

PTO General Meeting Minutes

August 18, 2023

General Meeting #1

CALL TO ORDER:

- Martha Carter requested a motion to call the meeting to order at 8:40am.
 - Motion made by Rachel Hammons; Motion seconded by Meg Bounds.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES (Martha Carter, President):

- Martha Carter requested a motion to approve Minutes from previous meeting.
 - Motion made by Theresa Pickett; Motion seconded by Edie Efron.
- Martha reminded attendees that QR code on Agenda takes you to minutes (as well as QR codes for each section of the Agenda).

BUDGET VOTE AND UPDATE (Theresa Pickett, Treasurer):

- We (PTO) will pay for AR licenses for 1st-5th grade.
- We have a lot of Intervention money available and plan to use it!
- We are giving every teacher \$150. New teachers get \$300. Math teachers get add'l. \$150 since we have new Envision curriculum that is replacing Eureka.
- \$9,000 budgeted for Professional Development for Teachers. Over 10 teachers to receive training, so we can continue to support their learning and therefore, our kids' education.
- Email her with any questions.
- Budget surplus this year aimed to improve grounds and interior...We will spend the money!
- Theresa Pickett requested a motion to approve the Budget.
 - Motion made by Amy Stack; Motion seconded by Loye Ellsworth.

APPROVAL OF 2023-2024 BOARD SLATE (Martha Carter, President):

- Martha reminded you don't have to be on Board to be a member or be active in PTO. Can email her if you ever want to help; we will find a place to plug you in!
- Martha Carter requested a motion to approve the PTO Board Slate.
 - Motion to made by Abby Prentiss; Motion seconded by Gretchen Campbell.

ANNUAL GIVING CAMPAIGN (Jessica Oppenhuizen & Gretchen Campbell):

- Already made \$32K! \$25K goal earned the party; stretch goal of \$40K – will put extra funds toward Outdoor Recess equipment.

- We can still purchase items until 9/8 to give toward campaign or make donations.
- Incentives by class instead of individual students; split into pairs of prizes, so they'll get 2 incentives per week even if they've earned them all, to spread out.
- Last week, Friday of Labor Day week, buckets in hallway each morning for "Wishing Well" – drop coins that will go toward classes' incentive totals!
- Email AGC@ richlandPTO.org or Martha with connections, fun ideas or to help by volunteering! Each grade comes out at their time to dance and celebrate!
- Martha will reach out to Task Force Committee to help pass out incentives; anyone who wants to help on Fridays mid-morning to help, let them know.
- On 9/8, they'll be counting LOTS of change, so need volunteers then too!

UPCOMING EVENTS & UPDATES (Martha Carter, President):

- Exec Board approved Budget addition to provide water coolers to back 4th/5th bldg because they currently had no water fountains. They will come to refill every 2 weeks.
- 1st Snack bar on 9/1, sponsored by 5th grade parents.
- Laura Spegal runs the Task Force & will rally helpers when needed.
- Please sign up at Kroger to send some of your shopping back to the school; must re-enroll each year!!
- Some events moved this year: Read-a-thon moved to October instead of over Winter Break; Auction moved to February instead of later w/ Spring Fling; Trunk or Treat on a Saturday later afternoon; only 1 round of morning Donuts w/ Grownups this year, but still split into 2 consecutive days by last names.

SCHOOL UPDATES (Lisa Beckwith, Principal):

- Welcomed new and returning parents to Richland!
- Introduced & thanked Asst. Principals Meg Bounds & Sonja Wright.
- Teacher Changes:
 - KK teachers all stay the same
 - 1 new teacher in 1st grade Ms. Jobe
 - 2nd grade – 2 new: Morrison & Bodiford; Ms. Curtis moved to 2nd
 - 3rd – no new additions, but Colley moved up from 2nd
 - 4th – 2 new: Mr. Warren & Ms. Hood; Bowden moved from 2nd
 - 5th – Barringer moved from 4th
 - New resource teacher Ms. Levy w/ 15 yrs of experience!
 - Ms. Long took Ms. Mosley's position as FS teacher
 - Ms. Ault serving as SPED Resource teacher, primarily over Intervention

