

RIVERFIELD PTA
PTA GENERAL MEETING
June 9, 2008; Riverfield LMC
Minutes

Fourty three members present.

CALL TO ORDER: Leslie Noland called the meeting to order at 7:40 pm.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Patty Blatt. May meeting minutes were accepted with correction.

TRIBUTES: Jenny Hayes. (See attachments.) Tribute was present to Mrs. Haddad for her dedication to Rivefield. by parents, Kitty Robertson and Sue McCormick . Mrs. Haddad was praised for her many years at Riverfield. Best wishes were givento Mrs. Haddad on her retirement.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Maureen Sawyer, Nora Fanning. (See attachments.) Great year. Spring Fair made \$11,000 in one day!

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Jenny Hayes. (See attachments.) Jenny made a motion to vote on end of year gifts. List of gifts are attached. Motion for gifts was passed.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT: Mr. Toaso. Spring Concert was a big hit. Patriotic Day was a fabulous event. Thanks to Pam Murphy for chairing the event. Spring Fair was a success. Art Show was another hit. The Art Show raised \$1,500. Volunteer Breakfast is June 12th. Enrollment update; current 3rd grade going into 4th has 76 students. If numbers look good by August 5th, we will get 4th section. Letters with teachers will be mailed August 11th. Thanks to Pam Murphy and Cheryl Bitzer, our PTA reps. Thank you to Mrs. Haddad for years at Riverfield. Congratulations to Mrs. Thorson for her PTA Award. Thanks to all, especially Jenny and Leslie and welcome to new PTA President Elect Maureen Sawyer.

PRESENTATION OF PTA AWARD: Jenny Hayes. Jenny presented Babette Thorson with the CT PTA Lifetime Achievement Award. Mrs. Thorson was recognized for her work at Riverfield.

THANKS AND RECOGNITION: Jenny Hayes. (See attachments.)

Jenny thanked the Executive Board and parents for their work at Riverfield. Jenny presented the board with gifts. Mr. Toaso was presented with a "Save the Children" tie.

INDUCTION OF NEW OFFICERS: Amy Ulness. Amy inducted the new Rivefield Board members for the 2008-2009 year. New board members inducted were Lori Hubert, Marcie Bow, Christine Russo, Lisa Shemesh, Pam Ziegler, Stacy DeSabella, Ceci Conklin. Leslie Noland will be President and Maureen Sawyer will be President Elect. (See attached for entire Board.)

RIVERFIELD PTA

CLOSING REMARKS: Leslie Noland. Leslie thanked Jenny and Mr. Toaso for supporting the PTA at Rivefield. Leslie presented Jenny with a gift. Leslie turned over the gavel to President Elect Maureen Sawyer.

Adjourn: Maureen Sawyer adjourned the meeting at 8:30pm.

Attachments:

Agenda

Gifts to the School

Financial Reports

President's Notes

RIVERFIELD PTA

FINAL MEETING...JUNE 2008

I'D LIKE TO THANK EVERYONE WHO HELPED TO MAKE THIS YEAR'S THE PTA SO SUCCESSFUL. IF IT WAS NOT FOR THE WONDERFUL PARENTS AND DEDICATED VOLUNTEERS, RIVERFIELD WOULD NOT BE THE SCHOOL IT IS TODAY. I AM SO PLEASED THAT I HAD THE OPPROTUNITY TO BE THE PRESIDENT OF THE PTA. WORKING WITH AMY, LESLIE AND THE PTA BOARD WAS AN EXPERIENCE THAT I WILL NEVER FORGET.

AT THE END OF EVERY SCHOOL YEAR, WE HAVE TO SAY GOODBYE TO FAMILIES AND PARENTS THAT ARE MOVING ON FROM RIVERFIELD, WHO WHILE THEY WERE HERE, LEFT A SIZABLE IMPRESSION. I WOULD LIKE TO MENTION A FEW WHO TRULY GAVE OF THEMSELVES AND WENT ABOVE AND BEYOND TO MAKE RIVERFIELD SCHOOL WHAT IT IS. I AM SORRY IF I MISSED SOME OF YOUR OTHER GOOD DEEDS, BUT I RESEARCHED OLD DIRECTORIES AS BEST AS I COULD AND THIS IS WHAT I LEARNED!

