

PTO Board Meeting Minutes

July 27, 2023

Board Meeting #1

INTRODUCTIONS & CALL TO ORDER:

- Meeting officially called to order by Martha Carter at 7:13pm.
- Introductions of all in attendance.
- Meg Bounds' introduction of Sonja Wright, new asst principal.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Motion made by Rachel Hammons to approve Minutes from previous meeting.
- Motion seconded by Lesli Breeden.

AGENDA:

- Announcement of QR Codes on Agenda that have links to all the things!

BUDGET UPDATE (Theresa Pickett):

- We have Intervention surplus \$ we will try our best to spend.
- Putting some \$ toward grounds improvement (other than Grounds Beautification).
- We put a lot of \$ back to our teachers: We are budgeting to spend \$109K this year.
- This week, we painted the remaining halls, Teacher's Lounge & Beckwith's office.
- Added more Brag Tags, Teacher's \$150 Wish List, Math teachers get addtl. \$150 & new teachers get \$300!
- AGC funds will enhance Outdoor Recess: Gaga pit, tether balls, painted four-square...
- Lindsey Waugh said tax-exempt form can only be used by someone w/ a PTO debit card, BUT if someone uses their funds for smaller purchases, PTO WILL reimburse the tax now.
- If purchase is \$100 or more, try to get a PTO debit card holder to purchase instead. Theresa will most likely meet you there to purchase! We have a Sam's account, or wherever: Amazon, Target, Kroger, etc.
- When looking at our budget, please note that we did not spend a lot through these COVID years, but our fundraising did extremely well the last couple of years!

CALENDAR (Martha Carter):

- Readathon moved to Fall, instead of Winter Break.
- Auction moved to February, instead of later along with Spring Fling.
- Removed Spaghetti Dinner altogether – Beckwith said we'll integrate a new Arts Celebration somehow, possibly an event for Arts by itself & Choir/Caroling will probably repeat this year.
- Back-to-school Teacher Luncheon – signup went out today; please help bring items.
- Someone(?) said husband is GM of Olive Branch Nothing Bundt Cakes; we have the "in!"
- Only 1 morning Donuts w/ Gornwups event this year, but still split into 2 days by names.
- Trunk or Treat on a Saturday this year, so that helps w/ setup, etc.
- Grounds Beautification – Lesli Breeden said "Please come help us!" – incentives include Brag Tags, Out-of-uniform day pass, & teachers will get lunch brought to them! They're working on front beds, by where old sign used to be, etc. & sprinklers & popsicles at end.

ANNUAL GIVING CAMPAIGN (Lindsey Waugh):

- Theme is "Richland Vibes" this year. This is our "main" fundraiser, right at beginning of year.
- Goal is \$25K to earn the party; stretch goal is \$40K to put extra funds toward Outdoor Recess equipment.
- "Donations" get you different levels of t-shirts, hoodies, sweatshirts & trucker hats... Remember and remind others: It's a contribution to school, not just a purchase!
- Orders open online or can get at Gear-up Day, but BUNDLE DISCOUNTS only available at GUD: \$120 for all 3 shirts; \$100 for short, long sleeve & hat!
- ALL items are uniform-approved so can wear any day to school!
- Incentives done differently this year: instead of selling per kid, you can donate above and beyond and the CLASS will raise \$ to an incentive level for the whole class to earn together – Incentives all listed out on handout flyer – it IS compounding for earning.
- Party is 9/29/23 – we'll need PTO volunteers so please save the date!
- Martha Carter asked to keep in mind that we don't pay for Private school, so hopefully we can view this as our way of financially supporting our school, because it goes straight back into making our school better.
- Check if your company matches your donations that are straight "AGC" flat donations to school – a lot of companies will match!

UPCOMING EVENT NEEDS (Martha Carter):

- NEED HELP SETTING UP FOR GEAR UP DAY!
- Ms. Lopez went over Meet-the-Teacher dates and times (8/3, 8/15 and 8/17).
- Any time your event needs help from Ambassadors, reach out and ask for volunteers!
 - Safety Patrol will get adorable trucker hats and umbrellas this year!
 - Ambassadors will get a cute red t-shirt that says “How can I help you?”

NEW SPIRIT WEAR (Abby Prentiss):

- New vendor Grind City Designs – They print on demand; we’ll have a Richland “shop” on website to order at any time throughout entire year, on any type shirt.
- Lots of SIZING options, including “Toddler” & from XS to XL & all Adult sizes.
- Tiny bit higher costs but worth it to have no deadlines & storage, as we no longer will have to keep our own inventory!
- Still checking cost for delivery, but they’re right on Summer and employees very nice!
- Flash sales for special events, such as SPED Awareness week, Grizzlies spirit, etc. - Inventory will stay the same all throughout year, except Flash Sales that DO have a deadline.
- Everything is SCHOOL APPROVED for uniform dress code!
- There will be a pre-order coming as well.
- At Gear Up Day, there will be spirit wear on hand until it sells out: dry-fit shirts, socks, hats, tote bags, and a regular shirt (which will be in the pre-order for adults).

PRINCIPAL UPDATES (Lisa Beckwith):

- A few new teachers to Richland and only 2 new teachers to the profession.
- 2 FS assts have found new positions and left; both positions are filled.
- All updates are on the website, incl Meet-the-Teacher dates and times.
- Teacher Changes:
 - KK stays the same
 - 1 new teacher in 1st grade
 - 2nd grade - 3 people new-to-Richland
 - 3rd – no new additions, but Colley moved up from 2nd
 - 4th – 2 new-to-RL teachers (now 6, instead of 5); Bowden moved from 2nd
 - 5th – Barringer moved from 4th
- Playground updates: Blue slide has made progress, & back playground swing getting fixed; wood chips vs. turf is decision in progress.
- Mr. Mayes (sp?) is new Building Maintenance Supervisor, and he is on top of things already!

ADJOURNMENT:

- Theresa encouraged everyone to note the calendar is FULL for the year, so please volunteer OUTSIDE of your job, as you are able. We also have new Task Force committee to step in and be helping hands as needed.
- Remember we still have PTO positions to fill; spread the word!
- Martha introduced new MASCOT costume! We will have some sort of naming contest among students, possibly by classroom, soon.
- Motion made by Rachel Hammons to adjourn the meeting.
- Motion seconded by Edie Efron.

END OF MINUTES

Minutes taken by Chloe Weeks, PTO Secretary.