

Richmond Waldorf School
PA Meeting Minutes

December 01, 2015

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

Attendance- 11 total

- Introduction by Co PA Moderators Allison Thurber and Susannah Meyer.
- Opening community verse
- Approve meeting Minutes: The minutes were approved.
- Class Updates:
 - Acorn: wonderful lead up to thanksgiving, focused on the spiral walk
 - 1st grade: not here, no update
 - 2nd grade: St Martins, Grandparents day, 1st home surrounding block, starting phonics block with introduction to reading, working with senor Diego in Spanish. Going to see the Velveteen Rabbit.
 - 3rd grade: Parent meeting, not very well attended, enjoyed special relative's day, played the recorder, finished math block, would like to make a sundial, starting shelter block, have to build a shelter for their class. Talked about appropriate books, some parents have bringing up books in question, talked about the farm trip, some parents expressed anxiety for their children going away. Loretta walker came in to discuss strings and which one they will choose for the following year.
 - 4th grade: went to Jamestown, did local history block, went to Indian pow wow, have been on a few field trips of late.
 - 5th grade: Studying Egypt, conjugate verbs block, enjoying movement class and preparing for the Olympics, class readers. Children are to make a gift for a name that they draw (this has been a class tradition).
 - 6th grade: Finished math block of converting fractions to percentages, had block test before Thanksgiving, starting astronomy block, going to museum to look at sculpture. Weekly spelling quizzes, working off the weekly spelling list.
 - 7th grade: Had Thanksgiving feast where each child made a dish, current block is physics, working on electricity, each student will make a motor, finish working with pulleys and mechanics, next block is poetry, different types and writing a few, have a holiday party where parents are invited and they will recite their poetry, will carol at a nearby center. They are reading The Apprentice.
 - 8th grade: almost done with short story blocks, working with Senor Diego, high school applications are a big deal right now, Ms. Claudia is assembling a 10k team to help pay for class trip, sang at the recent assembly, they also had a Thanksgiving feast where they made pizza. They are making origami stars which they sold at the special relative's day.
- Parent education:
 - How media is something parents can find or how media and its exposure can play a role in their education. Also which media and how to respond to so much media in our children's lives. Something is trying to be set up to help educate parents with a Waldorf philosophy. It was done before, but now it is thought of to do again. They came up with it being a three part

session in the past. Why do Waldorf educators limit exposure? Bethany and Deborah gave their thoughts with more of a focus on early childhood.

Some came in (at last years meeting) and spoke about being media free. At another school, at the same type of meeting, some parents were given ribbons to show how they felt about exposure to help acknowledge where some parents are. One teacher felt that those with limited exposure may have more development. It was such a strong topic that they created more additional topics and two more parts to the series.

- One topic was on internet safety. Outside speakers came in with more of a panel aspect. The thought is to do it again as a three part series or two part and time it during the no tv week. Thought is to have one discussion a night with the speakers, then come in on another night for follow up questions.
- Noelle brought up in a sent email, "how to make safe media choices", this would be part of the discussion brought forth.
- This event may happen in the spring. Each night should be stand alone. Some would like to hear from the faculty on their thoughts. The faculty are a good resource. Maybe changing the "parent education" title. Maybe "Parent Enrichment and Exploration". Look towards three evenings and work with the faculty on how they would be involved and which night. Will look into finding someone to run with setting this up.
- Other ideas: one parent suggested addressing possible racial comments or controversial statement by Steiner that people hear and how current schools are addressing those issues. Susan Down runs juniper tree puppets, did a conference on puppetry and healing art the protection story, how to support with stories of protection. Whitney Macdonald, also another possible speaker, was brought up. Broader enrichment programs going on, simplicity in parenting, for example. Anna Rainville, a master Waldorf teacher, singing games for Waldorf communities, did a workshop. Foundation studies being done at the Washington and Emerson schools. Life ways is starting up with short term education for parents. Seven times the Sun writer gave a keynote speech that would tie in as well.
- Some feel we have enough talent here at the school and thoughts are to use the knowledge of the faculty first.
- Sometimes speakers come through the area and touring so with a little research maybe we could find someone doing this and tie into other schools if they have someone.
- Bring former students back to give their thoughts as well was another idea.
- Make sure that enough people are going to show up to do any of these events.
- Waldorf through the grades, Deborah is the point person.
- Need someone to help with information gathering for the enrichment event and come up with a short list of speakers. There is a thought to make it a one day workshop.
- Roberto feels we need to video and record these events for further follow up. Especially with the students who come back to give their thoughts. Not just limit graduates to high school but college.

- Finding a night is part of the search, most likely in the spring and not to interfere with class plays, with looking ahead to next year.
- Holiday Bonus:
 - Someone is to take this over, and if we are not, then announcing this to the community is thought to be a good idea. This has been going on each year and if it is not to happen, then maybe the parents should know. Also the specialty teachers are sometimes forgotten as well as the administrators. The question is whether this is to be taxed.

Question & Discussion:

- This was done personally as the meeting was dispersing.

This concluded the PA meeting notes for December 01, 2015.

Terry Wyllie, Secretary