

Richmond Waldorf School
PA Meeting Minutes

October 06th, 2015

The following are the meeting minutes for October of the 2015-2016 school year:
Attendance- 14 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. Rachael White Marketing and enrollment coordinator introduced herself.
- Approve meeting Minutes: The minutes were approved.
- Class updates:
 - Acorn: Celebrating Michaelmas, each class made a different craft that represented something from Michaelmas. All the kindergartens are full.
 - 1st grade: Learning Russian and Spanish, went on a walk, are working on introduction to letters
 - 2nd grade: In math block, all four operations, and working on a play.
 - 3rd grade: Had a successful fundraiser, learning farming, several trips are planned.
 - 4th grade: Norse mythology, assigned to read a book, violin, viola, had to play the same note one at a time then all together.
 - 5th grade: Studying botany, made dragon bread, have several ancient Persian blocks.
 - 6th grade: Finished block on roman history, added 4 new students, took first block test, reading Call It Courage, just started minerology, field trip to York river and started archery.
 - 7th grade: wrapping up history of late medieval history finished with Marco polo and Joan of Arc, moving to geography and Africa, coach came in from Nigeria. They had a class meeting where they met the new math specialist Mrs. Periera. She spoke about the approach. Mostly a review about skills they already have done but looking at a different method. Kim is very thrilled.
 - 8th grade: Finished studying Africa, had a guest speaker, dressed up, played music. They are reading a book by Nelson Mandela, Studying the French revolution with an assignment for writing including research and then how to write about it. Open house for high school happened. And they made the Michaelmas dragon.
- Why Waldorf:
 - Started with the discussion from the last meeting as to how to represent the school in casual conversation. A new branding image is forthcoming:
 - Rachael White presented herself and background. Has background in recruiting and worked at previous colleges in admissions.
 - Why Richmond Waldorf, Allison shared a story about how she found Waldorf. Megan told a story about how she found Waldorf, had a read a book (didn't want to wait in line for other schools, the lottery system). Found that parents really cared and that it seemed to be

a strong community. Kim Washburn shared her story, felt there is a strong community and liked the early childhood program which was better than anything she had seen in the community. She realized that what she like the most about Waldorf was going on field trips, which she could relate to. Her best memories of education was living in Germany and that the type of education she had there was what Waldorf is doing. Feels the students will appreciate it later on in their lives.

- Three words or less (about what you like about Waldorf: Things made from scratch, Heads Hearts, and Hands approach, breadth of development kids get, creativity that provokes thought, learn through different mediums, music, writing, handwork, nature of pace, engagement with the weather and its acceptance with nature. Play and recess is very important and that studies show this is very important in their learning, which is very valuable at Waldorf.

- Racheal what support do you need? How can the pa be a part of the recruitment process? How can we get parents to take the next step and is there another role the parents can do.

Kim: open houses, talk to other Waldorf parents. Have people from the pa be ambassadors and be able to tell about their experiences. She has found this to be very effective communication. Have parents at other events to be ambassadors. At Makers fest, people found that because parents were there it showed that they were really invested. Have parents who have specific needs or situations available for new families to talk to. List of go to parents. Allison: Parents that show up at open houses be made to feel that they were accepted there.

- let possible new parents know that there is a referral program, what could this be? Free aftercare? Raffle? Have possible morning child care drop off. Thank you gratitude for referral. Word of mouth is the best. Find a way to connect to the right motives.

- Rachael's office is in the admissions office and is working on the schedule.

-Fundraising:-

- Roberto will layout two options:

- Changing people's habits: Script, how to get people to become comfortable with using it and having it become a habit. Do we want to incentivize it? If they reach that goal or not. Which path, inspired or incentivize? We have tried the inspired so why don't we try incentivize? Having a goal is really helpful to get people involved and to get people asking how. Set up a little community of members who would help get this going.

- Communication methods: blackboard is available to use lower corner-expand the reparatory to include something more creative. Susan will head this message board. Other communication methods could be photographs (with a release). Posted either in a computer screen or on a board.

- Have parent handwork evening or morning. One of which one could be the Lantern walk. Maybe have a month meeting date. Maybe a hand working social outside of the school but also to have the activities be held in the school. Especially lantern making. Have some of these events happen at an open house. Ask about new parents thinking about coming to come to these events.

- PA requests to happen at the end of year for requests to happen. Maybe the requests from the teachers could be the goal for the script program.

Question & Discussion:

- This was done personally as the meeting was dispersing.

This concluded the PA meeting notes for September 15th.

Terry Wyllie, Secretary