

RRMS PTA Meeting

September 16, 2009

Attendees: Sam Gifford, Jeanne Campanella, Tracy Blossey, Kim Pease, Addie Olander, Angie Coughlin, Paige Farling, Jenn Krebs, Karen Weger, Diane Beer, Rachel Marotta, Jan Cook, Lil Clark, Kathryn Rieg, Colleen O'Toole.

President Paige Farling called the meeting to order at 9:05, welcomed PTA members and made introductions.

Recording Secretary Jan Cook: Minutes for the May, 2009, meeting were approved as posted.

Principal's Report: Mr. Gifford discussed the following:

- Progress Book alerts, notification to parents regarding student progress. For more information or to register to receive alerts, go to "News" through Progress Book @ <http://paxmod.inoca.org>.

- Sunrise/Sunset tutoring program has begun. For 30 minutes before and after school, RRHS students tutor RRMS students in the RRMS Media Center.

- Science Fair 9/31 thru 10/2, coordinated by Mr. Chulik and Ms. Schumacher.

- 54 6th grade students have applied to go to Stone Lab.

- grants available to teachers through the RR Education Foundation. Teachers are encouraged to apply jointly for grant money.

- RRMS staff was appreciative of free breakfasts provided by Chik-Fil-A.

1st Vice President Jenn Krebs: RRMS fee days went well. Based on heavy attendance the first and second days, fee days will most likely occur over 2 instead of 3 days next year.

Guest Speakers:

- Lil Clark, 8th Grade coordinator, requested a PTA contribution of funds toward the 8th Grade Lolly the Trolley Tour, where students visit significant Cleveland landmarks and various cultural markets. \$1,200 has been budgeted for this year's trip.

- Jeanne Campanella, Community Challenge Coordinator, discussed its history and mission to prevent the use/abuse of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs through its programs. Community Challenge will present Parent University, What Kids Need to Succeed, on Saturday, October 10, at 9 AM in the RRHS cafeteria. The program is free, but registration is required. Babysitting is available. Call 440-241-2608, visit www.rrcs.org, or email communitychallenge@recres.org for more information.

Treasurer's Report: Karen Weger thanked Patty Mod and Maureen Ridzon for their help on the Audit Committee and presented results of the audit review. The Committee's report was accepted as prepared.

Per PTA bylaws, Karen Weger presented the RRMS PTA proposed budget for school year 2009/2010 line by line. The budget was approved.

Council Delegates Report: Pattv Mod discussed the following:

-the Rocky River City School District Strategic Plan, approved by the Board of Education in June, 2009, will guide the RR City Schools over the next 5 years to achieve objectives listed in the Plan. Visit www.rrcs.org for more information or to volunteer to serve on an Implementation Action Team.

-visit www.rrcs.org to register to receive email notification from the RR City Schools of immediate or emergency information, e.g. snow days.

-Community Homecoming Dinner 2009 will be from 5 to 7 on Friday, September 25, in the RRHS cafeteria, with all proceeds to benefit the PTA Council High School Scholarship Fund. Pelicano's will provide a pasta meal.

Committee Reports:

President Paige Farling reported there are many volunteer positions which need to be filled.

Challenge Days, Michael Cain. November 18 and 19. Thanks to Michelle Vonk for her many years as the volunteer coordinator for this valuable teen awareness workshop. There is a need for a volunteer coordinator for this year's program.

Magazine Sale, Kathryn Rieg. September 16 through September 29. Volunteer days are September 18, 22, 25, and 29. 40% of students' paid orders go toward the cost of their 8th grade Washington, D.C. trip.

Web-site, Angie Coughlin. Visit www.RRMSPTA.org for PTA info and to register for the PTA blast.

Membership, Marcy Leonard. Current RRMS PTA membership is 163.

Staff Appreciation Lunch, Rita Stevenson. October 23, 10:15 until 1:15. Volunteers needed for salads and desserts.

Unfinished Business. The PTA Bylaws are in the process of being updated. Kim Pease and Addie Olander will meet September 29.

Other Business:

Teacher grant requests for PTA funding are due October 15.

Bike helmet safety incentive. There is a continuing effort to encourage students to wear helmets. Popcorn and ice cream certificates have been handed out by Paige when helmets are worn. Possible funding in the future for this effort.

Popcorn Fridays. Parents pop and sell popcorn during lunch hours on Fridays. Visit www.RRMSPTA.org to volunteer.

