



Parents Association Meeting Minutes  
September, 6, 2022  
5:30pm

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*When human beings meet together seeking the spirit with unity of purpose then they will also find their way to each other. -Rudolf Steiner*

**Opening:**

The September PA meeting was called to order at 5:39pm on Tuesday, September 6, 2022 in the First Grade Classroom at The Richmond Waldorf School.

**Present:**

Co-Moderators: Erica Childress & Heather Maury

Treasurer: Danny Friedman

Secretary: Elizabeth Cleveland

Faculty Representative: Susannah Meyer, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade

Class Representatives: Carlton Bragg, Elizabeth Balay, Eliza Brill, Rosa Castellano, Mary Engelken, Ben Hayward, Julian Johnson, Megan Jones, Rebeckah Lehto, Pete Markham, Rocio Espericueta, Mallory Sandridge

Head of School: Tim Daniel

Parents: Erica Angert; Du Cheng

**Absent:**

Michele Burt, Maggie Reinke, Shawn Smith and Melissa Smallfield.

**1) Updates:**

Faculty: Glad to be back

Board of Trustees (BOT): Board Retreat with facilitator Brooke Carrol. Retreat focus: how a board works; goal setting; etc.

Class Updates:

Oak: Found a "live" cicada

1st Grade: Planted seeds

3rd Grade: Studying creation, learning to crochet and to cook

4<sup>th</sup> Grade: Mapping the school and then will map the neighborhood

Budget Update: Currently have \$4,452.26 available as of today's meeting (does not include PA dues from this year.) This is left over from last year. Reviewed proposed budget (based on historical activities). A PA budget proposal will be sent out in advance of the October meeting.

PA Theme –BUILDING COMMUNITY. While this has always been the goal of the PA, due to Covid, there is a need to really invest in rebuilding the Waldorf Community within the school, with families, in the neighborhood and within the larger Richmond community.



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### Local Community Involvement

1. **Children's Hospital** (next door): Art supply drive (big need). Details to come.
2. **Other hospitals:** Heather reaching out to see if there is a need for our student knitted/crocheted baby hats to share RWS handwork in the community
3. **Diaper Drive** (idea being explored)
4. **Red Cross Blood Drive:** Possible Date: Saturday, Jan 14. Will be open to public.

### Fundraising Ideas shared.

The following are *initial* ideas that have been shared to date and there will be more information shared in next meeting (October). *If anyone has ideas, please send them to the PA.*

1. **Plant Sale** (spring or fall)
2. **Glass Ornament Making:** Make your own glass blown ornaments. Would need to be on location at the glass blowing facility.
3. **Farmer's basket** with fruits and vegetables. Erica will be sharing more information.
4. **Spirit Nights** – work in conjunction with a local place (e.g. Ruby Scoops)
  - o [RVA Naturals](#) is a potential.

### PA Grant Ideas shared.

We have money to give out for classroom and school needs. Whatever we bring in, we can grant out to the school. The following list are current ideas. The PA will reach out to the whole school for additional ideas. *Please send any ideas to the PA.*

1. **Bike program:** Get electricity out to bike shed for electric (vs. hand) pumps. Erica is looking into pricing.
2. **Fund a Decodable Library library** for 1<sup>st</sup> through 3rd grade (to move with those classes). Removes stigmas around reading levels to ensure reading success at varying reading levels.
3. **Fund cellos** for the music class.

## **2) Reviewed Class Responsibilities**

### Where to find the descriptions:

- Found on page 13 in Parent Handbook
- [Parent Handbook](#) found on [Parents Corner](#) on the RWS website.

### Overview of class duties:

Each class will:

1. Host one coffee social
2. Lead volunteer support for one RWS event (each class is assigned an event)
3. Support May Faire and Holiday Faire

### Expectations: Two Reps per class and their responsibilities:

1. Share duties and coverage for meetings and events. You don't have to do this alone!
2. Report back minutes to class



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3. Be cheerleaders to inspire class involvement for coffee socials and RWS events and traditions.
4. If neither Rep can make a PA meeting, please send updates to the PA Leadership

### PA Binders

Reviewed sample PA Binders that are being created for all Reps. These will be handed out at the next meeting in October. An example of the binder contents includes "How to" info for:

- Coffee socials
- Your class event (e.g 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade is Michaelmas)
- Supporting main events

Plus, Class Rosters (for the class you are representing)

### **3) PA Rep Introductions and class updates**

- See item 1) Updates above.

