

Parents Association Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, February 8, 2022

6:00 – 7:45 pm

RWS Gymnasium & ZOOM ([Audio](#))

May my soul bloom in love for all existence - Rudolf Steiner

Greetings & Icebreaker Activities (Marianne & Elizabeth):

- First & Last Concert you attended: Class reps shared the first live music concert they attended together with most recent. Goal was to spark some nostalgia, better know one another, and revisit how tastes may (or may not) have changed over the years
- Stinky Fish: Purpose is to create openness and "clear the air" within a group. Stinky fish is a metaphor for "that thing that you carry around but don't like to talk about - but the longer you hide it, the stinkier it gets." Participants wrote their "stinky fish" on a sticky note and posted them on the wall. Helps us relate to each other, get more comfy sharing, and uncover areas for learning. Toolkit available [here](#).

Moderator Update (Marianne):

- **Board of Trustee Sync:** Tax ID troubles, Requesting Panorama disclosure, any other outstanding issues/requests/questions send to Marianne, meeting this week with Panorama
- **Facilities:** Observed that the PA is/has been very involved with construction projects and facility improvements, overcoming obstacles in the area of grounds, and proposed that moving forward we should be less involved or use our funds more for cultural and "heart" activities. If parents want to volunteer or join that committee that's wonderful, but as parents we're here to support faculty, classrooms, and to be the heart of school. To increase parent engagement we should focus on fun things, make activities fun, get people rallied around a common goal. Physical upkeep is not a key area of PA responsibility.
- **Communication:** How do we get people to understand voting is important, are we keeping our classes in the loop, do we (class reps) understand our work and are we communicating it to our classes?

A request was made to standardize talking points for the PA Reps to make their jobs easier

Getting people to open emails has been one problem. Are there actual communication issues or just overall lack of engagement that we need to live with?

Treasury Update (Michele): Tax exempt form - should be using - get form from LaToya Good
Should only carry-over \$2000 at end of year
\$14,000 in bank as of January 28, 2021

- **Funds Request:** Advancement Office requested PA to pay for faculty/staff to attend the 25th Anniversary Gala/Silent Auction May 13 by donating \$3000, this will require a school wide vote.
- **Passive Income Opportunities:** Kroger rewards, Amazon Smile, Ebay Charity, Scrip

- Kroger Rewards - easy to sign up for - \$1300 this year
- Amazon Smile - \$286
- Scrip - gift cards \$156
- eBay, Publix, & BoxTops are also available
- Proposed idea to highlight one tactic each month in The Messenger
- **Additional Revenue Streams:**
Book Faire - \$411
Calendars - still collecting ~\$500

25th Anniversary Gala and Silent Auction (Marianne/Discussion):

- Noted date change for the Gala due to a scheduling conflict with the 3rd and 4th grade trips, an unfortunate disconnect between planning team and faculty.
- The new date will be Friday the 13th of May. This is a big fundraiser for Advancement Team, who approached PA for a \$3000 donation/sponsorship of the faculty/staff to cover the ticket cost of the faculty/staff. The event ticket cost is \$60 per person, real cost is \$105 per person which includes the Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens event space, food, entertainment, open bar from 6-9pm.
- Currently no external sponsors for the event
- This is a way for the PA to assist the school in coming together and celebrating the 25th anniversary.
- If the PA decides to donate the requested \$3000 it will need to go to a school wide vote, per current PA bylaws.
- In typical corporate environment, employers pay for staff to attend culture events - this is status quo and has the impact of making staff feel valued, planned for and included
- In the past the school administration has covered the cost of faculty/staff tickets
- This could be a lovely opportunity for teachers to feel appreciated, especially from the parents, why wouldn't we help out?
- No literature from Rachel Davis - there is email correspondence - will look to event task force to provide detail once they have it
- Detail could look like event brief, pitch deck, concept - so class reps can use detail to answer any parent questions
- Request: Can we set up a presentation by Rachel, with a Q&A
 - Would like a plan/presentation, in order to make a decision, the PA needs more robust information
- All want to support faculty & staff

Requests:

- Helpful to have a whole list of budget items to have parents vote on at once vs going out to the community with single issue vote in a vacuum
- When a vote request comes out - the PA needs to make clear recommendations based our role/knowledge set as the PA

Action:

- Anna to circle back with Rachel to get more info

- PA needs an itemized list, vote

Secretary/Historian Updates & Reminders (Erica):

- Calendar Sales - need to collect the electronic payments so far collected
~\$1520(/2=\$760 raised)
- Tent vote passed, need to reimburse the school for the purchase of the tent
- (Marianne observed a) Need to revisit bylaws - a vote of 30 will pass a single issue vote even though we have a community of 184 (and rising) families.
 - (Erica) The number of 30 is due to a historic lack of participation at the school. A nonvote is considered as being in agreement or a vote in favor of the request/motion.
- BigSIS - please update your contact info in BigSIS bc this is where we have the most up to date information for your families - for example when we send emails and magazine distribution

How to access BigSIS:

