



Parents Association Meeting Agenda
December 6, 2022
5:30pm

"All of nature begins to whisper its secrets to us through its sounds. Sounds that were previously incomprehensible to our soul now become the meaningful language of nature."
-Rudolf Steiner

Opening:

The December PA meeting was called to order at 5:42pm on Tuesday, December 6, 2022 in the gym at The Richmond Waldorf School.

Present:

Shawn Smith, Acorn
Rebekah Canard Lehto, Dogwood
Mallory Sandbridge, Magnolia
Ben Hayward, 2nd
Pete Markham, 4th
Shannon Garrett, 5th
Dana Shalash, 6th
Michele Burt, 7th
Susannah Meyer, Faculty Rep
Tim Daniel, Admin
Erica Childress, Heather Maury, Danny Friedman, Elizabeth Cleveland
Marianne Kelliher, BOT

Faculty Update: Susanna Meyer	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• New Hire: Suzy Brockman, Faculty Assistant, mom of EC student.• Had the bbgb book talks at school• Excited for Spiral Walk.• Grateful for parent support.
Holiday Fund Update: Tim Daniel	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Referenced an email about holiday fund sent to many parents of the school• Referenced the Holiday Fund discussion from the November PA meeting.• Shared his understanding of the history of this parent-led tradition. "A well-meaning recognition for staff from parents in the form of a holiday bonus." Also shared that he had questions when first heard of this (asked Board, PA, previous leaders of the holiday fund). Quoting the email, "New administration is against us doing this," he agreed that was indeed true, but wanted to explain why. Tim's POV: He's been working in schools for over 40 years. All of the schools had a membership or affiliation with a national or regional association – for accreditation or memberships. When it comes to accreditation (something we hope to achieve), we are asked whether our operations are upheld to a certain standard. One standard is that the Head of School shall have oversight of all funds raised for the school. That RWS will assure all amenities of raised



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	<p>funds operate under the administration of the school. His point of view is that the Holiday Fund is something we need to bring in house and coordinate with the board and PA – to do it above board. He’s been talking with the BOT and PA + officers and is committed to revising this process so that it comes under the auspices of the school and is done in a proper fashion. He is inclined to send a note to the school addressing this (<i>RWS BOT and Tim Daniel sent an email on Wednesday December 14th addressing this</i>). He expressed that he was a big fan of the National Association of Independent Schools for standards and resources. One of the things published is principles of good practice. He left copies for those in attendance. He referenced one of the sets of principles – of parents working with schools and schools working with parents; of schools clearly defining how it will involve parents, etc. In that spirit, he hopes to field questions regarding these principles. And he hopes that we can work together to operate as a school community that’s open and communicating.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● CORRECTION: HOLIDAY FUND WAS STARTED NOT TO GIVE THE SCHOOL A BONUS BUT MAKE SURE ALL STAFF GET A LITTLE THANK YOU (BEYOND JUST HONORING YOUR TEACHER, BUT REMEMBERING SPECIALTY TEACHERS AND STAFF
<p>Board of Trustees Update: Marianne Keliher, Secretary of Board</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Reviewing directors of administration ● Been doing DEIJ work (Diversity, Equality, Inclusion and Justice) ● Town Hall – State of the school – upcoming – Jan 25 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ In process of putting together the town hall ○ Open to PA and parent ○ Open question to all parents: what would you like to see? ○ Intention to be live; possible virtual option ○ Ideas discussed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Would like updates on school field trips ■ How \$\$ is used to get kids out into the world ■ Include the DEIJ work that board, faculty and staff are doing (progress to date) ■ What can be shared in advance so there can be more dialogue (pre-read)? ■ PA Survey – questions in advance (but how can that be more of a dialogue vs guide to discussion) ■ Distinguish the Town Hall’s purpose ■ BOT and PA Reps should reach out to help prepare parents (e.g. The goal of what’s communicated, expectations, how to participate/ what to bring.) What’s the framework for sharing and discussing? ■ Initial agenda items: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Details of tuition



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Governance update (Panorama) • Accreditation ■ Email Marianne with what your class has done OR ideas for town hall
PA Treasury Update: Danny Friedman	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funds: \$8,667 dollars in the account • Shared gratitude from the Advancement Committee (Annual Fund) • <u>Annual fund is still open until March</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Erica Angert is open to reaching out but wants info (will reach out to Rachel Davis) ○ 88% participation ○ Classes that reached 100%: Magnolia, Oak, Willow, 7th and 3rd grade ○ Better than last year!
Fundraising Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>bbgb</u> still ongoing • <u>Pre-Calendar Sales</u> – On Sale and will be delivered after the break (in Jan) • <u>Seasonal Roots</u> (going on through June) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Try some fruits and veggies at the next coffee social! ○ Membership is \$50 (RWS gets \$20). See Erica Childress for more info if you have questions!
Upcoming Events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Coffee Social</u> – Wed Dec 14 (4th grade) and Jan 6 (3rd grade). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Could we have a push cart with info / directions? ○ Share where to find the “Sandwich Board” etc. ○ Sign Up Genius was super helpful with directions. ○ Erica & Brian Childress donating time to update the lobby: New chalkboard coming. Getting a bulletin board that matches. Shelving to put more student artwork on display. • Spiral Walk – WED 12/7 and THURS 12/8 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Wed: EC (parents are allowed to come and watch, but have to be quiet and out of the way). ○ Thurs: 1st, 2nd, 3rd – 5:30 - 7:30 • Games Night Jan 20 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Headed up by 6th grade ○ Started as screen-free activities – bring games, puzzles etc. ○ Whole school is invited.
Upcoming Community GIVE BACK Events: Heather Maury	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • January Blood Drive: On Pause • February Art Supply Drive – Benefits Children’s Museum
Book Club / Book Fair: Heather Maury	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two book events



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ January 17th: Sadeqa Johnson, author of <u>Yellow Wife</u> (the fictional version of <u>Devil's Half Acre</u>) will speak to the whole school. This will be a VIRTUAL event ○ Saturday, January 21 – Book Club - Black Cake by Charmaine Wilkerson, at Hardywood West Creek, 3PM ● Big Ask: Missing 2 copies of <u>Kindred</u> from last month's book club. Please SEND NOTES TO PARENTS TO CHECK BOOKSHELVES SO HEATHER CAN RETURN TO LIBRARY ● bbgb: You can buy virtually and "in store" through Sunday. Whatever you buy, 15% goes back to school
Call for Parent Ideas	<p>Erica Childress:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Keep getting questions or ideas but they aren't given to PA ● If you have any ideas for PA on what we should do, what you wish can happen, why we do certain things, please share them. ● Please write them down in the notebook (at the PA meeting), or email. Either way – we want to hear your thoughts and would love to help make those ideas happen!
Parent Questions & Updates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Lost and Found: Irina washed all the Grades clothes in the box and hung them up in the gym ● Holiday Fund: What do parents do – do your own thing to pamper your teachers? Also, you can give to Sarah Thomas if you wish? Answer: Whatever you feel comfortable doing as it's still unclear. <i>UPDATE: All money raised via Sara Thomas has been returned and the BOT is issuing a holiday bonus for teachers and staff.</i> ● Hot chocolate and cookies for teachers on last day??? PA to lead.
Next PA Meeting	January 3rd, 2023
Meeting Closed	Erica closed the meeting at 6:39pm so we could eat, drink, be merry and wrap presents!