



Parents Association Meeting Agenda

February 7, 2023

5:30pm

"To be free is to be capable of thinking one's own thoughts - not the thoughts merely of the body, or of society, but thoughts generated by one's deepest, most original, most essential and spiritual self, one's individuality." -Rudolf Steiner

Present Attendees:

Acorn: Shawn Smith

Dogwood: Rebekah Canard Lehto

Oak: Megan Jones; Kristina Raum

Willow: Mike Bermudez

1st: Rocio Espericueta

2nd: Carlton Bragg; Ben Hayward

3rd: Rosa Castellano

4th: Pete Markham

5th: Melissa Smallfield

6th: Eliza Brill

7th: Michele Burt, Maggie Reinke

Faculty Rep: Megan Chase

Admin: Tim Daniel, Interim Director of Administration

PA Leadership: Erica Childress, Heather Maury, Elizabeth Cleveland

BOT: Marianne Kelliher, Secretary

Parents: Brooke Anderson; Jacky; Brionna Nomi; Ashter Aquilina; Sandy Flemming; Nate and Heather Simon, Margaret Ayre

Opening	The February PA meeting was called to order at 5:32 pm on Tuesday, February 7, 2023 by Erica Childress in the First Grade classroom at The Richmond Waldorf School. We all read the quote aloud together.
Class Updates	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Acorn: Has a new student that started in January and the class has 14 students. Finished New Year celebration; Excited for Black History and Valentine's Day celebrations coming up!● Dogwood: Working on a lot of sewing; working on a special pouch for "a special surprise" to go inside it; incorporating ASL movement in circle time.● 1st: 100th day celebration; second math block; classroom meeting on the 27th coming up.● 2nd: Held the coffee social this past month; Their art is featured in the lobby; 100th day of school celebration; Working hard on the play coming up in April.● 3rd: Finished indigenous creation stories; are focusing on weights and measures; have begun talking about the big Farm Trip!● 4th: Working on equations equalling out; Also working on the play; And there's been a lot of Covid.● 5th: Is working on their second math block; their second Asian art exploration; reading; they have picked their Valentines and are making them presents.



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● 6th: Middle school meeting coming up. Reach out to your teacher/PA Rep for more information.● 7th: The Wizard of Oz play is the main focus; they are also working on physiology.
Faculty/Staff Update	<p>Megan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Looking for new assistant in Oak Kindergarten Class (to replace Ms. Caitlin).● Seeking a First Grade Teacher for next year (already have interest).● After care has additional staffing.● Susie working on getting all the subs up to date (e.g. teacher observations are coming up as part of sub training).
Board of Trustees Update:	<p>Marrienne Kelliher</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Postponed Town Hall until 3/21 to prioritize needs of community and change the approach.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Invited Andrew Ross, the new Director of Administration, to join in person – TBD if attending.● Sharing Circle – Happened on January 31. No updates from the BOT just yet. Still reviewing in order to implement positive outcomes from the discussion.● Board Evaluations – Searching for new board members. Could use the following talents: non-profit, legal, strategic planning, finance, and human resources. Please reach out to BOT@richmondwaldorf.com● Ad Hoc Transition Committee – Has been formed to help a smooth transition from Tim Daniel to Andrew Ross.● Budget – BOT will be reviewing results from the financial audit soon and then sharing updates.● DEIJ Committee – Looking for new ideas and new committee members.
PA Treasury Update	<p>Danny</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● \$9,475.35 in the PA checking account<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Have about \$350 in current reimbursements.● Interest in how the PA can expand our resources before end of year.● Recent Expenses:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Lunch Box: This is for students who have forgotten their snack or lunch and is located with RWS Administration. It's not for Sports Practice refueling (please send snacks for your child's sports practice).○ Teacher Surprise: little appreciations (like tea and snacks)○ Coffee Socials○ Craft & Conversations: needle felting supplies, kindness rocks supplies.● Upcoming Expenses<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Games Night - pizza, water, lemonade



