

**RIVERFIELD PTA
GENERAL MEETING**

LMC

Thursday, September 22, 2011

Minutes

CALL TO ORDER Amy Crawford

Called the meeting to order at 7:33 p.m.

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS/WELCOME Lori Hubert

- Introduction of the Executive Board

SECRETARY'S REPORT Amy Crawford on behalf of Mary Cannon

- Approval of June 9, 2011 meeting minutes.

TREASURER'S REPORT Maureen Valus & Monica Booth

- Maureen Valus reviewed June 30, 2011 Financial reports (on file)
- Maureen Valus reviewed the Budget 2011-12 (on file)
- Income Review:
 - Gift wrap lower due to enrollment being lower
 - Fun Run lower due to lower price of admission
 - Winter Fair increased \$2,000 due to the success of last year
- Expense Review:
 - Major Difference is in Discretionary Expenses going down
 - Moved programs up \$2,000 focusing on curriculum based programs, from \$4000 - \$6000
 - Teaching and Learning Grants up from \$5,000 to \$7,500 and we are hopeful that the teachers at Riverfield will take advantage of that.
 - PTA gifts down from \$11,000 last year to \$600 for the speakers for SMART boards
- Amy Crawford made the motion to approve and adopt the Riverfield PTA Budget for fiscal year 7/1/11-6/30/12. Motion approved.
- Amy Crawford made the motion to approve the PTA Gift to Riverfield – 4 sets of speakers for SmartBoards not to exceed \$600. Motion approved.

PROGRAMS AND ASA VOTE Amy Crawford

- PTA By-Laws require approval of programs.
- Base description of programs was reviewed and listing of activities of before/after school programs was reviewed.
- Amy Crawford made the motion to approve programs and before/after school programs. Motion approved.

BY-LAW CHANGES Maureen Sawyer

- Maureen Sawyer presented Bylaw changes to PTA membership (document on file)
- Required every three years to review By-Laws.
- By-laws have been reviewed and some changes have been suggested.
- Most of changes concern the duties and descriptions of Board members. These have been made more consistent and clear.
- Full General PTA has to approve these changes at October meeting

RIVERFIELD PTA

VICE PRESIDENT OF COMMUNICATIONS Nora Fanning

- Working on directory, 7 families left to confirm contact information. Deadline is tomorrow 9/23. Directory will be out in a couple of weeks.
- Continuing sneak peek weekly on Sundays. All requests need to be sent to Nora and Lori by Thursday for approval.
- PTA website – check for updates. Nora discussed what should be in/out on the site. We provide community links to YMCA, Wakeman via a quick link page, but we stick to what is not for profit.

VICE PRESIDENT OF WAYS AND MEANS Dennis Pereira

- Run for Rocky is this Saturday. Maureen indicated "Run Ins" accepted.
- "Got Books" – Company sells donated books, dvd's and Cd's. Riverfield gets three cents a pound. Box to is out near basketball court. They have monthly pickup. A blurb will be in the next sneak peak to explain to parents what it is all about.
- Winter Fair Book Sale- will be working with Amy Crawford and committee on weeding out what will be donated to Got Books vs. Winter Fair.
- Stop and Shop A+ Program- 176 registered. Form made it easier for sign-ups this year. Program to start 11/7 and will end on 3/29
- Relatives, neighbors, grandparents can join and split between max. of 2 schools.
- Gift Wrap to start up at the end of September
- Reminder to vote for The Daily Fairfield Top School award. Voting ends 10/31.

VICE PRESIDENT OF PROGRAMS Mary Hanrahan

- Constitution Day – Sept. 16th. Fourth and fifth graders to had assembly with speaker Sen. John McKinney.
- Dr. Title to attend Riverfield general PTA meeting on October 13th. Questions can be submitted beforehand for him to answer
- All school assembly – looking for date and to showcase for back to school.
- Also looking to do a curriculum based program for every grade. Second grade is doing rocks/minerals and will be doing a program with Steve Tomacheck shortly.

VOLUNTEER CORDINATORS Krista Carroll

- We are in good shape, but need chairs for several big positions
 - Spring Carnival
 - Spirit wear
 - Fuel for Learning
 - Parents Night
 - Family Math Night
 - Winter Fair (3rd Chair)

BOARD OF EDUCATION REPS Johanna Farrell

- September 13th meeting – old business reviewed
- Dr. Title discussed enrollment, fully staffed, had 25 retirees any eliminated positions were absorbed.
- There was a lot of discussion on the Tomlinson drop off/traffic issues.

RIVERFIELD PTA

- Board Discussed Health Insurance Fund and Board Ed pay into process. Dr. Title did not want to fund it the way they had in the past. The Town is concerned about bond rating status as it is a town wide Health Insurance Fund. A way was determined to allow Dr. Title to fund the way he wanted.
- Bullying Policy Introduced- Phase 1 – as defined by state mandate, Phase 2 – Safe School Climate.

SEPTA REP Kristin Willer

- Membership drive to be announced shortly. SEPTA is looking to increase membership by 25% to 400 members. Last year membership was 189.
- Staff/Paraprofessional membership drive under way until the end of the month.
- Programs announced via Sneak Peek – golf and cookie decorating. Will continue to update via Sneak Peek. Programs will try to cover the range of kids.
- Upcoming February program for Middle School Students on bullying will have a parent's night discussion and will provide details on that as they become available.
- Next meeting is 10/12.

PTA COUNCIL REPS Laura Hunt, Elizabeth Stern, Julie Smith

- No report. Upcoming meeting is 10/1/11

STAFF REPRESENTATIVES REPORT

- No report. No staff representative in attendance.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT Paul Toaso

- Mr. Toaso covered projected enrollment- Oct, 2010 had 430 students, as of 9/21/11 we have 420. The biggest drop in enrollment is that we have 69 kindergarteners coming in and 100 fifth graders who are now at RLMS.
- We had 20 new students across grades 1-5
- Mr. Toaso had a luncheon with Diane Dimeo and new students
- Walk/Bike to School day was a success
- Mr. Toaso felt new drop off procedures were going so far so good.
- CMT Discussion
 - Extensive discussion on recent CMT results for Riverfield. School scored lowest in district in several areas for our 3rd graders taking test.
 - Mr. Toaso expressed that he was sorry to have not gotten out in front of the parents before the press on the results of the CMT's. He felt it was not the forum to discuss it at Open House night.
 - A more in depth Parent Info Night will be scheduled in the next two weeks to review the actions that Riverfield will take to address the areas of difficulty.
 - Currently all teachers are assessing students this week and next. Reading- via DRA. Aims Web for math by teacher in classroom, and Blue Ribbon for grades 3-5 via computers in computer lab. These assessments will determine which students need additional supports.
 - Riverfield Staff supports reviewed- Language Arts and Math
 - Mr. Toaso led a long discussion on what the results mean and where we go from here.

Next PTA General Meeting: Thursday, Oct. 13, 2011 at 9:30 AM
Meeting Adjourned at 9:37 pm

RIVERFIELD PTA