1. **KITTY ROBERTSON** – KITTY HAS BEEN SO INVOLVED AT RIVERFIELD OVER THE YEARS. SHE HAS HEADED UP THE TALENT SHOW FOR THE PAST FEW YEARS. THIS EVENT HAS GROWN SO IN POPULARITY BECAUSE OF HER EXPERTICE IN COORDINATING SUCH AN EVENT. SINCE SHE HAS MASTERED THAT EVENT, SHE DECIDED TO START A THEATRE PROGRAM IN OUR ASA. THAT PROGRAM IS SO POPULAR THAT SHE HAS A LONG WAITING LIST OF STUDENTS WANTING TO PARTICIPATE. SHE HAS HEADED UP HOSPITALITY FOR A COUPLE OF YEARS AND HAS BEEN A ROOM MOTHER FOR HER CHILDREN'S CLASSES. KITTY, THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU HAVE DONE AT RIVERFIELD. YOU WILL BE MISSED!
2. **SUE MCCORMICK** – SUE HAS BEEN AN ACTIVE MEMBER ON THE PTA BOARD AS A VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR. SHE WAS VERY GOOD AT RECRUITING PEOPLE AND

RIVERFIELD PTA

VOLUNTEERING HER TIME WHEREVER NEEDED. SHE HAS HEADED UP THE FAY PROGRAM FOR MANY YEARS, CHAIRED HOSPITALITY, SHE HAS BEEN A ROOMMOTHER MANY TIMES AND SHE HAS EVEN CHAIRED THE HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE. NOT EVEN SURE WHAT THAT COMMITTEE WAS! SHE IS TRULY GOING TO MISSED HERE!

3. **AIMEE GRANT** – AIMEE HAS HELD A COUPLE OF POSITIONS ON THE EXECUTIVE BOARD. SHE WAS A BOE REP AND VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR. SHE HAS CHAIRED THE BOOKFAIR FOR MANY YEARS AND HAD IT DOWN TO A SCIENCE. SHE CHAIRED THE HANDBOOK/DIRECTORY FOR A COUPLE YEARS AND WAS A ROOM MOTHER TOO. AIMEE, THANK FOR ALL THAT YOU HAVE DONE HERE. WE WILL MISS YOU NEXT YEAR!
4. LANTZAS – YEARBOOK
5. ZEKO AND LEE – ICE CREAM SOCIAL

MR. TOASO: IT WAS A REAL PLEASURE WORKING WITH YOU THESE PAST TWO YEARS. YOU ARE SO EASY TO TALK TO AND WERE ALWAYS SO SUPPORTIVE OF EVERYTHING THE PTA WANTED TO DO THROUGHOUT THE YEAR. YOU WERE ALWAYS AVAILABLE WHEN NEEDED. YOUR HONESTY AND SINCERE ADVICE WAS GREATLY APPRECIATED. THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU DO FOR RIVERFIELD AND OUR CHILDREN. ON BEHALF OF THE PTA, WE WOULD LIKE TO PRESENT YOU WITH A TOKEN OF OUR APPRECIATION. THANK YOU AGAIN!

EXECUTIVE BOARD:

I WOULD LIKE TO TAKE SOME TIME TO THANK AND RECOGNIZE OUR AMAZING EXECUTIVE BOARD. I AM SO LUCKY TO HAVE HAD SUCH AN INCREDIBLE TEAM TO WORK WITH THIS YEAR. THEY ALL WERE SO HARDWORKING, DEDICATED AND RELIABLE. THANK YOU FOR ALL FOR EVERYTHING YOU DID!!

PTA COUNCIL REPS: *CATHY CARRANO, MAUREEN KANE AND JOHANNA FARRELL.* THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING ALL OF THOSE MEETINGS

RIVERFIELD PTA

THROUGHOUT THE YEAR AND REPORTING BACK TO US. YOUR VIEWS AND INSIGHT ON WHAT WAS GOING ON AT THE TOWN LEVEL OF THE PTA COUNCIL WAS EXTREMELY HELPFUL. A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO **MAUREEN KANE** WHO WILL BE LEAVING RIVERFIELD THIS YEAR. SHE HAS SERVED MANY YEARS ON THE BOARD AS THE SECRETARY AND PTA COUNCIL REP, CREATED AND MANAGED THE COMMITTEE CHAIR BINDERS, CHAIRED THE EDUCATIONAL CANE PROGRAM FOR SEVERAL YEARS, AND IS CURRENTLY CHAIRING THE 5TH GRADE EVENTS. THANK YOU FOR EVERYTHING YOU DID HERE. YOU WILL TRULY BE MISSED.

BOE REPS: *SHAUN AMBERG, SANDRA TALLMAN AND NANCY ROSS.* THANK YOU FOR THE COUNTLESS HOURS AND ENDLESS MEETINGS YOU ATTENDED. WE APPRECIATED YOUR IMPORTANT REPORTS AND INSIGHT YOU HAD ON THE ISSUES BEING DISCUSSED AND DEBATED. A SPECIAL THANK YOU GOES TO *SHAUN AMBERG*, WHO COULD NOT BE HERE TONIGHT, FOR HER MANY YEARS ON THE EXECUTIVE BOARD. SHAUN HAS BEEN THE VP PROGRAMS, PRESIDENT – ELECT, PRESIDENT, PAST PRESIDENT AND BOE REP. SHE HAS BEEN A ROLE MODEL TO MANY AND HER DEDICATION WILL NOT SOON BE FORGOTTEN.