Next PTA meeting Wednesday, November 4, 9 AM, Teachers Room. Note change due to Challenge Day on November 18.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Cook, Recording Secretary

RRMS PTA Meeting

November 4, 2009

Attendees: Deb Furry, Ellen Ballas, Karen Weger, Maureen DeVito, Dianna Foley, Angie Coughlin, Paige Farling, Addie Olander, Kim Pease, Patty Mod, Maureen Ridzon, Kelly Hatgas, Jenn Krebs, Colleen O'Toole, Jan Cook.

President Paige Farling called the meeting to order at 9:05 with many sincere thank yous to PTA members for their generous donations of time and talents.

Principal's Report. Principal Sam Gifford reported:

-Challenge Days will be November 18 & 19.

-RRMS, through phys ed classes, is participating in Play 60, a program sponsored by the NFL and United Way to encourage children to play and exercise for 60 minutes a day and to eat healthy.

-RRMS 8th graders, through health class, are participating in Play by the Rules, a week-long electronic communication education program sponsored by the RR Police Department regarding the appropriate and safe use of phones and computers.

-volunteers are needed to supervise students in the computer lab. No computer knowledge is required. Busy study hall periods, approximately 9-10 AM, 11 AM-12 PM, and 1-2 PM are in most need. Contact RRMS, 356-6870, if interested.

District Office Report. Dianna Foley, Coordinator of Communications and Technology, reported:

-Atomic Learning is a good online resource with video tutorials for computer use, software, and other technology questions. www.atomiclearning.com. Username is either student@rrcs or parent@rrcs. Password is pirates.

-RR City School District Strategic Plan—Technology update. Kensington and Goldwood have new computer labs. In service training programs for faculty and staff, coordinated by RRHS math department coordinator Kristen Stephens, is going well with lots of interest. 600 email users have signed up to receive notification of district announcements via email. Visit www.rrcs.org to sign up.

-RR School Board has voted to work with architectural firm Burt Hill regarding facilities improvements. Public meetings on facilities will be held. Online input is also welcome. www.rrcs.org.

-Nancy Score, wife of late Rocky River resident and Indians pitcher Herb Score, has generously donated toward the purchase of a new P.A. system at the RRHS field. Proceeds from the RR Boosters "BONK" fundraiser will be held November 20 at Around The Corner will also go towards a new P.A. system. www.rrcs.org for more details on the fundraiser.

-Rocky River Christmas tree ornaments featuring the Clock Tower are being sold to benefit the (long time RRHS French teacher) Susan Thibo Memorial/Rocky River Education Scholarship Fund and local charities. \$15 each, or 2 for \$25. Contact Anne George, 216-496-1076, to place an order.

Guest Speaker Kelly Hatgas, Junior Achievement, presented on JA Global Marketplace, a program designed to educate 6th grade Social Studies students about key aspects of the global economy, including personal financial literacy. Currently JA programs are in place at Goldwood, Kensington, and RRHS. Volunteers are needed as teachers for the 6-week program. Time commitment is 45 minutes/week, and volunteers may team teach. All lesson plans and workbooks are provided. To sign up, contact Paige Farling at rpfarling@sbcglobal.net or 440-895-1292.

Corresponding Secretary/Bylaws Committee. Addie Olander reported that the RRMS PTA bylaws have been reconciled with the Ohio PTA bylaws with minor calendar changes. The revised bylaws were circulated and will be approved at the January, 2010, meeting before being sent to Ohio PTA. Addie shared thank you notes from 2008-2009 8th graders regarding the Lolly the Trolley cultural field trip.

Treasurer's Report. Karen Weger reported on financial activity through November 3, 2009. Attached. Karen requested budget increases of \$100 for National and Ohio PTA dues and \$15 for PTA Council dues. Increases were approved. A \$250 grant request by band director Ryan Hudec for a Solo and Ensemble Piano Accompanist was approved. It was reported that Lolly the Trolley funds and \$300 earlier requested by the Music Department have been disbursed.

Recording Secretary Jan Cook. Minutes for the September 16, 2009, RRMS PTA meeting were approved.

Council Delegate's Report/Community Announcements.

- RRECPTA Holiday Auction is November 20.

- RRHS Business class is selling RR stickers and RR metal water bottles. Contact Henry Chaski at hchaski@gmail.com or 216-640-6447 to purchase.

