

Richmond Waldorf School
PA Meeting Minutes

November 03rd, 2015

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

Attendance- 17 total +/-

- Introduction by Co PA Moderators Allison Thurber and Susannah Meyer.
- Opening community verse
- Approve meeting Minutes: The minutes were approved.
- Committee Updates:
 - Hands Committee:
 - Playground Improvement- Megan reported that Heidi Trepaner's update included the following: mulch has been dispersed, we will hold off on Gaga pit for now (which has been paid for but as of yet has not approved by the church), 3rd grade hopeful to use the existing church garden beds, second coat of plaster will be needed on the straw bale house which will also be \$160 more to complete (which will be covered). Hopefully the existing picnic tables can be fixed, she is looking to get a price on this. Last year the slack lines for the older students were purchased but have to be put up and taken down, so this hasn't worked out so well so far. A basketball board will be donated. Teachers decided a soccer goal was not a good idea. Tether ball is also a possibility to get priced and located.
 - Handwork- Monday night and Tuesday morning a lantern making workshop will take place. Which is in the messenger and also has a tab for child care. Tracy will hold the event.
 - Hearts Committee
 - Wine and cheese evening- This Saturday at 7pm at Ophelia's house. Was sent in the messenger and is ladies only. Bring food and appetizers for all to share. A Men's night out will be worked on.
 - Advancement Committee Fundraising plans- Allison- the advancement committee is combined within three parts, enrollment, marketing, and development. They have come together from previous committees and from the board in support of increasing the enrollment of the school. It is the lifeblood of the school. In theory, we could have an additional 50 students in the grade classes. Question, what is the retainage plan for the kindergarten students? Tactical ideas: participation in the Christmas parade was good, one of the parents was able to help out last year which made it workable. They are looking for other ideas. Feelings about the auction? Have had one every year but didn't make a lot of money compared to what went into it. Is there someone who can take charge? What other events are there? Auction, May Faire, a holiday event, chalk walk, raffle? Lantern walk, spiral walk, can we explore using these as enrollment events. Powhatan and maker fest would be good possibilities next year again.

Whatever events that can increase enrollment. Contact Allison if you want to be involved with planning events. Class reps will send out to their classes. Have anyone interested with thoughts about the auction to send their thoughts to Allison.

- Discussion:
 - What is the best way to use our limited PA funds?
 - Should we use our resources to provide childcare for all school related evening events? Megan, very generous for PA to use the money for child care: Right now we provide cost for parent education and the pa meeting. Right now it is run by Amelia for the events we have now, but who would run the events that are in excess of what Amelia has signed up for? Historically, it was up to the teachers to provide child care arrangements. Kim brought up that we really don't have the money to provide for more child care. The child care is bigger than the pa. The leadership committee will have one person to do it. Roberto feels the PA money should be used to build committee feelings. For example the pa equipment and tables that helped the school. If we do have a surplus, this could be a goal for what the teachers need. Should we do more socials or parent education events? People should go to Allison and Susannah for ideas. Let the community know what the pa provided from last year to give them a focus on what we can do with the money we raise. Maybe posters to show what we were able to provide. If you would like to help follow the poster. Maybe also at the script events. Marketing events like more sweatshirts. Susanne is helping out with that right now. We need to get new parents to know about what merchandise we have that they can purchase. A new marketing and branding ideas is being worked on. The sports programs are a great time to build community. Need to use funds to create spirit. If you have ideas get in touch with the pa. Every Wednesday morning we are selling the script cards. Have something that shows the cards that are available, maybe a note which ones are the most popular and maybe a list. It needs to be given that its' every Wednesday. Maybe an enthusiastic reminder in the messenger.
 - For teacher appreciation events? It is felt to be very important but we still need to keep fundraising to keep the surplus in tack. At the board level, we need to make sure we are doing this without any tax implications. If it is done, it needs to be channeled straight to the teachers from the parents.
 - For special needs and resources for individual classrooms or for the school as a whole?
 - We need your input to know how to best serve the school and your needs as parents.
- Suggestions for discussion topics for upcoming PA meetings-
 - Take each meeting to talk about parent education since we don't have people that head up each committee. Plus other community building

events. We're trying to get a dance fundraiser along with the 3rd grade, a square dance. Ask the parents if they have any thoughts or interest.

- Classroom responsibilities- seems to have been lost as to who/what are responsible. This could be a topic? The plan was to have a volunteer coordinator but that plan has not worked or been implemented. Roberto feels there will be volunteer coordination. Do we need to resurrect the class responsibility list? This was a question brought up.

- Updates from class reps:

Acorn: embracing songs, getting ready to make lanterns. Celebrating the seasons
1st grade: learning the alphabet, going on nature walks, learning Russian and Spanish.

2nd grade: play for lantern walk, field trip to Carter Mt. ready to go the Charlottesville, and math block

3rd grade: module farm, finished field trip, saw a micro green farm, math module, concept of time. had fundraiser at Baskin Robbins.

4th grade: finished Norse gods, and long division, geography block, media and environment, mapping out their bedrooms, two weeks to pow wow corn harvest in courtland va.

5th grade: going on trip with 4th grade, had trip to parents farm, riding horses, fractions, math block will start language arts

6th grade: minerology block will go to Morefield mines, math block, percentages, have test on Roman history, and minerology this week.

7th grade: wrapping up Africa, ate African food, coach Bayo came in with another native African to show costumes and clothing. Are doing a book report, finishing up with biography, moving in to physics, they will make their own thanksgiving contribution to share with the middle school, reading The Apprentice.

8th grade: research paper due last week, they typed it and use specific formatting, text books in Spanish, now in a geometry block, doing David and Goliath reading book.

- Board : Town Hall will be on November 17th. Child care sign ups will be going out for that as well. Hopefully one representative from each family. Richmond Ballet is offering complementary tickets.

-The 11th is the lantern walk and would like to tie up with the Richmond light show.

Question & Discussion:

- This was done personally as the meeting was dispersing.

This concluded the PA meeting notes for November 03rd.

Terry Wyllie, Secretary