

## **Ralph R. Smith PTA Meeting November 10, 2009**

The meeting was called to order by President Kris Palmer at 7:05 p.m.

Meeting was established by the following who were present: Rebecca Tarkos, Kyle Tarkos, Brian Wojszynski, Jennifer McKay, Felipa Biamonte, Marge Gibson O'Mara, Kim Brady, Debi Knauss, Denise Wornell, Tracey Bodo, Gillian Rush, Kathleen Thompson, Sue Speare, Tom Gannon, Jim Welling, Pete Colaizzo, George Desmond, Rob Babcock, Kelley Marshall, Thomas Molloy, Mary Ell Izzo, Kris Palmer, Heidi Colaizzo.

### **Officers' reports**

**Secretary's report:** The minutes were presented from the October 13, 2009 meeting. Tom Gannon motioned to accept the minutes as read. Second by Rob Babcock.

**Treasurer's report:** No report was given at this time.

**Principal's Report:** The following items were discussed ...

Field trips: Mr. Welling reported on a discussion from the last meeting. The district has budgeted approximately \$1,600 for field trips. This covers busses. The district allots for about 150 per grade level. We will add on cost of \$1 per family per trip to help cover the costs of children who cannot pay.

Update on the principal search: The search has been narrowed to two candidates. The candidates will be coming to visit the building and staff. Mrs. Stemple will be accompanying them. Board of Education (BOE) will act on the decision in early December and then the new principal will start sometime in late January.

Flu update: On the topic of the flu, there was a spike in the flu situation for the better part of a week. We are now back down to near average absence numbers.

Halloween party update: Carlene Kara questioned why other events can still go on while the Halloween party was cancelled. The difference is the number of people attending some of these events.

Support for Mrs. Ray: Kathleen Thompson talked about Mrs. Ray and asked that we all support her during these times when there is so much illness in the school.

BOE at RRS: Mr. Welling reported that the BOE meeting will be at RRS this Thursday. A Classroom of the Future presentation will be done.

Cafeteria issue: Debi Knauss pointed out that her daughter received expired carrots at her lunch. Mr. Welling will look into this.

Family/community events: Kelley Marshall questioned the possibility of having more family/community events (pizza day). Grandparents Day is coming up. This has already been set up through the district. Mr. Welling is under the assumption that this will be the last event like this.

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### Committee Reports

**Membership:** Debi Knauss reported that there have been about 10 more sign-ups. There are roughly 40 teachers and 127 in all.

**PTA Council:** Rob Babcock reported that there has been a letter sent around to all PTAs regarding the decision to eliminate final exams at the middle school. Rob reported that Forrest Addor talked about various security measures in the district. There are also other improvements going on in the district. Kris Palmer summarized the PTA letter from the PTA council meeting. There was a discussion among our group tonight regarding the various angles on this topic. Carlene Kara motioned to support the PTA council letter. Marge Gibson O'Mara seconded the motion.

**Arts In Education:** Gillian Rush reported that she has not received any information regarding the laser program. Kris Palmer will give Gillan the numbers to contact. Cindy Gannon is interested in co-chairing Arts In Education with Kathleen Thompson.

**Newsletter:** We are looking for more student input.

### Old Business

**Halloween Party cancellation:** Kris Palmer reported that we are considering making a costume party during family fun night.

**Book Fair:** Kris Palmer reported that the book fair has been very successful as of today. There are some gently used books and a credit from last year that has helped every child leave the book fair with a book.

**Spirit Wear:** John Ansley provided some graphics to share with the group. Kris stated that maybe we will start with sweatshirts and t-shirt sales. The group voted on the all-star bold font and the old owl graphic. John will go back to the company with the order and get the process going.

**Barton Orchard Trip:** Kathleen Thompson reported that she only had to pay for one child. The other classrooms were OK. The PTA will reimburse Mrs. Thompson for this.

**American Girl Tea:** Becky Tarkos reported that 156 have paid so far. There will be 8 dolls and 2 bitty babies to try to win this year. Mrs. Ray has donated a doll on her own. We need drawing items. There is a volunteer list for the event going around. Mary Ell Izzo will put something in this month's newsletter about getting more materials.

**Holiday Shop:** Marge Gibson O'Mara reported this event will be December 7-10 with a snow date of the 11<sup>th</sup> if needed. It will take place during school hours and PTA night. Marge explained how the shop works. A volunteer sign up sheet went out during the meeting.

### New Business

**Can Drive:** Spirit Committee is holding a food drive on November 16-18. There is also a Toys For Tots box in the lobby. We are donating to local food pantry.

**1,000 Books:** Kathleen Thompson reported the history of the program. Mr. Welling will see who we need to contact to get the program going. Gillian is willing to do the paper work to help the program get going.

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### **New business, continued**

**BOE at RRS:** This Thursday will be the BOE visit. Kathleen Thompson emailed the staff to see if they could get donations for food for the board. The teachers will provide desserts for the board and the PTA will donate snacks and water for the public meeting. A sign up sheet went around. Kris Palmer asked to please drop food off by 6:30.

**Ultimate Discount Cards:** Gillian Rush will still chair this. Discussion was made about possibly getting a Poughkeepsie card and a Hyde Park card.

**New Chairs!:** Kris Palmer reported that some new people have stepped up to chair many of the committees.

**Fundraising possibilities:** George Desmond has gone through all of the fundraising possibilities and is suggesting the following: pancake breakfasts at the Knights of Columbus, RRS wrist bracelets, Purell holders, bar chocolates, wreaths. Kris Palmer suggested having a letter go out to see who would support their child in this type of a fund raiser. Mr. Welling feels that rather than an ongoing week-to-week event, maybe we could pick a few times during the year to do it. Tom Gannon made a motion for George to purchase 20 carriers for the chocolate bars. This was seconded by Kyle Tarkos. Kelley Marshall suggested that her husband go to pick up the candy to save on the shipping costs.

### **Important Dates to Remember**

**Nov. 9-13:** Book Fair

**Nov. 11:** NO SCHOOL

**Nov. 23:** Bake Sale for 5th Grade

**Dec. 5:** American Girl Tea Party 11 am-2:30 pm

**Dec. 7-11:** Holiday Shop

Meeting adjourned at 8:39 p.m.

Recorded by Heidi Colaizzo