- the Rec department is offering fitness classes in its lazy river for middle school-aged girls (Saturdays, 11/7-12/19) and boys (Saturdays, 2/20-3/27).

- Boosters student passes for winter and spring sporting events are available for \$20. Boosters spirit wear sale will be Saturday, December 5 & December 12, from 10-2 at the Civic Center. The spirit wear shop at RRHS is open Thursdays and Fridays from 11-1.

Committee Reports.

- Cookie Walk is December 16.

- Membership: reminder to pay PTA dues if you signed up online, and vice versa.

- 6th grade Social Dance classes will be January 22 & 29 and February 5.

-Maroon & White Night is February 26. Still in need of a chairperson. Publicity will be handled by Colleen O'Toole.

Meeting adjourned at 10:25 AM.

Next Meeting is Wednesday, January 21, 2010, at 9 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Cook, Recording Secretary

RRMS PTA Meeting

January 20th, 2009

Attendees: Karen Weger, Dianna Foley, Paige Farling, Addie Olander, Kim Pease, Patty Mod, Jenn Krebs, Colleen O'Toole, Diane Beer

President Paige Farling opened the meeting at 9:00 with thank yous to PTA volunteers.

Guest Speaker Dr. Michael Shoaf spoke about the potential bond issue.

The dates of Feb 3rd and 11th were given as to finalize whether the bond issue will be approved to move forward. The bond issue is asking for a slight increase over the present millage, the current millage is due to expire. This would equate to \$4 per \$100,000 per month per household. An assessment of facilities has been ongoing for the past two years. Major structural improvements are needed at every site with the exception of the middle school. 14-15 million dollars is needed to cover basic infrastructure such as roofing, AC/HC, electric and plumbing. Once these are addressed, the district will save money in efficiency alone... one example given was high school boiler. It is from the 1950's. Currently we have to retrofit parts, and it runs at an efficiency of 60%.

Another issue is that the buildings don't fit our current mission statement for the schools which is to best prepare the kids for the future. We are behind in safety and technology.

Check the bond levy website at riverschools.org for more information.

Committee meeting scheduled for February 8th, 7:00 pm, at the Rocky River United Methodist Church in the café for anyone interested in helping.

Sam Gifford gave his principals report.

Fuel Up To Play 60. This program is supported by the UDF and NFL to promote eating right and playing outside for 60 minutes a day. We are currently listed between 2nd to 3rd in the state. If we can come in 1st we will get a \$10,000 gym mini-makeover. Part of this ranking is having kids log in and put in their activity over the course of the day. The gym teachers are doing a good job supporting this within the school and there is lots of excitement.

Play by the rules. The eighth grade finished this segment through the health class which basically reinforces the issues and dangers involved with the electronic communication age. The middle school is sending out a flyer to the entire student body about what was learned and discussed. The guidance department will also have a "Did You Know" page with facts about the school.

Hoops for Hunger. Collections will start on Feb 1st and run through Feb. 18th. The goal is to reach a combined 20,000 units with Bay Village getting more involved this year. If goal is reached both middle school principals will shave their heads. The game day is February 19th at Bay Village.

Washington D.C. The cost and itinerary for the trip was sent home. The cost is up to \$410 this year from \$395 last year. Gweynn Hampel will be chaperoning the trip for the middle school. Roommate assignments are also out.

Karen Weger gave the treasures report.

Update of financial activity with a current cash balance of \$3553.27.

Potential for a motion for supporting the bond issue will be discussed at the March meeting.

Bylaws

Kim Pease gave a motion to accept updated version of by-laws. Karen Weger made a motion. Diane Beer seconded it. All in favor, no descents.

Nominating Committee

Jenn Krebs is working on the nominating committee. She is accepting any nominations or ideas for any of the executive board positions.

Social Dance

Paige Farling gave the update for Social Dance. It is on target to start this Friday 1/22 and run on 1/29 and 2/5. There are over 50 kids signed up which is about the regular amount for this event.

Maroon and White Night.

They are looking for donations. They have the grand prizes of a net book, iPod iTouch and iPod Nano 5th generation. They are having raffle prizes 1 per grade. Highest amount of tickets sold per homeroom will win a donut/juice breakfast. There is also an open raffle to win lunch with Mr. Gifford.

Raffle tickets are: presale: \$10 to get in, 5 raffle tickets for \$1; night of: \$12 to get in, 4 raffle tickets for \$1.

8th Grade Dance

8th grade dance is getting ready to have first committee meeting. If you are interested in helping contact Tracy Blossey.

