

Riverdale PTA
Minutes from January 6, 2010
Meeting location: Riverdale Elementary Library

Officers present: Janine Persefield, Todd Jackson and Mary Beth Eggers.
Not present: Kristie Guardia. Total persons in attendance: 7

Meeting was brought to order by Mary Beth Eggers at 5:08 p.m.

Meeting minutes presented from December 2, 2009 meeting held at Riverdale Elementary School Library. Motion made by Chris Berge to approve the minutes without changes or additions. Seconded by Janine Persefield.

Treasurers Report:

Todd Jackson presented the budget and highlighted the fundraiser actual net (\$5,070.06) compared to the expected sales based on last year's figures (\$12,500). This difference (\$7,429.94) will cause problems if we continue with the current budget in place. Budget cuts will be proposed and presented for discussion and vote at the February meeting. Our current meeting time at 3:15 p.m. does not allow Todd to attend meetings so he proposed we change the meeting time to accommodate his schedule, as well as other working parent's schedule. This topic to be discussed further in New Business.

Administrator Reports:

Mrs. Evans:

- *Christmas parties went well.
- *Report cards were going home with students today.
- *Honor roll bumper stickers will be distributed to qualifying students in 3rd-5th grades. *Ames Web Benchmarking testing will begin this week in order to find out how the students are performing. Intervention will be planned for students who need extra help. *Student improvement day will be January 15th with students attending ½ day.
- *A special celebration is planned for 10:30 a.m. that day to correspond with the "How full is your bucket?" activities. This program has encouraged students to provide praise and compliments to their peers.
- *The district spelling bee will be 7 p.m., January 21st in the Middle School auditorium. *Our school nurse Mrs. Oleson leads a Pilates class in the Elementary School gym at 3:20 p.m. every Tuesday. Any adults are welcome.
- *Valentine's Day parties will happen at 1:30 p.m. on Friday, February 12th.
- *ISAT testing will take place March 2-5.

Mr. Jacobs:

- *A new student management program will be finalized over the summer. This new web-based system will add a parent portal for elementary parents, among other new features.
- *The school system is revamping their website which is targeted to be active within a month or two. The new website address will be: www.riverdaleschools.org
The website will allow for select staff members access to change content on demand, rather than waiting for one webmaster to make changes.
- *School financing still in peril with a prospective state budget to be 12-15 billion dollars in the red. The state is \$600,000 behind in voucher payments and 90-120 days behind in payments, with the exception of general state aid payments. Mr. Jacobs reports that the district has been fiscally responsible by trimming \$1 million in operating budgets, among other actions, but is witnessing a

quick depletion of these savings. He is working very hard to stay in touch with area legislatures to address the urgency of the situation.

Mr. Boyd and Mr. Jennings: not present

No correspondence

Committee Reports:

Fruit Sale: Kelley Doty was unable to make it to the meeting but had updated Mary Beth on the status. She said everything was in place to begin in February. Mrs. Evans said to let the office know about envelopes needed for the sale. Question was posed about conducting the fruit sale in the Middle School since proceeds benefit PTA (vs. playground) and since the Middle School did not take part in the Lifestyles fundraiser.

It was suggested that incentives for Middle School students be separate from the Elementary. Fruit costumes are available for special promotions at sporting or school events.

Other fundraiser idea(s):

Sara Wessels presented "Reach for the Stars" by Usborne Books. This pledge-based reading incentive program encourages participants to read or be read to for 300 minutes over a two-week period. Parents and children request pledges from friends and family to encourage kids to read. Usborne books and other prizes are awarded for participating. The PTA will also be able to raise money and earn books in the process.

A motion was made by Todd Jackson to adopt this program within the Elementary school March 10-24th. Mary Beth Eggers seconded the motion. Program specifics were discussed. Sara Wessels will chair the committee. March 25th and 26th will be the days when students turn in their pledge money. Sara said books should be available shortly after students return from Spring Break. More information to come.

Spelling Bee:

Everything is in place for the spelling bee on Thursday, January 21st. Mary Beth commended high school student Kelsey Darren for chairing this committee. Suggestion was made to recruit past spelling bee participants to chair this committee in future years.

Founder's Day:

Mary Beth suggested we change or cancel Founder's Day this year. She explained that Founder's Day is an event that was created to honor retiring staff and teachers, as well as past PTA presidents. It's also an open house to celebrate PTA in general. She cited dwindling interest by parents and teachers as a reason for this change. Mr. Jacobs recommended we have the event this year, explaining that the unified dismissal time would make it easier for teachers to participate. It was decided that the PTA would continue the Founder's Day tradition on Wednesday, April 7th at 3:15 p.m. Ideas were then discussed to help make Founder's Day better including the following:

- *Recruit a co-chairperson to assist Mary Beth Eggers in planning
- *Change the location to the high school cafeteria
- *Have the event start at 3:15 p.m. Hold the general PTA meeting at the conclusion of the Founder's Day event and clean-up. (approximately 4:45 or 5 p.m.)
- *Enlist the assistance of more parents to help in all facets of the event.
- *Ask the Consumer Science teacher, Mrs. Davis, about the possibility of having students help with preparation of refreshments. Perhaps even offer a "presentation" about the preparation as a one form of entertainment. Ask parents to bring a snack or hors d'oeuvres.
- *Continue to enlist the assistance of students to provide entertainment at the event

NEW BUSINESS:

The general state of the PTA was discussed. Membership is down in terms of both parents and teachers. Changing the meeting to accommodate working parents is one way of garnering more support from our Riverdale PTA.

Mrs. Evans said that she would like to see Family Fun Day (or Fun Night) continue this year with the primary purpose being “fun”, not fundraising, as it was in the past. A group of interested parents would be needed to make it possible.

It was decided that the officers present at the conclusion of this meeting would meet and propose changes to the budget to be brought in front of the February PTA meeting. It was decided the next meeting would take place at 6 p.m., Wednesday, February 3rd in the library of Riverdale Elementary.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:08 p.m.

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Meeting minutes submitted by Mary Beth Eggers, PTA secretary