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Craft and Conversations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Every Wednesday at 8:30am (right after drop off)● Gathering in the Rainbow Room (across from 3rd grade classroom) for a craft activity. You can also bring whatever you craft are working on or just come to learn. Please bring your own coffee/tea.● If you want to lead/teach something. Let the PA know!● Wednesday Feb 8: Needle Felting project
Kindness Rocks	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Starting a kindness rocks garden.● Invitation for everyone to make one.● Plan: for them to go out by little library (take a rock, leave a rock)● PA to talk with teachers about classes participating.
School Grants	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Decodable Books - Voted Yes<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ All present on zoom and in-person agreed for the PA to purchase 2 sets (81 books) for the school, priced at \$375 + S/H.○ This first effort will focus on the 2nd grade, but we hope to pursue it for the other grade levels.○ Background: Noelle (RWS Educational Specialist) was looking to purchase for the school, but doesn't have the budget allocated for this. Decodable Books are designed for kids who aren't reading at grade level. Instead of having to read younger or babyish books, these books are geared to their reading level with subject matters relevant to their age.● Bike Program<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ As of the meeting: PA was actively trying to make this happen. The goal is to buy a battery pump for Mr. Glenn or electricity out to the shed. Most likely need a rechargeable battery/pump.○ Parents offered to donate one to the program and will catch up with PA leadership. As of this week, the Bike Program has been completed with Mr. Glenn Amey stepping forward to help.● Lobby Refresh<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ PA purchased frames to redo the hall (beautify the hall). The administration asked if we could provide a bookcase to show other art items (woodworking, ceramics, etc); another admin asked for a cork/magnetic board over the sign in desk to share flyers, etc as this is not in their budget this year.● Little Diversity Library Idea<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Create a diversity library in the front lobby for all ages and the community. These books would be written by or celebrate BIPOC, as well as LGBTQ+, other cultures, etc.○ We have people from the book industry and libraries willing to donate, as well as many parents who offered to donate. In addition, many offered to donate books written in other languages.○ Looking into "circulation" system to keep track of books○ Goal is April to rollout



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Lots of support from parents present in the meeting, and members of the DEIJ committee.○ Another idea that surfaced was to have this on display for family and friends day and to create form for “donating a book.”● Young Audiences (Art)<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ What it is: Non-profit that brings art into the schools (that relate to SOLs) – educational in nature. The performance by 3rd party production that would occur on a school day. A performance is 50 minutes in length. Read more about the organization here. Some examples of performances:<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Appalachia to Arabia (history of music); all ages; \$475■ Heritage Trail African American experience in Chesapeake \$425■ Learning about Japanese culture through ancient Japanese musicians \$600■ Moonlight Stories (African storytelling with drums and music)■ Find your Rhythm: Tap dance program (American art of tap dance + stories for perseverance) \$500○ PA Leadership presented this idea to gauge interest from parents in pursuing one performance for this year.<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Parents agreed that PA should inquire more and were supportive of using PA money budgeted for school grants.○ As this month's Faculty Rep, Megan Chase is sharing with the Faculty to gauge their interest and how they might support this.○ Parents asked if this could also be done for May Faire? PA to reach out to Faculty May Faire Reps.○ Parent discussion followed about the many art talents that exist among Waldorf parents that we could potentially tap:<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ 1) Explore bringing Circus Arts to Waldorf (for Juggling and Math);■ 2) Explore The Rounders - Appalachian music. Many parents with Appalachian and folk music backgrounds.
Living Eco Inspired Workshop Meeting Recap	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● PA shared the idea for a workshop hosted by Living Eco Inspired (a vendor at our Holiday Faire this year). The focus would be on small changes you can make to live more intentionally. This idea came from Rachel Davis in administration and the PA Leaders are awaiting a proposal from Living Eco Inspired. This proposal, including costs and timing, will be shared with the PA.● Parents in attendance expressed positive support for PA leaders to explore further
Tea Party Idea: Tea,	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Tea Party idea to celebrate teachers and give them a nice little treat.



