

Parent Association Minutes from Tuesday, April 4, 2023

Erica opened meeting with all participants reciting the opening verse at 5:30pm in the First Grade classroom at Richmond Waldorf School on Tuesday, April 4, 2023.

Early Childhood Reps in attendance: Shawn Smith (Acorn), Rebekah Leto (Dogwood), Betsy Miller (Magnolia), Megan Jones (Oak), Michael Bermudez (Willow); Grades Reps in attendance: Brionna Nomi (1st), Rocio Espericueta (1st), Ben Hayward (2nd), Pete Markham (4th), Margaret Ayre (4th), Shannon Garret (5th), Eliza Brill (6th), Maggie Reinke (7th). PA Leaders: Erica Childress, Danny Friedman, Elizabeth Cleveland. Faculty Rep: Sara Andrassy. Parent: Alexandra Porr Mazeres

1. The Class Updates shared here:

- Willow: On Friends and Family Day, they all participated in circle time. EC teachers have offered two sessions for Pediatric Occupational Therapy training.
- Acorn: Friends and Family Day went well for the younger ones. Next week they are starting their biking class.
- Dogwood: Have started Spanish again.
- Magnolia: Finishing up Birthday Celebrations, they have started making baskets, and are finishing up biking.
- Oak: Concentrating on “Bulb Awakening” for Spring. Sewed hats on Family and Friends Day.
- 1st: Practicing for play in May; Added a 3rd note to flute playing
- 2nd: The 2nd Grade Play, *Jumping Mouse* is this week (April 5-7)
- 3rd: Preparing for the Farm Trip on April 16th
- 4th: Researching and preparing their craft for their Animal Projects; Gearing up for Jamestown and camping trips
- 5th: US Geography block; fractions; recital in May; getting ready for Pentathlon, also in May.
- 6th: Getting ready for their play, *Alice in Wonderland*, camping in May and attending the Medieval Games. They are studying South America.
- 7th: Went to Soul Aerial’s *Alice in Wonderland*; Will walk the Slave Trail with the Valentine Museum; Studying African culture; Competing in medieval games; class trip will be to VA Beach; On Family and Friends Day, they made a motor out of a battery!

2. Faculty Update: Sara Andrassy. The Faculty College is focused on the following:

- Still interviewing 1st grade candidates.
- Working through the Panorama Report with Katie Adams Parrish.
- Prioritizing what’s needed in the budget for next year.
- Thinking about the class space for 8th grade.
- Foreign Language: The specialty schedule will be slightly reconfigured to meet all grades’ needs.
- Teachers are doing Side by Side training – haven’t done it since before Covid.
 - i. Educational training to be an ally and supportive of LGBTQ+ community
 - ii. This is an in-person training from 3:30-5:15pm this Thursday, April 6.

iii. Anyone is welcome but you must register: <https://www.sidebysideva.org>

3. Erica shared requests for volunteers:

- Needed volunteers to help hand out magazines (3 signed up), so we're good.
- [May Faire needs volunteers](#)! Sign up via the Messenger or reach out to Rachel Davis.
- The [Summer Soiree](#) still needs the community to come through with ideas for "fun" fundraising and activity ideas.
- Update: The Benefit Concert raised \$2400 for the music department.

4. Erica shared an update from the Board of Trustees:

- The Board of Trustees is still looking for board members. The BOT will be very short on trustees next year. They are trying to recruit from outside the community for different POVs. If you know someone who might be interested, *please reach out to* BOT@richmondwaldorf.com.
- BOT is prepping for a book study on board leadership.
- The financial review has been completed.
- The Annual fund is below budget but tracking to meet objectives.
- Budgeting for next year is in progress (reviewing estimates for modular workspaces)
- HR procedures are being reviewed as well.
- The Transition task force is in progress to welcome new DOA
 - i. Danny is on this task force and would like to work with the PA on ways the new DOA can meet the parents, etc.
- Like the Faculty College, they are also working through the Panorama Report.

5. Danny shared the Treasury Update:

- Currently have \$7,735.78. But do have about \$1k in reimbursements, so that number will drop. However, there is still plenty to fund school grants and other initiatives/events.
- Amazon Smile is no longer an option for passive fundraising as the program shut down. [Kroger](#), [Publix](#), [Box Tops](#) are still going.
- Additional Fundraising ideas were discussed:
 - i. Clothing Drive on name-brand clothing was suggested (Megan Jones offered to lead this effort if we pursue it). She could help the school set up an account on Kidizen. The money could go straight to RWS PA bank account. Easy way to make money (once a quarter) vs. just donating clothes.

