

ROE PTO Board Meeting Minutes for February 10th, 2010

Meeting was brought to order at 6:07pm

2009-2010 Board Members Present

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|------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| 1. Diane Cimino, President | 16. Elisa Donovan, Kinder Rep |
| 2. Debra Kenna, Past President | 17. Ann Guerra, Ways and Means |
| 3. Frances Moore-Jones, Vice President | 18. Jennifer McCormick, School Life |
| 4. Kristin Helfand, Secretary | 19. Jodie Haney, ASP Rep |
| 5. Sandra Ahlhorn, Treasurer | |
| 6. Liz Palmer, Budget Finance | |
| 7. Teri Peterson, 5th Grade Rep | |
| 8. Wendy Sides, 5th Grade Rep | |
| 9. Melissa Morris, 4th Grade Rep | |
| 10. Cassandra McZeal 3rd Grade Rep | |
| 11. Maryann Mueller, 3rd Grade Rep | |
| 12. Janann Pittman, 2nd Grade Rep | |
| 13. Nguyet Vo, 2nd Grade Rep | |
| 14. Meredith Maierson, 1st Grade Rep | |
| 15. Natalie Cordova, Kinder Rep | |

Others Present

- 20. Ms. Susan Shenker, Principal**
- 21. Ms. Michelle Dahlquist, Admin. Coord.**
- 22. Ms. Becky Smith, Teacher**

Minutes

TOPIC: Secretary's Report

SPONSOR: Kristin Helfand

- The minutes from the January board meeting were presented and requested to be approved. Diane Cimino made the motion for approval and Meredith Maierson seconded it. All were in favor.

TOPIC: President's Report

SPONSOR: Diane Cimino

- Diane recognized Holly Shilstone, our Teacher Appreciation Chair, for an amazing job on teacher appreciation week. Diane thanks grade reps and room parents for communicating this celebration to all ROE families.
- Whole Foods has again offered to host the Lemonade Stand fundraiser for ROE on Saturday, 4/24. Ann Guerra will be working with affinity reps Linda Elmer and Meredith Maierson on this project.
- Diane reminded grade reps to plan their spring socials in order to foster a community spirit for our families.
- No written report on the library has been provided yet, so no update is available at this time. The board was reminded that they voted at the January board meeting to use the library funds collected at the 2008 auction for the purchase of a new mobile computer cart. The library

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- reserve fun is now marked at “depleted”. Diane Cimino made a motion for the board to vote to use these reserved library funds for the purchase of a mobile computer cart and Teri Peterson seconded it. The motion passed.
- A nominating committee meeting will be held later this month. Please begin thinking about parents who would make great additions to the PTO. Our incoming President, Frances Moore-Jones will be sending out a meeting notice with all the details. There will be an article in an upcoming Greensheet asking parents to let us know if they are interested in PTO roles.
- Isabella Alcaniz, one of our Volunteer Coordinators, will be relocating to Washington, D.C. this summer. Good luck to Isabella in her new home.

TOPIC: Book Fair Update

SPONSOR: Maryann Mueller

- Book fair dates are 2/22-2/26. The theme of the book fair is “Diner”. Maryann passed around a photo as an example of the decorations for the event.
- A preview sampling of the books available at the book fair will be sent home to parents, as will flyers about Grandparents Day (Tuesday 9-10:30 and 12:30-2).
- Family night will be Friday evening from 6-8pm in the cafeteria. Christine Tabrizi is handling this event. We’ll have James Coney Island, Ben & Jerry’s and face painting for food and entertainment.
- Debra Kenna is doing to finances for the event.
- Volunteers are still needed, so please contact Maryann if you can help out.

TOPIC: Carnival Update

SPONSOR: Linda Elmer

- Linda is soliciting booth sponsorships for the carnival and has already raised \$3,000. Sponsorship forms are available on the website. Please email Meredith Maierson with any booth requests or questions.
- Signage is being underwritten by an ROE family. Linda is hoping that the t-shirts will also be underwritten.
- An email has been sent to room parents so they can sign up for their class booths.
- The team is working on signing up vendors for the Spring Bazaar.

TOPIC: ASP Update

SPONSOR: Jodie Haney

- Healthier snacks are being provided to the children now.
- Coach Bomersbach has complained about trash being left on the playground by the ASP program. ASP staff has been assigned to patrol the playground for trash and the situation has improved.
- An ASP expo is being planned for May so parents can talk to ASP teachers and reps prior to signing up for classes. Parents can also sign up to evaluate a class.

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TOPIC: Financial Allocation for “Big Ideas”

SPONSOR: Diane Cimino

- Diane passed around a spreadsheet showing items from the final list of “big ideas”. The team sorted through the ideas and prioritized items that should be addressed this year.
- The ideas that were dropped from the list will be added to an ongoing file of good ideas for future investment. We’d like to have a rolling 5-year-plan of targeted expenditures; a list of things we can invest our excess funds in each year.
- One of the biggest ideas is to revamp the outdoor PE space including adding some type of boundary to the shade structure, adding storage units, water fountains, electrical outlets and lights. Diane proposed that we re-allocate the \$48,000 in the reserved “Activity Center Fund” specifically for the purpose of improving the outdoor PE area. Sandra Ahlhorn made the motion to accept this proposal and Debra Kenna seconded it. The motion passed.
- Ms. Dahlquist requested experts in Differentiation Instruction to come to the school and work with the teachers on campus. She also would like a Questioning Workshop. The estimated cost for these programs and the necessary substitute teachers is \$15,000. Teri Peterson made a motion to approve this expenditure and Liz Palmer seconded it. The motion passed.
- Ms. Pfeiffer would like to purchase a math intervention program called “Mathletics” for approximately \$4,000. Diane Cimino made a motion to approve this expenditure and Kristin Helfand seconded it. The motion passed.
- A professional workshop on bullying is being developed to help teachers, parents and students at ROE. \$10,000 was allocated to use for this purpose. Diane Cimino made a motion to approve this expenditure and Jodie Haney seconded it. The motion passed.
- Debra Kenna investigated the cost of building a shade structure over the seating area for the amphitheatre similar to the one in the courtyard outside the cafeteria. The cost is approximately \$10,000. Kristin Helfand made a motion to approve this expenditure and Teri Peterson seconded it. The motion passed with two nays: Melissa Morris and Natalie Cordova. They would like to see the entire stage and seating area covered.
- Ms. Dahlquist requested a garbage disposal in the teacher’s lounge for a cost of \$200. Cassandra McZeal made a motion to approve this expenditure and Maryann Mueller seconded it. The motion passed.
- Total cost of “big idea” expenditures is \$39,200.

TOPIC: Principal’s Report

SPONSOR: Susan Shenker

- Ms. Shenker introduced our new mission statement for the school. She felt the old one was too generic and wanted it to better communicate a cohesive message of who we are as a school.

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- Ms. Shenker talked about what makes our school different and primarily that is differentiated instruction to reach all children where they are. All of our teachers are GT certified and teach the same curriculum whether the class is cluster or homogeneous.
- Plans are being made to eliminate the homogeneous classes at River Oaks. Currently only two non-GT classes (1 kinder, 1 1st grade) have no GT students. Many children who start school as non-GT students qualify as GT during their years at ROE.
- Beginning in Fall, 2010, all classes will combine GT and non-GT children.

A motion was passed to adjourn the meeting by Kristin Helfand. The motion was seconded by Diane Cimino. All were in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45pm.