



Parents Association Meeting Minutes

October 4, 2022

5:30pm

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

Opening: The PA meeting was called to order 5:35pm on Tuesday, October 4, 2022 in the First Grade classroom at the Richmond Waldorf School.

Present:

Co-Moderators: Erica Childress & Heather Maury

Faculty Representative: Susannah Meyer, 5th Grade

Class Representatives & Parents: Shawn Smith, Rebekah Lehto, Anna Darnall, Mary K Engelken, Carlton Bragg, Rosa Castellano, Mary-Catherine Berry, Pete Markham, Dana Shalash, Makkie Reinke, Erica Angert

Director of Administration: Tim Daniel

Marketing & Advancement: Rachel Davis

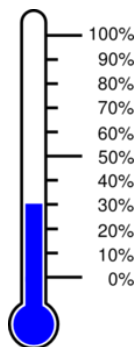
Absent: Elizabeth Cleveland, Danny Friedmand, Caitlin Catts, Michael Rae Bermudez, Betsy Miller, Mallory Sandridge, Megan Jones, Julian Johnson, Rocio Espericueta, Ben Hayward, Spring Ayers, Melissa Smallfield, Shannon Garret, Erricka Bailey, Eliza Brill, Michele Burt

Updates:

1. Faculty/Staff - Teachers were super pleased with Michaelmas festivities, the children were loud and clear for the performance, the dragon bread was fantastic!
Have been doing a lot of work with DEIJ, about 3-5 hours of training per month, very eye opening and ... work
2 new teachers!
Elizabeth Brumley - Movement
Arianna Corredor - Spanish
2. Board of Trustees - Alistair Jones chaired his last meeting in September, and his family is preparing for their trip to Finland where his wife accepted a 6-month Fellowship position. Brian Gillert has stepped into the Chair position at the beginning of October and Ashley Long has stepped into the Vice Chair position. The Board has been working on streamlining some committees, but most importantly, and Ashley Long's top priority, is to address the space needed for the continued growth of the school. 100% of the BOT has donated to the Annual Fund.
3. Annual Fund - BOT has reached 100% of contributing to the Annual Fund, and the Faculty & Staff is already at a very high percentage. We are at 30% across the entire community so far. **Our goal is 100%** of the community giving to the Annual Fund.

As a non-profit we have to fundraise to keep the doors open. Our tuition pays for the bare minimum, and the Annual Fund covers the rest. Our goal is to reach \$70,000, but more importantly it is to reach 100% community participation by the end of the fiscal year. Giving to the Annual Fund shows that the community is invested in the growth of the school. We are giving to each other, to this community. My contribution helps to support scholarships, professional development, it is like a hug around the school. Last year 76% of the community gave to the Annual Fund.

FAQs: I'm already paying tuition, why am I being asked to give more money? 90% of tuition covers the operations of the school. What does the Annual Fund pay for? Last year the money raised from the Annual Fund paid for the ADA compliant ramps and bathrooms, upgraded the buildings and grounds to include the new fences, upgraded the old and worn down woodworking supplies, architectural plans for expansion of the building, upgraded our security from 2 cameras to 20.



Numbers at a glance:

Biggest Goal: 100% Community Giving

Monetary Goal: \$70,000

Where we are: 30% of total community

Deadline: December 6, 2022

And: It's Tax Deductible!

4. Holiday Fund: Individuals at the school also do a collection for the holiday fund. *This is not done by the Parents Association.* The holiday fund is a collection of money that is pooled together, and donated to all the Faculty and Staff as a monetary holiday gift. This is separate from the Annual Fund. Some parents like to give individual gifts to their teachers, others like to give to the entire Faculty/Staff.

5. Fundraisers: Plants in the Spring
Seasonal Roots year long
Spirit Nights possibly at Ruby Scoops
Calendar - sell at Holiday Faire

Events: Blood Drive - January, need 30 people to sign up to schedule
Art Supply Drive - coming soon!
Book Talk/Meet The Author - Kristen Green "Devil's Half Acre"

Grants: Bike Program - group is in favor of moving forward
Cellos - group is in favor of moving forward
Books - group is in favor of moving forward



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6. Proposed Budget - reviewed budget and additional charges

7. Upcoming Volunteer Needs

Coffee Social (Oct) - 7th grade

Clothing Swap (Oct) - EC

Coffee Social (Nov) - 5th grade

8. Upcoming Events

Coffee Social ♦ 10/5

Clothing Swap ♦ 10/5-7, Gym

RWS Book Club "Kindred" ♦ 10/15, 3-5pm, Brambly Park

Parent Ed Series w/ special guest ♦ 10/20, 5:30pm

BOT Meeting ♦ 10/27

Parent Teacher Conferences ♦ 10/28 & 31 -NO SCHOOL-

PA Meeting ♦ 11/1

Coffee Social ♦ 11/4

Lantern Walk ♦ 11/11

Next PA Meeting: Tuesday, November 1 at 5:30pm - short business meeting followed by a special meet the **author presentation at 6:00pm**. Childcare will be provided.

In **The Devil's Half Acre**, New York Times bestselling **author Kristen Green** draws on years of research to tell the extraordinary story of young Mary Lumpkin, an enslaved woman who blazed a path of liberation for thousands.

Born in 1832, Mary Lumpkin was forced to have the children of a brutal slave trader and live at his Richmond, Virginia slave jail, known by enslaved people as the "Devil's Half Acre." In this destitute setting, she not only freed herself and her children—she managed to create something monumental. When Mary Lumpkin inherited the jail after his death, she transformed it into "God's Half Acre," a school where Black students could fulfill their dreams. It still exists today as Virginia Union University, one of America's first Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

A sweeping narrative of a life in the margins of the American slave trade, *The Devil's Half Acre* brings Mary Lumpkin into the light. This is the story of the resilience of a woman on the path to freedom, her historic contributions, and her enduring legacy.