ludwig, Roberto Trostli, Noelle Watson.

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- Introduction by Kim Washburn & Welcome
- The committee members were introduced which included the presentation of the Treasurer Ophelia Von Ludwig and Secretary Terry Wyllie.
- Introduction of Roles & General PA meeting structure. Katie Adams Parrish explained the origin the Heads, Hearts, and Hands terminology and their relationship to Waldorf education.
- Financial Report by Ophelia
  - Read current bank balance, projected income and expenses for year.
  - Katie AP added that the school is in current collaboration with the Church to find funds for the parking lot improvement and the painting of a basketball key.
  - General financial talk ensued and a question arose as to how long the school might be here with regards to various facility improvements that have been made.
- Introduction of the Parents Corner and what could be found there. The password was given out: gnomes

Each committee Chair then presented a summary of where things are:

- Heads Committee-Sarah Knaup
  - Parent education was discussed. Workshops and fairy tale education nights and their importance, how Waldorf approaches education, and discovery for new parents the question "what do we want to learn more about?"
  - Communication was discussed. The overall goal is to develop the schools existing communication further. To do this involves trying different resources, finding out which methods work better than others, to condense and streamline where possible. Get the parents to take advantage of the Parents Corner and to let it be the one place where most of their answers can be found and to try and identify the communities within each grade.
  - Fundraising was introduced. Kim Washburn is the coordinator.
    - Presentation of the Scrip program and the goal of trying to get at least one quarter of the school involved.
  - Environmental sustainability was presented by coordinator, Ali Hale. They are in the assessment stage and are trying to find what policies are already in place and what the day to day activities are or even if any exist towards sustainability practice. The teracycle program has begun and they are in the process of trying to get some rainwater collectors.

- Hearts Committee-Katie Adams Parrish
  - Welcoming effort is under way. There is a community in reach program.
  - New family care was discussed which involved the help and check in with new families.
  - Katie AP shared an update provided by Tracy Werner, coordinator of the New Family Care program, that all of the new grade families have been paired up with parent partners. They have been in face to face contact and have received a welcome bag. She remarked that one new mom said "it is so nice to be connected, I don't feel so alone here."
  - Community out- reach was presented
    - How can we have deeper impact on the community was one of the goals.
    - A clothing swap will be in the future to get ready for winter as well as a festival dress swap.
  - Social events were discussed.
    - How do we get to play together? What can we do to get more people in touch with one another? Drink socials, get-togethers, dad nights out, etc. were brought up. Lilah Sol volunteered to help.
- Hands Committee-Tracy Haines
  - Need volunteers for the James River clean up was discussed and presented where they might be able to sign up and find information. There is a live Google document on the Parents Corner.
  - Beautification was presented and discussed.
    - One goal is to improve and maintain the flower beds
    - Try to get a bulletin board in the lobby to gain more awareness of ongoing and upcoming events and needed volunteers.
    - There will be a hand work group night where the parents can learn some of the same methods the students are learning.
  - Roberto is overseeing the Parent Volunteering.
    - He discussed a primary objective to find out how to get parents to contribute to events outside their own child's class. He brought up the James River clean up day and how important it is to the school and how the community sees us. That it is not an event about the children but about the school itself.
- The calendars were brought up and discussed. An intro to what is coming up and where we might need help was presented on the calendars. There was a lot of discussion about whether there was to be one or two calendars. This will be researched more to find the best solution.
- Katie Adams Parrish gave more thoughts in regards to Community Care and teacher appreciation in that it will be given high importance throughout the year.
- Minutes will be sent out and then PA representatives can include them in their updates to their classes.

Agenda items concluded and open questions time began.

- In response to a box top question or thought, it was found that the Box Top "Box" was missing! Apparently, a parent, Katherine Gallagher, has volunteered to be the counter of

the box tops. There are two submission dates for the year, November 1, 2014 and March 1, 2015.

- In regards to communication, attempts to gain feedback was brought up with the thought of how to get the community to read the Messenger and also to find out what the preferred methods are for inquiry and presentation. "Do you read the Messenger?" was one of the questions to be submitted.

This concludes the PA meeting notes for September 8<sup>th</sup>.