- RWS Parents Corner: <https://richmondwaldorf.com/parents/>
- Direct Link: <https://richmondwaldorf.bigsis.com/portal/>
 - Check your Information
 - Login
 - Click 2nd Tab on top: Parents/Guardians
 - This will bring up your child/children's name(s)
 - Click View to see the information listed for your student(s)
 - *Please Note:* If the information needs to be updated, you must contact the school to make changes to these records
- PA Monthly Meeting Minutes:
 - Within three days following a PA meeting, the Secretary will send a copy of the minutes to the Moderator and/or Leadership Team for review
 - Corrections will be done within an additional two days
 - Within seven days following the Parents Association meeting, the Secretary will send approved minutes to the class representatives and a summary of the meeting to be published in the weekly school newsletter and posted on the Parent's Corner of the website.
 - Class Representatives are responsible for providing a summary of the meeting and a copy of the minutes to their respective classes within 3 days of receiving them.
 - Each PA class rep should CC the [PA Email](#) when distributing Minutes to their classes for historical record & troubleshooting (if needed)
- [Parent's Corner](#) - Good resource - PA Minutes, Bylaws, Handbook, Fundraising info, etc.
- Upcoming RWS deadlines - Grades Re-Enrollment ends Friday the 11th

Class Updates:

Magnolia - Lauren Campbell - s'more making, valentine box decoration, started 2nd round of biking last week

Dogwood - Rachel Scally for Heather Maury - new student join this week, celebrated Candlemas last week with pancakes, candle making and hot cocoa, Valentines Prep

Acorn - Rachel Scally & Anna Darnall - celebrated Candlemas last week with pancakes, candle making and hot cocoa, Valentines Prep

Oak - Pete Markham & Daniel Friedman - getting ready for Valentines Day and making Valentines, celebrated Candlemas last week with pancakes, candle making and hot cocoa, and also started 2nd round of biking last week

2nd - Elizabeth Cleveland - gnomes, reading Pippi Longstocking, and the girls are collecting cotton yarn for the world's biggest yarn ball

1st - Ben Hayward - preparing for Valentines Day, in a Math block, excited to celebrate the 100th day of school by dressing up as a 100 year old person or like the 1920s

3rd - Sara Thomas - made root beer, learning about measurements and multiplication and division, main lesson block just started focusing on fibers and cloth and working with Ms. Lucy and her spinning wheel, and making pot holders using the loom

8th - Sommer Humphries & Jennifer McCall - Finished up African American experience, anatomy block (eyes, skin), American History is the next block and making cookies with their 1st grade buddies

4th - Susannah Meyer - Class Play Wednesday and Thursday - Ronia, the Robber's Daughter by Astrid Lindgren

Book Faire proposal (Rachel): We're trying to get a Mobile Book Fair for May Faire, but they aren't available that date. Reaching back out to bbgb to see if they can come to May Faire in person.

Care for a Coffee Valentine's Serenade (Michele): Monday, February 14 at 8:30 am. Singing by 8th, 2nd, 1st grade, table on the outside for parents to watch and have coffee and refreshments. All parents are welcome!!! Some reps expressed dissatisfaction that the event takes place on a Monday (when Acorns are not in session) - PA leaders explained how covid cohorts work/teacher guidance shaped the event date and time, and that this is the first small step in the right direction. Have an idea? Step up and plan the next parent Care for a Coffee or other social gathering.

All About US (Marianne): Thanks for getting the forms, keep collecting if haven't gotten them yet, try to get ideas for ways we can help the teachers, quick wins to make teaching experience better.

Mr. Matthew identified a desire for added budget for Movement - Maybe the PA could sponsor a "movement week" where we pay for a visiting artist to teach all the kids an age appropriate curriculum. The PA could budget to sponsor an enrichment effort like this across all ages & grades.

Please upload your forms to PA Google Classroom, look across and propose any ideas you have.

May Faire (Marianne): Received request from the Admin for PA to take over the management of the community portion of the May Faire celebration. Moving forward, the Admin team wants

to focus on 2 hallmark events each school year - Holiday Faire and Gala/Silent Auction. Marianne already heard back from the Festivals committee with their guidance on May Faire and will act on their suggestions.

The Faculty coordinates and manages the May Pole dancing & flower crown making with the students. The PA is being asked to take on the extra activities following the May Pole dancing - such as tye dye, horses, obstacle courses, goats, yoga, food, face painting, jump rope making, games. The event has seen neighborhood attendance in the past. In previous years each class planned an activity and owned it, but it's a huge voluntary effort that needs to be spearheaded by someone.

May Faire is one week BEFORE the Gala/Silent Auction. Need to get Roberto's notes/sign up sheet, will need to take on a significant amount of work, a huge volunteer force is needed, need a May Faire Chair, and need to address how we will make purchases without going out of pocket on everything.

In attendance:

Danny Friedman	Susannah Meyer	Alyson Williams
Benjamin Hayward	Michele Burt	Sarah Thomas
Elizabeth Cleveland	Pete Markham	Lauren Campbell
Sommer Humphries	Marci Jackson	Maggie Reinke
Jennifer McCall	Anna Darnall	Ashley Volpicello
Marianne Kelliher	Rachel Scally	Respectfully, Erica Childress