OUR FABULOUS VOLUNTEER COORDINATORS- *DONNA PIERPONT AND DUFFY KILBRIDE.* LET ME START BY SAYING THAT THESE TWO DYNAMO'S WERE ABLE TO FILL EVERY CHAIR POSITION BY THE FIRST FEW WEEKS OF SCHOOL THIS YEAR. THEY WERE ALWAYS ON TOP OF ANY OPENING THAT POPPED UP, PERSUADED MANY PEOPLE TO GET INVOLVED OR HELP OUT WHERE NEEDED AND THEY WERE ALWAYS AROUND TO MAKE SURE THAT EVERY EVENT WENT ON WITHOUT A HITCH.

PAST PRESIDENT: *DEIRDE ULLMAN.* THANK YOU FOR ALL OF YOUR INSIGHT, HELP AND KNOWLEDGE YOU SHARED WITH ME THIS YEAR. YOU HAVE BEEN SO HELPFUL IN GUIDING ME IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION WHEN I HAVE NEEDED YOUR GUIDANCE. YOU WERE SO HELPFUL ON MANY COMMITTEES WHERE NEW CHAIRS FOUND THEMSELVES LOST. *THANK YOU FOR ALL THAT YOU DO.*

TREASURERS- *MAUREEN SAWYER AND NORA FANNING.* I DON'T KNOW IF ANYONE HAS ANY IDEA OF HOW MUCH TIME I WAS INVOLVED IN BEING THE TREASURE. YOU TWO HAVE DONE A GREAT JOB IN DEPOSITING MONEY, WRITING COUNTLESS CHECKS, BALANCING THE BOOKS MONTHLY, GENERATING REPORTS AND ALWAYS BEING

RIVERFIELD PTA

READY TO ANSWER ANY QUESTION WHEN ASKED. I LOVED THE NEW ADDITION OF PRE-PRINTED ENVELOPES AND ORGANIZED LISTS BY NORA. MAUREEN, WITH ALL OF YOUR EXPERIENCE AS TREASURER, YOU ARE GOING TO BE A PERFECT FIT INTO THE PRESIDENT ELECT POSITION. I KNOW YOU ARE GOING TO DO AN AWESOME JOB THE NEXT TWO YEARS!

SECRETARY – PATTY BLATT. IT ALWAYS MADE ME FEEL HAPPY TO HAVE PATTY BY MY SIDE AT EVERY MEETING. SHE TOOK GREAT NOTES, PREPARED PERFECT MINUTES AND ALWAYS WITH A SMILE ON HER FACE. YOU CAN ALWAYS COUNT ON PATTY TO DO AN EXCELLENT JOB AT ANY TASK SHE IS ASKED TO DO OR TO BE THE PERSON TO STEP UP WHENEVER HELP IS NEEDED.

VP COMMUNICATIONS – BETSY BROWN. WHAT CAN I SAY ABOUT SOMEONE WHO GOES ABOVE AND BEYOND EVERYDAY TO MAKE SURE COMMUNICATION IS HAPPENING AT RIVERFIELD. BETSY IS THE ONE YOU CAN COUNT ON TO TAKE CARE OF BUSINESS EVEN AT A MINUTES NOTICE. THANK YOU FOR ALL OF THE BLASTS, LAST MINUTE CORRECTIONS, THE WEEKLY ROADRUNNER AND ALL THAT YOU DO.

VP WAYS AND MEANS – JACKIE STEED. THANK YOU FOR BEING THE “HEAD HONCHO” ON ALL THINGS FUNDRAISING THIS YEAR. YOU HAVE DONE AN EXCELLENT JOB AND OUR BUDGET NUMBERS PROVE IT!! YOU ARE SO EASY GOING, SMART AND WILLING TO GO THE EXTRA MILE WHICH MAKES YOU A PLEASURE TO WORK WITH....THANK YOU!

VP PROGRAMS – BETH KELLS. BETH YOUR LOVE FOR THIS POSITION WAS VERY OBVIOUS! YOU DID AN EXCELLENT JOB CHOOSING WONDERFUL PROGRAMS FOR THE CHILDREN AND INTERESTING AND EDUCATIONAL SPEAKERS FOR THE ADULTS. YOU HAD THE MAGIC RECORDER, DAVID ZUCKER, DR. ANN CLARK, BABETTE THORSON, DR. SAFRON, LICEENDERS, DAVE DICKENSON- HEALTH TEACHER FROM THE RLMS, AND SO MANY MORE PROGRAMS. YOU WERE ALWAYS SO PREPARED AND ORGANIZED. THANK YOU FOR YOUR HARD WORK IN ORGANIZING THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE, THE 5TH GRADE FEEDER SCHOOL PROGRAMS AND RUNNING THE AUTHOR VISIT FOR SO MANY YEARS. I AM THRILLED THAT YOU WILL BE STAYING ON THE BOARD NEXT YEAR AS AN ADVISOR.