### **4) Upcoming Volunteer Needs**

#### 1. Michaelmas (Friday, September 30)

- a. Reviewed list of specific event needs (e.g. stage hands, handing out bread, popsicles)
- b. Source volunteers from 3<sup>rd</sup>, but anyone can help. A Signup Genius link will be distributed soon.
- c. This event will need dragon bread donations – but this will be on the signup genius link. If interested, stay tuned!

#### 2. School pictures (October 4 - October 5)

- a. Open to all PA and school/parent volunteers
- b. Duties include helping kids get from class to the pictures / managing class while individual pictures are taken, etc. **Need 3 volunteers each day.**
- c. Photos are for all grades and early childhood
- d. There will be "Sibling Pictures" again this year. A signup for this will be distributed in the weekly Messenger. Remember, even if your kid's sibling does not attend Waldorf, they can still get a "sibling picture."

#### 3. Coffee Social (Wednesday October 5)

- a. Next up 7<sup>th</sup> grade to host. Same day as Gear Swap kickoff in the gym.
- b. Class list and dates remaining Coffee Socials coming soon

#### 4. Gear Swap/Clothes Swap (Wednesday, October 5 – Friday October 7)

- a. Items to swap: rain boots, rain clothes, hats, bike helmets, any weather-related clothing item + clothes, shoes, even baby sizes!
- b. The Messenger will have an announcement
- c. Collection points for donations: Grades Drop off/Pick up, Early Childhood Drop off/Pickup, and in the Gym
- d. EC Volunteer Responsibilities Wed-Fri:



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- e. Set up Wed, tear down Fri. Straighten up at end of each day.
- f. After event: Donate to charity (*Example donation places: Little Hands Virginia, Diversity Thrift, etc. Open to suggestions*)

### 5) Upcoming Events

- Welcome Back Picnic | *Friday, September 9*
- RWS Book Club "Lessons in Chemistry" | *September 17*
- Parent Ed Series | *September 22*
- BOT Meeting | *September 22*
- Michaelmas Festival | *September 30 (3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Supports Event)*
- PA Meeting | *October 4*
- School Pictures | *October 4-5*
- Coffee Social | *October 5*
- Gear Swap | *October 5 - 7*
- RWS Book Club "Kindred" | *October 15*

### 6) Head of the school Update – Tim Daniel

- Describes self as a “lifer in the independent school world” from his time as a student, teacher and administrator.
- Attended Deerfield Academy: life changing experience;
- Later taught at a private school; Since 1979 he’s been teaching around the country; Since 1997 he’s been head of school for various independent schools. Recently Head of Montessori School in NC and the Interim head of the Montessori school in Jacksonville, NC.
- He has an affinity for small schools with distinctive missions and is enjoying getting to know everyone at RWS and its history.
- How he views his current role – to work with the school at an organizational level and help position the school so we can attract a strong, talented, longer-term director.
- How he views his job description – In addition to seeing him at drop off and pick up, he says his job is “anything and everything” – from meeting with donors, to talking with parents, using a plunger to help unclog a bathroom, to grabbing an ice pack for a kid in need.
- For any questions or concerns, he reminded us that parents and guardians should always reach out to their class teacher, especially if it’s regarding the class. But he’s always open to talking and helping where he can.
- In response the question about open staff positions (Movement and Spanish), the hope is that those positions will be filled by end of week.
- In response to the question about what the parent community can do to help Tim and RWS: “The school should always be enhancing its profile as a local resources and asset.”
  - Best thing: being able to raise the profile of the school in the greater community
  - Any way we can connect Tim or the school with the community (other independent schools, non profit organizations, community groups, etc.) is a big help



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- For example: At his previous school, he helped forge a partnership with a local museum of life and science. Each summer, the museum came to campus and conducted summer camps for hundreds of families which brought revenue for school, use for the campus, exposure to the museum camp for school families, and exposure to the school for families in the communities.
- If your kid is involved in an organization that needs a place to meet – consider RWS (no building fee needed at this time. Donations always welcome!). Ex. Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, etc.

### 7) Follow ups/Questions:

1. Heather Maury is reaching out to Rachel Davis on the following:
  - a. Demo on how RWS will be using Signup Genius for all events
  - b. Bread donations and clarifications for Michaelmas
2. RWS Book Club: In response to the question, “Why aren’t the selected books Waldorf-inspired?”, the following answer was given: When those titles were chosen, unfortunately no one showed up to those book club meetings. However, if someone wants to lead and organize that, that’d be awesome.

### 8) Next business:

1. Call for ideas from the PA and parents for where PA Grants can be given (e.g. bike program; decodable library, cellos, etc).
2. Review and vote on PA Budget Proposal

### Closing:

The meeting concluded at 6:40pm.