

RCV PTA Meeting

October 6, 2009

Meeting commenced at 7:02 in the Media Center with Meg Goodman, President presiding.

Gail Valle (formerly Handwerker), **Counselor**, introduced the Second Step program here at RCV. It links the social aspect and emotional health of children to academics. The first section deals with empathy, feelings, and being able to identify them. Next is problem solving and last is self control and impulse control. There is a parent component which consists of videotapes parents can check out of the media center from Tara Lawrence or Beth Molek.

Ms. Valle talked about the changes to our current Peace program. Peacekeepers will now be called Peacemakers. In addition to recognizing individuals that help to make a school day a peace day, the focus will be on students recognizing each other and their efforts towards a peace day. We will now have only 4 peace assemblies coinciding with grades going home.

Catherine Jasperse, Principal announced that there will be a shoe and linen drive in Nov. to support the community. Drop off bins will be located in the atrium. This is a great opportunity for students to donate things of value to them, i.e., a favorite sweater that doesn't fit or stuffed animals. Donating items such as these will help instill the spirit of generosity.

Gail Valle introduced the idea of an RCV cookbook with contributions from parents and staff for a fundraiser.

Ben Goldberg and Amanda Hess, Faculty, gave a presentation to the PTA demonstrating how the promethean board located in the media center works and explained how every student at RCV can experience it. We also toured the new science lab which is located across the hall from the gym. Ms. Hess explained that there are 4 different units (physics, solar system, human body, and animals) and each unit coincides with the 4 marking periods.

Catherine Jasperse, Principal spoke about various ideas for the 5th graders end of the year activity and how to keep it cost effective. Perhaps the PTA can help to support/defray the cost in some way. The principal of Wood Middle School would like to come in the near future and speak to the PTA about what their school is offering and improvements made in the past year. A handout "The Seven Keys to College Readiness" was passed out.

Ms. Jasperse explained that the Dept. of Health and Human Services did not receive enough mist to complete the flu clinics. The CDC has determined that 99% of the flu in this region is the H1N1, not the seasonal one so they will now work with the DHHS to get the H1N1 vaccine to make available for students. A letter with details will be sent home for students.

The minutes from the September meeting were amended to reflect one change, eliminating the SERT reference concerning green schools. Elaine moved to accept the minutes with this correction and it was seconded.

Trish Safford, Membership, said we now have 101 PTA members. A parent suggested the PTA volunteer form be revised for clarity.

Sylvia Barnes, Scholastic Book Fairs We had about \$5,600 in sales which is comparable to other years, netting the school about \$1,100. Scholastic lowered the percentage we make from each sale by 5% but replaced that 5% with bonus \$ for us to buy books for RCV. The

next book fair will be the last week in April. Ms. Barnes thanked her co-chair Kari Moskowitz. This will be Sylvia's last year doing the book fair.

Colleen Anderson, First Vice President, family fun night is coming up, Patty Walker is the organizer. So far there are 150 people signed up and volunteers are being organized, a number of which are Wood M.S. students.

Kelly Durr, Party Coordinator, Sign up sheets will be sent home and room parents can coordinate with other parents who wish to help out.

Karen Halverstadt, Assistant Principal, mentioned the idea of students touring a recycling center. Cost would just be for bus transportation. The power rangers are recycling paper items and are putting signs up at classrooms to encourage conserving energy.

Todd Breach, Treasurer, everything is on track concerning the budget. This is Todd's last year as treasurer.

Orit Golan and Pam McHugh, Cultural Arts; Orit reported that she and Pam are attending showcases/performances to see what new cultural arts can be brought to RCV.

Greg Williams, MCCPTA delegate spoke about an upcoming MD PTA meeting in November and a convention in Frederick if anyone is interested in attending. 3 resolutions will be coming up for a vote soon. Greg will consider putting items on the listserv so he can get feedback from PTA members.

Elaine Parks – Cluster Representative – nothing new to report. Regarding **Reflections** Elaine is trying to get information out to students. This year the theme is Beauty is . . . deadline for entries is Nov. 20.

Beth Morey, Directory, in Beth's absence Elaine said Beth received the necessary data from Ms. Katie to work on the directory and that forms went home in backpacks.

2 positions are still open; multicultural liaison and spirit wear coordinator.

Orit Golan conveyed safety requests from RCV crossing guard, Jean Raiford for parents to please not park in the circle during morning drop off, to use signal light when entering or exiting circle, to please slow down near the school and to not use cellular phones when approaching the parking lot.

Additional Business – Dismissal procedures were discussed by parents. Most suggestions concerned the students who are 'walkers' and ideas were passed around. Ms. Jasperse addressed the overall dismissal procedure and concerns, and will consider comments. Discussion of a new grill for RCV was brief. PTA will wait and see how the Sally Foster fundraiser does and then consider the cost.

Meeting adjourned at 9:09.

Respectfully submitted,

Sylvia Lee,
Recording Secretary RCV PTA