Vendor Fair

Vendors fair is ramping up and taking applications for vendors. If you are a vendor or know a vendor please talk to Paige Farling to reserve your spot.

Bulletin

Bulletin announcements are due this Friday, 1/22 to Angie Coughlin.

Next meeting is 3/17 at 9:00 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Jenn Krebs, 1st Vice President

Rocky River Middle School PTA Meeting

March 17, 2010

Attendees: Diane Beer, Elise Ulchaker, Sam Gifford, Kim Pease, Addie Olander, Angie Coughlin, Paige Farling, Cindy Woomer, Karen Weger, Patty Mod, Jan Cook, Tracy Blosssey, Dianna Foley.

President Paige Farling called the meeting to order at 9:05 AM.

Sam Gifford, Principal's Report:

- Hoops for Hunger was very successful;
- 7th graders took the Terra Nova tests;
- participation for the 8th grade Washington, D.C., trip is down slightly;
- TDAP vaccination will be required for students entering 7th grade 2010-2011 school year;
- Thursday, March 18, scheduling meetings will take place for parents of incoming 6, 7, & 8 grade students;
- the end of 3rd quarter is Friday, March 26;
- plans are underway for the Principal's Award dinner;
- 6th grade orientation & open house is 8/25. 7th and 8th grade schedule pick-up is 9/2/10; and
- RRMS track and softball seasons have started.

Today, Make-A-Wish Foundation will be honoring 8th grader Sabreen Haq, whose wish is to provide a wish to another Make-A-Wish recipient. A Wii tournament will be held, and a birthday party for Sabreen with her fellow 8th graders will follow.

Dianna Foley, Communications & Technology, was present to answer questions regarding the upcoming bond issue campaign and May vote. Visit www.RiverSchools.org for information, to volunteer, and to sign up for yard signs. Signs delivered 3/31 and can be placed in yards 4/3.

Karen Weger, Treasurer's Report:

- Financial Activity From 1-20-2010 to 3-16-2010, attached;
- Maroon & White Night was successful, with receipts well above recent norms. Thanks to all volunteers and planners;
- faculty are reminded to make grant requests with the online form;

-a request to increase Popcorn Friday expenses by \$150 for supplies was approved;

-a request to increase Maroon & White Night expenses by \$100 for a donor appreciation breakfast was approved;

-a request to increase Maroon & White Night revenues by \$3000 to fund the Student Activities and Teacher Grants line items by \$1500, each, from MW profits was approved;

- a new budget line item for bond issue campaign committee expenses was approved, and a \$200 donation toward campaign expenses was approved.

Jenn Krebs, 1st Vice President:

Thanks to all who helped line up next year's RRMS PTA Executive Board slate. The following slated Executive Board positions were approved:

President – Sandra Muny

Vice President – Julie Tucci

Treasurer – Karen Weger

Recording Secretary – Beth Trudell

Corresponding Secretary – Keli Asmar

Council Delegates – Paige Farling, Jenn Krebs, Anette Sullivan, Elise Ulchaker, Jan Cook (alt.)

Corresponding Secretary Addie Olander reminded members to advise her if additional thank you's need to be sent regarding Maroon & White Night.

Council Delegates' Report. Friday, April 16, is the Community Challenge Gymrats basketball game at RRHS. *Please Stop the Roller Coaster! How Parents of Teenagers Can Smooth Out the Ride* was recommended as a good parenting guide.

Committee Reports.

Maroon & White Night. MW was a successful & profitable evening. This year's budget increase worked well, making it possible to rent more inflatables and a photo booth. An appreciation breakfast will be held on Friday, March 18, for donors. Discussion about changing the date of M & W Night to November and adding a combined Student Council/PTA event in February continued.

8th Grade Dance. May 21 at Memorial Hall. Tracy Blossey reported plans are going well. There is a need for volunteers to help during the day and evening and to provide desserts.

Artisan & Vendor Fair. May 7 and 8 in the Middle School Commons. Paige Farling reported 21 vendors are registered, with room for more. Patty Mod will chair the raffle. Kim Pease will chair the bake sale. There is still a need for a Publicity Chair. This year's Fair will have a table for creating

Mother's Day cards for \$1 each. Donations of stickers, paper and other supplies for the table are appreciated.

Meeting adjourned at 10:15 AM.

