

Richmond Waldorf School
PA Meeting Minutes

September 15th, 2015

The following are the meeting minutes for September of the 2015-2016 school year:

Attendance- 21 total +/-

- Introduction by Co PA Moderators Allison Thurber and Susannah Meyer.
- Opening community verse
- Introductions. Those in attendance introduced themselves and their positions if they were on one the committees.
- We then followed the advanced copy of the PA Agenda beginning with an open discussion.

•PA vision and goals for the coming Year:

-Open forum to decide or change what we would like to cover this year: What do you like and what do you not like? Several in attendance responded:

-PA to be a liaison between the parents and the faculty was one suggestion, this happens though more often then we know was a response. There was also a question about whether the Parents are aware of whom is in the PA and what they can use them for. Maybe a place to talk about their concerns could be posted was an idea presented.

-Another response was that parents are not sure who to go to for a particular concern. Might be nice for roles to be displayed as to what they can do. Dawn is the chair of the faculty college. In about a week there will be a Waldorf book coming out to give this information. Each class will also have a class meeting and some of this will be covered there.

- One response noted was that the Eighth grade class parents suggest talking among the class to announce that they would be willing to accept any questions. This could be a model for other classes to adopt if they were willing.

-Fundraising, part of the Heads committee, could go further. Should we even offer parent education? Katie wants to participate in helping with this, though we she and others feel we need more people to take initiative with certain functions, clothes swap, etc.

Heads:

-Heads committee, chair is vacant.

-Clear roles for what class reps do (separate from the class parents) and what their roles are.

Define what and how they can best get the information to the class parents. Nothing has really ever been put out to the community although there is a listing in the Parent's Corner.

-Another thought regarding PA experience was to send out a name in each report with someone who has experience in one of the committee heads or even the PA so that if there are any questions, parents will know who to ask.

-it was asked if there was anyone in the room that would be part of the subcommittee, of those present.

- Niki Randall volunteered to be the Hands committee chair. Jennifer McCall with help with the flower beds. Nikki has a question as to how to get approval for getting things done. It was revealed that she will need would go to the faculty to get approval for things done. School beautification really includes the inside. Find the faculty partner to coordinate where things overlap. The faculty has a list as to who is responsible.

-The password for the parents corner will soon be changed and given out in due time.

Hearts:

- Hearts – need someone for community outreach and social events (coffee events, men's socails, contra dance, etc.) Irina will do the clothes swap. Ophelia volunteered to have people over for wine and cheese (women's social) sometime this year.

- Trying to find people to fill these events has been difficult but they need to feel that they will have help and to send out to the classes, and personally ask if possible.

- Megan will head the playground improvement committee.

- Roberto stated that it was important for the PA this year to make sure that the PA was the bridge from the board to the parents as it was done last year to great success.

- Katie said that the board would provide a summary from each meeting and that three town hall meetings would be happening. This would enable more communication. If any time anyone has a question they can bring it to the PA agenda or to the board.

-Will try to give a summary of the meetings in the messenger a week before the meeting. Will send an email for reaching out for feedback. Having the possibility of having the chalkboard be a way for community members to give information. Maybe this would draw attention to the PA.

-In past years we had people come in based on particular topics and that maybe this should continue- every meeting. Some found this difficult to achieve however. How do we engage the entire community? Was another question brought up regarding the idea about topics? The PA really is all parents and we are the voice and can talk about possible topics. It was noted that the meetings were always slammed and run out time, but it could be possible topic. Tim liked the idea, goals we are striving for more discussion.

-Another topic brought up was: How do we educate the Waldorf families about how to talk about the school in an informative way.

-Katie put out last year in communications, in regards to Parent education to find out who would be interested, but heard nothing back and feels the messenger wasn't an effective way to get people to engage. Recruiting and the front end of the year would make everything more possible was a feeling.

-Ask at the class meeting to come to the PA meeting to get them engaged.

Annual Fund: Allison- The school will promote annual fund again this year and last year had 97 percent. Most of contributions were around \$25 but having everyone contribute was the more important achievement. This helped when the school went out to ask for funds from other agencies. The final budget has not been established, but this year \$65000 is the goal. The campaign will start in early October (they will continue throughout the year). She agreed that if you make a direct request, you have a better chance of getting that person. Still need a few class captains to head the fund drive within each class. They will be trained then will be asked to make contact and speak at a class meeting. You will get a form if you do not want to contribute.

PA budget Analysis:

-We were successful last year with the budget surplus. This year we have 90 +/- families and 140 students (a new school record).

Amelia will help with child care for the PA. Her amount will increase and this amount \$40 was approved to be increased for all extracurricular activities. It was felt that having the child care is really helpful so parents can be more involved and not have to worry about child care for their children.

-faculty requests:

- Deborah Baharloo-\$470 wooden blocks-approved
- Roberto- \$215 spiral binder for school-approved
- Claudia- \$400 dragon for Michaelmas bookcase- half of this amount was

approved

- Class updates from each grade did not commence due to time constraints. It was suggested though that, although valuable, that maybe the class updates could be at towards the end of the meetings instead of at the forefront to make sure certain items are followed through with.
- Question & Discussion:
 - This was done personally as the meeting was dispersing.

This concluded the PA meeting notes for September 15th.

Terry Wyllie, Secretary