- New Math curriculum “Envision” for ALL grades is only new part of curriculum. We take what the district gives us to implement, but we WILL go above and beyond to make sure kids get what they NEED, so you’ll see other things too, maybe even some from Eureka in recent years:
 - Sonja Wright will oversee, as Math is her wheelhouse!
 - Envision was curriculum before Eureka, so some teachers know it.
 - 5 “E” sections: Engage, Explore, Explain, Elaborate and Evaluate.
 - Remember that teachers are learning as well as teaching this year!
 - Students love it: it’s colorful & has great PowerPoint resources.
 - Contact her w/ questions & if she doesn’t know answer, she’ll find out!
- Priorities and focus at the moment:
 - 1) Security:
 - New resource officer assigned to our school, even though district is short on officers: Officer Braswell, who was here a few years ago; covers multiple schools so will come and go.
 - Another officer helping w/ morning traffic; she has white car w/ flashing lights.
 - Parents can help by ALWAYS:
 - a. being buzzed in (even if door is open), &
 - b. going straight to Office to get signed in, as we want to be mindful of who is in building at all times.
 - We are looking at additional ways to keep everyone safe.
 - 2) Flooding: Parent concerns HAVE been heard and our reports on the desk of Superintendent! Beckwith went thru correct chain of command and we are in line for it to be addressed. Appropriate people came yesterday to see what needs to be improved on site to alleviate flooding.
 - 3) Slide in front playground: District thought it had been repaired; Beckwith sent pics and alerted them it has not!
- Mr. Mayes is new Building Maintenance Supervisor and he has been awesome, so he IS making progress; it can seem slow but they’re staying on top of it!
- If parents have an issue, please follow this line of communication:
 - 1) First, share w/ your student’s teacher
 - 2) Then if needed, reach out to Guidance Counselors Ms. Wilkes (K-2) & Ms. Duke (3-5)
 - 3) Then if needed, contact Ms. Bounds (K-2) or Ms. Wright (3-5)
 - 4) THEN if needed, they will share w/ Beckwith. *If she can focus on BIG things and allow those to deal w/ the smaller things, it will speed up progress and help her support students and parents much better.
- Normandy is a nightmare in the mornings; Officer Braswell is doing what he can to make this ONE-WAY during drop-off and pick-up. Drivers may not turn right OR left from Rich Rd.

onto curved part of Normandy, but CAN come out of Normandy to turn RIGHT (only) onto Rich. This will be getting it labeled better than the cones & signs used now, after working thru City of Memphis for proper signage. Please help spread the word in the meantime.

- Ms. Berry has started a Rock Garden in the back of the school! Students have colored over 100 rocks already. It's extremely therapeutic for kids who need a calming break. Anyone in the community can ADD rocks, and even take one if it speaks to you. If you know of a strong person that can help spread 28 bags of rocks, we need their help in the Rock Garden!
- Staff can use help throughout the day: Anyone who has said "If you need help, let me know" ...she's letting you know now! Please email your child's TEACHER to let them know your exact availability, and they will alert Admin so you will be told where you are needed.

Q&A (Meg Bounds & Lisa Beckwith):

- Morning entrance procedures: Goal is to get the KK & 1st grade to make lines and hold up signs for gathering at entrances independently; they're working hard on training, and it will take some time but will improve!
- Y-Care is our support for after-school program: It is run by Y, NOT SCS. They implement a lot of the protocols to increase safety and security; should have been implemented already but they're doing it now, so give grace while we get used to new/improved procedures. They aren't yet fully-staffed, and they use cafeteria to gather and monitor everyone. Eventually once is set, cafeteria will thin out and specific teachers will go w/ their specific groups to classrooms. We are one of the largest programs they have, so they're constantly checking in w/ us for feedback. Phone # for Y-Care posted on sign on Cafeteria door outside.

ADJOURNMENT:

- Martha thanked Ms. Beckwith for hitting the ground running; so much has happened in just 2-3 weeks!
- It is OK to bring younger kids w/ you to volunteer at Richland if they are well-behaved.
- Parents need to go into PowerSchool and request a device. EVERY Richland student must request so we get budgeted items delivered to our school. Click on FORMS button and check the correct boxes to request. NEW devices should arrive October at the latest, and they'll stay at school overnight to be charged.
- QR code on agenda to go to Calendar, and you can load onto phone to get reminders.
- Martha Carter requested a motion to adjourn the meeting.
 - Motion made by Rachel Hammons; Motion seconded by Meg Bounds.

END OF MINUTES

Minutes taken by Chloe Weeks, PTO Secretary.