Next Meeting is Wednesday, April 21, 2010, at 9 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Cook, Recording Secretary

RRMS PTA Meeting Minutes

April 21, 2010

Attendees: Sam Gifford, Patty Mod, Diane Beer, Sandra Muny, Paige Farling, Angie Coughlin, Addie Olander, Kim Pease, Karen Weger, Jan Cook.

Recording Secretary: Minutes from the 3/17/2010 RRMS PTA meeting were approved with corrections.

RRMS 7th and 8th grade Open House is 9/2/10. A request to increase M&W revenue by \$3000 was approved to fund Student Activities and Teacher Grants line items.

Principal's Report, Sam Gifford:

-the annual All Schools Band Concert is TH 4/22/10. It will be possible for RRMS students in both band and track to participate in the concert and/or the track meet.

-OAA testing begins 4/22 for 8th grade, continues 4/27 and 4/29 for all grades, and ends 4/30 with a practice social studies test.

-Judge Donna Congeni Fitzsimmons and RR Municipal Court will hold an actual hearing at RRMS for 6th graders on 5/10.

-8th grade Washington, D.C., plans are continuing, with 165 students signed up. Parent meeting is 5/13 at 7 PM.

-8th grade Fitness Trip is 5/19 and 5/20.

-the Principal's Award dinner is 6/2. 29 students have earned the dinner.

-all schedule cards have been returned and are being processed. There will be 3 classes of EPE, 8th grade science offered for high school credit, next year.

-track and softball seasons are underway.

Committee Reports:

8th Grade Dance, Tracy Blossy: Friday, 5/21. Memorial Hall. 7:30 to 10:30. Volunteers are still needed to set up during the afternoon and during the evening. Contact Cindy Woomer at cwoomer@cox.net to sign up.

Artisan and Vendor Fair, Paige Farling: Friday, 5/7, 6 to 9 PM, and Saturday, 5/8, 9 to 1 PM, at RRMS. Free admission, bake sale, Mother's Day gifts and cards. To donate for Saturday's bake sale, please drop off baked goods in the office on Friday. Individually packaged and ready to sell is greatly appreciated. An informational email blast will be sent Sunday 5/2.

Corresponding , Addie Olander: the PTA received a touching letter from the Haq family, thanking all for their help with the Make-A-Wish fundraiser held in Sabreen's honor. The success of the fundraiser has made it possible to sponsor a child's wish to go to Hawaii with her family.

Treasurer's Report, Karen Weger: Financial Activity from 3/16/10 to 4/20/10, attached. Financial outlook is good, slightly ahead of budget. A request to disburse up to \$300 from Student Activities expenses was approved, to be used at Ms. Hempel's discretion during the Washington, D.C., trip.

A short discussion was held regarding PTA's role in disbursing Assistance/Sunshine funds and the purpose of budgeting funds. More discussion to follow at future meetings, with possible separation of Sunshine and Assistance expenses and/or setting aside Assistance funds to be used at Principal's discretion.

The following action was approved after review and discussion of Student Activities and Teacher Grants requests:

- \$971.86 will be disbursed from Student Activities expenses for the cost of transporting 7th graders to the zoo.

- \$400 will be disbursed from Teacher Grants expenses for the purchase of two shelves and history and science reference materials for Ms. Schumacher's classroom.

- \$300 will be disbursed from Teacher Grants expenses for the cost of mounting and preserving a Japanese War flag from the WWII Battle of Iwo Jima which is displayed in Mr. Purdy's classroom.

- \$390 will be disbursed from Teacher Grant expenses for the cost of the "Bach to Beatles" assembly scheduled for 6/1.

- \$302 will be disbursed from Teacher Grant expenses for the cost of band and choir Solo & Ensemble Contest award pins and Outstanding Music Student trophies.

The total amount disbursed from Teacher Grants is \$1,392.00.

A request for \$100 to be disbursed from Teacher Grants expenses for the purpose of tuning the Music Department's piano was denied at this time. However, the piano will be tuned for the beginning of the 2010/2011 school year.

A request for funds for the cost of band and choir students to enter the Music in the Parks competition and to attend Cedar Point was denied, based on the fact that scholarship/assistance requests do not fall under Teacher Grant expenses.

The Meeting was adjourned at 10:40 AM.

The PTA Installation Luncheon is Tuesday, 5/11, at 12:30 at CYC. RRMS PTA Executive Board Meeting is 5/19 at 9 AM.

Respectfully submitted, Jan Cook, Recording Secretary