

RIVERDALE PTA
Minutes for December 2, 2009 Meeting
3:15 p.m., Riverdale Elementary School Library

Officers present: Kristie Guardia, Mary Beth Eggers. Not present: Janine Pearsfield, Todd Jackson

Meeting called to order at 3:17 p.m.

Past Minutes – October 7, 2009

No corrections. Motion made by April Johnston to approve minutes. Motion seconded by Cheryl Brandon.

Treasurers Report

Treasurer's Report submitted by Todd Jackson. Kristie reported cash on hand as \$5,712. She reported that profits from the fundraiser were lower than expected. Mary Beth suggested we call a special meeting to discuss and revise our current budget in order to guide us for the rest of the year. It was decided that the next PTA meeting would take place on Wednesday, January 6, 2010 at 5 p.m. If a special budget meeting was unable to be held prior to that date, budget could be discussed at that time. Motion made by Julia Evans to approve treasurer's report. Seconded by Sara Smeltzly.

Administrator Reports:

Mrs. Evans:

*Mrs. Evans reminds parents that the semester ends at the holiday break.

*She reported that the H1N1 immunization clinic was well attended and nobody was turned away. Some children require a second vaccination and although hopes were that the second clinic would happen at one of the Riverdale schools, it appears likely that it will happen at HealthLink near the Illini Hospital campus in Silvis. More information to follow.

*She said that Family Reading Night was a huge success with 547 people in attendance. She commended teachers and staff who helped make the event a success. She said another group of teachers are working on plans for Family Math Night which is coming in April. More information to come. Sara Smeltzly reported that the 2010-2011 Scholastic Book Fair will take place during Family Reading Night instead of at open house as in the past.

*The 5th grade Festival of Trees event happens Thursday, December 3 from 5:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m. Proceeds from the event will go toward Ann's Helping Hands.

*Holiday parties will be December 18th at 1:30 p.m. Parents will need to be out of the building by 2:30 p.m. in order to get the kids ready for the buses.

*Grandparents Day has been held for most of the grade levels. The 2nd grade and Kindergarten grades will have their event in 2010. More information to follow.

Mr. Jacobs:

*Mr. Jacobs reported that the new district newsletter (Winter 2009) was just posted on the Riverdale website.

*He reported that the district is in good shape this year with a balanced budget, however, he said that the district finances will be in peril in the future due to problems with the state's budgets and little or no revenues and stimulus monies earmarked for schools as has been done in the past. He asks parents to stay tuned in to this situation and encourages community members to stay in touch with their legislatures. On the positive, Mr. Jacobs believes we can ride these problems out for a year or two and hopes for a turnaround with the economy. He explained that once the economy turns around, the superintendents will very likely take another look at getting the local option sales tax approved to help the schools.

*Mr. Jacobs reports that test scores are good for our schools, contrary to what was reported in the local media. He said he took exception to many of the facts in the Dispatch Argus article. He said our 3rd-8th grade test scores are good and that due to high and in many cases unreasonable targets, most of the Illinois high schools will not meet their target goals.

*Mr. Jacobs reports that the school board approved a new, improved student management system which will better manage student data and create better communication with parents via the web. The new system could also allow the school district to allow the elementary school parents and students to participate in this newer technology.

Mr. Jennings: not present

Mr. Boyd: not present

Old business:

Correspondence: Middle school staff sent a thank you in response to the lunch provided for the teachers and staff for Parent/Teacher conferences.

Mrs. Evans thanked the PTA and parents in response to the request for hand sanitizer.

Committee reports:

Fall Fundraiser:

Kristie reported that the actual net for our fundraiser was \$5,070.06 which was \$7, 429.94 less than anticipated.

Fruit Sale Fundraiser:

The PTA will be holding the fruit sale this year in February and March. Incentives, supplies for the sale, school support, sale dates and volunteer needs were discussed. Kelly and Ted Doty will take the lead with this fundraiser again this year. Any persons interested in helping with the sale can call volunteer Mary Beth Eggers at 309-236-1042 or can email Kelly at Kdoty@midlandcorp.com.

Reflections:

Danielle needs to order the ribbons for Reflections participants.

School party needs:

Kristie said she would call Linda Alguire who has handled Santa appearance in the past. Mary Beth said she would take care of purchasing candy canes for the holiday event.

Assemblies:

No assemblies have yet been arranged for this school year. Mary Beth asked everyone to keep their ears and eyes open for possible ideas for an assembly this year, or for the 2010-2011 school year. Ideas can be submitted to Mary Beth at mbeaggers@mchsi.com. Question was raised about the possibility of having another bullying assembly. Mrs. Evans said, although it has proved to be a great assembly, it is really expensive.

New Business:

Ann's Helping Hands:

Ann's Helping Hands is still in need of community support to help make Christmas better for needy children and their families in upper Rock Island County. Angel tags are available at local businesses including the Port Byron Bank, the River Valley Library and Dollar General. Ann said that if your schedule doesn't allow for obtaining an Angel tag, you can donate an unwrapped toy for boys and girls ages newborn to third grade, as well as gift wrap, gift tags and tape. Gift wrappers are also needed. For any questions or to volunteer, please call Ann McCarrell at 309-314-5226.

Founder's Day:

Mary Beth presented the idea to honor retiring staff and teachers in a different way, instead of holding Founder's Day. She explained that Founder's Day has been an event held in the Spring every year to recognize retiring staff, community leaders and past PTA presidents. She said she recognizes that it is a long-standing tradition, but believes that due to busy schedules and the amount of planning needed, we should take another look at the event and whether we should continue to hold it. She asked members to bring thoughts and ideas to the next meeting.

Bus Driver Appreciation Day:

Mary Beth said she would still like to recognize our school bus drivers, but due to potential budget problems and the fact that it is not a specific line item in our budget, we might need to look at asking parents to provide home-baked goods for this event, as well any creative ideas (teacher's helping with thank you letters and drawings like last year; parent thank you notes, etc.). She said she would put it on the agenda for discussion at next month's meeting.

Kristie thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and on behalf of the PTA officers extended our wishes for a safe and happy holiday season.

Next meeting will be 5 p.m., Wednesday, January 6, 2010.

Meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

Minutes submitted by: Mary Beth Eggers; PTA secretary