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finger foods, tea sandwiches, scones...	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents in support for PA to use funds to treat teachers.
\$50 Class Budget	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remember each class has a \$50 budget to use as they want. • <i>Ex: Last year the Acorn class had a nature walk and playground party with coffee and pastries.</i> • Keep your receipts, and submit with the reimbursement form to Danny Friedman or put in the PA mailbox
Bike Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School-wide event that would be a trail ride. • Covid stalled this tradition, but the PA is hoping to Bike Day back (last one was 2018/2019) • This would not be a drop off event. This would be a family event. • Need mountain bikers or someone interested to lead and organize the event.
Community Reminders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Art Supply Drive - collecting art supplies for donation to the VCU Children's Hospital during the month of February <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ First grade supporting event. Volunteers needed. • EVERY WEEK: Crafts & Conversations - Wednesdays in the Rainbow Room • EVERY WEEK: EC Playground Meetup - Thursdays at Park365 ◊ 1:15-3:00pm • Kindness Rocks - start crafting rocks to help our rock garden grow!
Coffee Social	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Friday, March 3, 2023 - 1st Grade
Request for May Faire and End of Year Event committee members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Call for May Faire committee members! • If you are interested, please reach out to Rachel Davis. • Also see the announcement attached to the minutes for more information. • June 3 - End of Year Event • May 6 - May Faire
Upcoming Events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Games Night ◊ 2/10 ◊ 5:30 pm • Parent Education Series ◊ 2/23 ◊ 5:30 pm • Grades 1-8 Re-Enrollment Due ◊ 2/17 • No School: Presidents Day ◊ 2/20 • BOT Town Hall ◊ 2/21 ◊ 5:30 pm • 7th Grade Play ◊ 3/2 ◊ 5:30 pm • Coffee Social ◊ 3/3 ◊ 8:15 am ◊ Lobby • Spring Break ◊ 3/6-10 • Benefit Concert ◊ 3/12 ◊ 4:30 pm ◊ Eternity Church • PA Meeting ◊ 3/14 ◊ 5:30 pm • Book Club: Killers of the Flower Moon ◊ 3/25 ◊ 3:00 pm ◊ Brambly Park • Friends & Family Day ◊ 3/30 ◊ 8:15/9:15 am



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Next PA Meeting	March 14, 2023 at 5:30 pm Zoom Info: Link ♦ Meeting ID: 834 1865 5219 ♦ Passcode: 398095
Other Business	Exploring other meetings/meet ups: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Buskey Cider Tour (in June)• PA events – Escape Room, Ax throwing, the Squirrels (Waldorf night)
Meeting Closed	7:05 by Erica Childress

Announcements and A Look Ahead:

Sunday 3/12 Benefit Concert

4:30pm at Eternity Church 1200 Wilmington Ave

All proceeds to benefit our music program, buy tickets here:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/486819529317/>

Thursday 3/30 Friends & Family Day

Provide your students' guests contact info here to be sure they receive a personal invite.

A few additional details:

EC will begin at 8:15am, Grades at 9:15am. Each group will begin with coffee and a few words in the gym, followed by about 45 minutes of classroom visitation time. the Grades students will present an assembly at 9:30am and that will be live-streamed for out of towners.

While everyone is welcome to join for coffee/the assembly, space will be very limited in the classrooms for visits so we ask that each student keep their visitors to just a few people each to be sure there is space for everyone to enjoy this very special day. (Also, the Willow class has a separate date/time for their F&F gathering. I've been in touch directly with those parents.)

Sat 5/6 May Faire

Annual May Faire festival, in need of planning committee members!

Please contact rdavis@richmondwaldorf.com if you'd like to get involved in the planning committee. Committee Expectations: We meet bi-weekly in March and April, and need all hands on deck on Friday, May 5th and Sat May 6th.

Also looking for businesses who would like to sponsor the event.

Sat 6/3 Fundraiser End of Year Party

Evening event, all other details TBD, but it will be a GREAT TIME :)

Looking for fun raffle items, donation items, etc. Be in touch if you have a great idea/connection.