RIVERFIELD PTA

LAST BUT NOT LEAST, **PRESIDENT-ELECT** – *LESLIE NOLAND*. HOW LUCKY WAS I WHEN LESLIE AGREED TO TAKE ON THE PRESIDENT ELECT POSTION? I DID NOT KNOW MY SOON TO BE PARTNER AND I COULD NOT BE ANY LUCKIER OR HAPPIER WITH HOW THINGS TURNED OUT! LESLIE IS HARDWORKING, RELIABLE, ORGANIZED, HAS GREAT IDEAS, SHE IS LEVEL HEADED, QUICK TO LEARN AND BEST OF ALL, WE SEEMED TO SEE EYE TO EYE ON ISSUES, SITUATIONS AND DAY TO DAY GOING ONS. I CONSIDER MYSELF FORTUNATE TO HAVE HAD THE OPPROTUNITY TO WORK WITH HER THIS YEAR AND HOPE TO CONTINUE THE FRIENDSHIP WE HAVE FORMED. I WISH HER AND MAUREEN ALL THE BEST NEXT YEAR. I KNOW THEY WILL MAKE AN AWESOME TEAM AND EXCELLENT PTA LEADERS.

RIVERFIELD PTA

SPECIAL AWARD – CT HONORARY LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP

For many years, Riverfield PTA has honored various teachers and staff with an award that celebrates outstanding service to children. It is given to someone who has promoted children's well being by serving as an advocate for them in such areas as education, health, safety or legislation. This year, we are very excited and proud to honor Mrs. Babette Thorson for her outstanding service to the students of Riverfield School.

Babette started her career as a Special Ed teacher in Bethel, CT in 1979. It was in 1986 that she changed her career path and became a School Psychologist. In 2002, Babette came to Riverfield. Mr. Toaso tells me that while he was at McKinley School, Dr. Coles contacted him for a reference. Mr. Toaso knew Babette because they both worked at a school in Bethel together. Mr. Toaso told Dr. Coles that "He would take Babette and he would trade her for his School Psychologist at McKinley" because he knew how great she was. That was all that Dr. Coles needed to hear and that is the beginning of Babette's journey at Riverfield School. She has been at Riverfield for 6 years now.

Babette provides individual and small group counseling and individual and group social skills training to students. She works with siblings, stress reduction groups, maturation groups, peer relationship groups and divorce groups. She has even started, with the help of a Riverfield Mom, a support group for parents going through a divorce. Her skills meet the needs of our diverse student population that includes not only regular education students but those students identified with Autism, Learning Disabilities, Emotional Disturbances, Anxiety Disorders, Handicapped students, children with depression, ADHD and the Intellectually disabled.

Babette makes time to work with children after school, she consults with the GS leaders, she attends parent/teacher conferences, she helps teachers regarding behavioral issues, classroom management, learning issues, parent issues, and problem solving.

RIVERFIELD PTA

She is a SPED team leader. She is the developer of behavior plans. She is the Crisis team coordinator which helps to provide children/families in need with materials/support (food, clothes, housing, scholarships).

Babette has always been available to the PTA every year to speak at one of our meetings. She always draws in a large crowd with her informational topics on such things as homework, anxiety, stress and divorce. She is always willing to take questions, work with people after the meeting and provide invaluable information.

Some fun facts about Babette that most people may not know: She is married to John. She has 3 children and 6 grandchildren. She loves to shop. She loves tag sales. She is a "Coupon Queen". She makes jewelry and a lot of the staff wears her creations. She has a beach house in Delaware where she goes every summer to be with her family. She will retire there one day. BUT, my favorite fact of all, is that Mr. Toaso's wife (who is here tonight) is Babette's best friend.

The last few minutes, I have just been listing off all of Babette's accomplishments and responsibilities, but what I value the most is knowing that Babette is here each and every day providing emotional support for our children. She is like our children's favorite stuffed animal or security blanket. She is the one that our children can go to at any time throughout the school day when we can not be there. We are so lucky that when we drop off children off at school, we have someone like Babette to be our surrogate.

On behalf of the PTA, we honor you this year with the CT PTA Honorary Lifetime membership for all that you do for the students at Riverfield. Thank you from all of us.