6. Erica proposed two fun events for the RWS community:

- **The Squirrels Game.** The date April 23rd (Tye Dye Day) was discussed as later (May or June) might be too hot and also is a very busy "end of school year" time.
- **Parent Night Out.** A Wednesday night for Axe Throwing was discussed. Parents and reps agreed to pursue this event and the PA will cover half of the cover charge (which is \$35 a person) for those who sign up by a certain date.

7. Teacher Appreciation Week

- May 8-12 (which is the same as the national Teacher Appreciation week)
- Every morning: Breakfast for Teachers
- Wednesday: Flowers from community
- Friday: Lunch for all faculty and staff. Boxed lunches vs Catering.
- Other ideas discussed were:
 - i. Chair Massages on Tuesday / Thursday – Does anyone have connections to help make this happen?
 - ii. Reiki sessions – Megan Jones volunteered sessions. Maggie Reinke has an extra massage table if anyone needs to borrow for Reiki or massages.
 - iii. Tea & Coffee bar with orders for espresso drinks (Eliza Brill might have an espresso machine to volunteer for the day)
 - iv. *Other ideas – email PA@richmondwaldorf.com*

8. Living Eco Inspired Workshop

- Discussed taking the Parent Education time slot since there isn't one slated for May 18th. The PA will pay \$250 for 1 – 2hrs. You may remember her from the Holiday Faire
- Anyone is welcome, please sign up
- Date and time: May 18 from 5:30-7pm

9. Bike Day (mountain biking on a trail)

- Glenn Amey leading on a Sunday in May (date TBD)
- This is for parents *and* kids. This is not a drop off event.

10. Erica shared updates on the School Grants

- Decodable books have been delivered and are in use.
- Bike program is in use.
- Front Lobby shelving in progress; the lobby updated with tables and furniture from the Admin's and PA's decorating. Most came from storage!
- Bbgb has given books for the Diversity Library. Shelves are in progress for these
- The Young Audiences performance will be a Japanese Drum Circle and will be during a Friday Gathering (families welcome).
- The Mural at the end of the hallway can be paid for in full by the PA as we have the budget for it. Since the amount is over \$1k, it will need to be put to a school-wide vote for approval. The artist is Noelle Mckown.

11. \$50 Class Budgets – How are you using yours?

- 1st grade – schedule a party (discussing)
- Remember, this is for however you want to use the \$50. Some ideas: for the teacher; class party; playground + coffee and donuts, etc. If you need to use school grounds – contact Erica.

12. PA Leadership Open Positions – we need to vote soon!

- Erica Childress and Heather Maury (serving as Co-Moderators), and Elizabeth Cleveland (serving as Secretary) will not be pursuing a second year. [If you are](#)

[interested in a position or if you'd like to nominate someone please use this form.](#)

- i. Moderator(s)
 1. Alexandra Porr Mazeres (interested in co-moderating)
 2. Brionna Nomi (interested in co-moderating)
- ii. Historian
 1. Open
- iii. Secretary
 1. Open
- iv. Treasurer
 1. Danny running again

13. Coffee Social

- Coffee Social: Wednesday, April 5
- Next month – 6th grade will host
- June – Parent Association will host

14. On-going:

- **Crafts and Chats** – Every Wednesday at 8:30am. They are also working on little items for pocket fairy.
- **Kindness Rocks** – The Garden is starting to grow. The 4th grade and After care have been crafting rocks to keep it growing! We would love your rock donations as well!
- **Bbgb Book Fair** – Starts during May Faire and will keep going the following week with individual classes.
- **Community Workday** is April 15
- **Lost and Found** – This is the 4th Grade's responsibility. We need to figure out how the 4th Grade parents can help get items back to their families. Items will be donated at end of year. HAVE YOU CHECKED THE COAT RACK?
- **After Care** – Severely understaffed. If you are interested or know someone who is interested in working After Care, or being a sub? Please check out the job listing:
<https://benefinderhcm.evolutionadvancedhr.com/JobApplication.aspx?jobpostin&key=8025c31a-b893-4902-af55-fe5800d599da>

The meeting closed at 6:49 by Erica Childress.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, May 2, 2023 at Richmond Waldorf School.

ROCK PAINTING STEPS

FIND YOUR ROCK

Find a rock in a size and shape that you prefer.

STEP 01



STEP 02

CLEAN YOUR ROCK

Clean the rock with soap and water.

PAINT YOUR ROCK

Create a fun design, or write a positive note.

STEP 03



STEP 04

SEAL YOUR ROCK

Seal the rock to protect your design.

SPREAD KINDNESS

Leave the painted rock for someone else to find.

STEP 05

inspire 
kindness