



Riveredge School PTO
October 12, 2020 General Meeting Minutes

Date, Time, and Location: Monday, October 12, 2020, at 6 p.m. via Google Meet.

Attendance: Sarah Neumann, Mike Mullen, Cherie Wolfgram, Christina Knoske, Courtney Hess, Daniel Suhr, Elizabeth Clark, Greta Malek, Karen Parker, Laura Wollersheim, Sarah Fortney, Tricia Gruber, Vanessa Goll, Cindy Raimer, Lindsey Lewis

- I. **Greetings** – Amy Pollard
- II. **Reading of last meetings minutes** – Amy Pollard
- III. **Treasurers Report** – Sarah Fortney
 - a. Deposited \$400 from RNC (from volunteers)
 - b. \$1,141.06 current in bank account
- IV. **Status of Legalese** – Amy Pollard
 - a. Lawyer getting appropriate documents sent over
 - b. Once it gets sent in the mail and is accepted then we should have 501(c)3 within a month ideally. This will give us more freedom in fundraising.
- V. **School Updates** – Mike Mullen
 - a. Book Club: Reached out to author (Book: Last Child in the Woods) and invited to a book talk (not sure if he'll make it). Late October will send a google link for a book talk.
 - b. MAP testing: Started today. Will be using this diagnostic tool twice annually.
 - c. Changing Room: Would like one by yurts. Will likely end up purchasing a pop up shed.
 - d. New Family: New student joined today in 3rd grade. Continue to get interest and still have a few openings. Would like someone from PTO to give a call to this new family.
 - e. Fall Celebration: Will be in the days before Trails and Treats (at RNC) and each class will have their own celebrations. Teachers are planning this now, more info to come.
 - f. Opportunities to include music and art: Looking for ukuleles as an option. Will pursue, this year or next year. Would love to infuse more art and music.
 - g. Parent Teacher Conferences: Being scheduled right now through Bloomz. During these Fridays, there will be no virtual Friday
 - h. Governance Council: Dan Davis and Mike Mullen are putting together a retreat (10/24)
 - i. Focus is to get to know new GC members (hike and grill)
 - ii. Educate on mission and vision
 - iii. Creating communities and talking about school needs
 - i. Looking for people to help compile research grants information.
- VI. **Fundraising Committee** – Sarah Neumann/Greta Malek
 - a. Status of gear order
 - i. Currently company is creating. Will be finished by 10/30 and pick up with be shortly thereafter. There will be an email sent when it's time.
 - ii. Interest in stickers/car clings: Will be sending a survey to gauge interest in ROLES stickers/car clings.
 - b. Square 1 Art
 - i. Will contact teachers to decide on when the kids will do their project, either virtual Friday or in school.

- ii. Can order numerous items to gifts, etc that feature your children's art.
- iii. They will also all get a sticker sheet with their art on it, for free whether or not you order anything.
- c. Community Spirit Rock
 - i. By play area, plan to put two rocks. Will be in touch with Sunny to confirm and get placement plans in order.

VII. Community Enrichment Committee – Laura Wollersheim

- a. Mascot: Will purchase costume and 5th grade leadership group will come up with name options then all kids can vote on a winning name.
- b. Winter Gear Recommendations: Trying to figure out what platform to use for gear recommendations (probably Bloomz)
- c. Trails and Treats: Check out RNC event page
- d. Book Club: See Mike's comments above
- e. Governance Council Retreat: See Mike's comment above for more info. To help bond new parents with old parents. Possibly silly games to bond, ice breakers, wine or Riveredge Nature Center brewed beer gift (Mr. Mullen will research)
- f. Gear Donation: Possibly parents can donate spare gear (hats, mittens, etc). Maybe ways to hang the gear organized by grade level. Currently have some bins to go through and sort in Riveredge basement.

VIII. Volunteer Opportunities – Laura Wollersheim

- a. Finish painting 3rd Grade mudroom: Almost finished. Need two people to finish (probably take an hour to finish)
- b. Morning drop off support: Need one more volunteer for each day of the week. Currently have two, but ideally would like three. (8:15am-8:35)
- c. Potential shed: Reach out to Mike if you would like to help make this changing room.
- d. Volunteer Survey: Will send in near future to gauge interest and availability.
- e. Classroom Supplies: Watch Bloomz and teachers will post needs.
- f. Kids Outdoor Workbench: Mrs. Greymont request. Waiting for approval.

IX. New Business – Open floor

- a. Hand Washing Station in winter: Oz Cty Health gave Mike a suggestion. Hand sanitizer will be the new solution that is safe for yurts and indoor classroom. Also, bought a hot and cold water dispenser for stand-alone classroom. Concern from parent about ingesting hand sanitizer. Mike said we do have restrooms as well, in barn and main building to wash hands.
- b. Mention hot pot for classrooms to have special tea/hot cocoa days to teachers. Was really nice last year for a special warm "treat" for kids on certain especially cold days.
- c. Sunny would love for kids to utilize snow shoes and skies this year. Mike talked about seeking more skis with person who orders them. Will use them a lot this year.
- d. Classroom needs: Cindy Raimer – Books, storage solution for kids library book bags (hooks etc) Will take a picture and send to PTO email. Possibly Velcro and organizer on front of desks. Possibly a group of parents make a gofundme for the teachers. PTO can reach out to teachers and see what they need, then find a way to set up function to help people volunteer these items (possibly we add that to the volunteer survey)

- e. Parent Question: What options do kids have for number of virtual days? Teachers are providing virtual options for quarantined kids and are preparing currently for if we are required to switch to virtual learning.
 - f. Parent Question: Truancy leniency? State has not come out with direct changes. Child by child basis. Keep kids home if they aren't feeling well, that is priority.
- X.** Next Meeting
- a. Monday, November 9, 2020 – virtual: 6:00-7:30pm

Meeting Adjourned at 7:32pm.

Minutes compiled by Sarah Neumann