



Ryerson PTO Meeting Minutes Monday, September 15, 2014

Attendees: [intentionally omitted]

1. Principal's Report provided by Mrs. Spooner -- Mrs. Spooner welcomed attendees to the first PTO meeting of the school year and reported:
 - a. Arrival and dismissal have been going smoothly.
 - b. Picture day is this Thursday, September 18, 2014.
 - c. No school next Thursday or Friday.
 - d. Reviewed Drop-off and Pick-up procedures.
2. Teacher's Report provided by Mrs. Spooner
 - a. Staff greatly appreciates and thanks the PTO for the Back-to-School Lunch.
 - b. Faculty is grateful for and extends thanks to the PTO for the gift of ipad minis. The devices are great for instruction, planning, group work and sharing information with parents at conferences.
 - c. Bridges Math Curriculum is now up-and-running in K through 4. Jennifer Maxwell will present a program overview at an upcoming PTO meeting later this year.
 - d. The extra 15-minute recess is being enjoyed and utilized by all. The children get a much-needed break and it allows teachers to fit in more planning and preparation.
3. Treasurer's Report provided by Karen Burns
 - a. 63% of student body dues have been received as of Friday, September 12.
 - i. More dues payment received since Friday but not yet deposited.
 - ii. Goal is 70% (approximate amount received last year).
 - iii. Dues support various programs including:
 1. High Tech/High Touch budgeted at \$2,675/year for this year.
 2. Field Trips – PTO contributes \$10/student for this year.

3. Science Fair/Science Week.
4. 4th Grade Celebration and T-shirt tradition.

b. Budget for 2014-2015 school year has been reviewed and approved by PTO Board.

4. Upcoming Events/Items

a. School Directory:

- i. Karin Staschke reported that 215 out of 239 student directory forms have been received. A notice went home to remind parents to return the forms letting PTO know whether or not they would like to be included in this year's Directory and which contact information they would like to share.
- ii. The Directory is expected to be finalized and delivered to Room Parents by mid-October.

b. Book Fair/CT Loves to Read Week, October 6-10 :

- i. Co-Chairs Carol Ahlijanian and Diane Vyce explained the background and theme: Sir Read-a-lot's Castle, Welcome to the Kingdom of Books.
- ii. For evening event, Co-Chairs are confirming details, including food trucks. Beth O'Keefe asked if cookies and milk will be needed. Carol responded that cookies and milk are not needed with food trucks, but if food trucks fall through Co-Chairs will contact Beth.
- iii. Diane to set up on-line sign-up page for volunteers.
 1. Set-up on Thursday and Friday, October 2 and 3.
 2. Helping students browse 9am – 4pm Monday and Tuesday, October 6 and 7.
 3. Helping students browse 8:15am – 4pm Wednesday and Thursday, October 8 and 9.
 4. Breakdown Friday, October 10.
- iv. Jen Munro, story teller, will visit Ryerson on Tuesday, October 7. Munro is a former district staff member and an engaging story teller.

c. Yearbook

- i. Co-Chairs Diane Vyce and Karen Burns reported that they are working on securing a new vendor and there will be a cost increase.
 1. Yearbook will be soft-cover, full color.
 2. Online site will allow volunteers to login and share pictures.

3. Volunteers will be needed to help out with layout of pages.
4. Price increasing up to \$15 (estimated) this year.
5. Gita Sullivan asked if field day pictures from last year could be used. Diane responded that no, that due to the publication cut-off some Spring Events are not included.
6. Francoise raised a question about how to volunteer/come into the classroom to take photos. Diane responded that students are comfortable and used to having their pictures taken. The teachers and staff will provide direction /supervision to make sure that parental consent/privacy rights are upheld. Volunteers are welcome but must contact the office for scheduling and visitation purposes.

d. School Store

- i. Chaired by Marybeth Hughes.
- ii. First date open is this Friday, September 19. Remaining dates are listed on the school web site.
- iii. School store offers new t-shirts featuring original designs by Ryerson parent Lisa Brown of Taylor Brown Illustration & Design. Shirts sell for \$10 each.

e. Box Tops

- i. Chaired by Janice Wolf.
- ii. Goal of \$2,000. Year-round collection. Boxes have been provided for each classroom. Volunteers will collect/count monthly.
- iii. K, 1 and 2 grades will compete for an ice cream party, and 3 and 4 grades will compete for an ice cream party.
- iv. Communications have been sent to teachers and volunteers, and a notice has been sent home to parents.
- v. Ted Kennedy reminded members to make sure that everyone knows to cut on the dotted line since that's the only way Box Tops are accepted.
- vi. Suggestion made to include Box Top information with Kindergarten Orientation information to get a jump on collections in the Spring and Summer.

f. Grocery Store rewards

- i. Diane mentioned that there is no need to re-enroll for Stop & Shop rewards as in the past, and that today was the first day for new enrollment in the program, which can be accessed through the Ryerson PTO website.
- ii. Gita Sullivan mentioned that BigY has a similar program.

- g. Newsletter
 - i. Chaired by Carrie Burton.
 - ii. Published fall, winter, and posted on the web site.
 - iii. Pictures and news can be sent via email directly to Carrie.
- h. Hospitality
 - i. Chaired by Beth O'Keefe.
 - ii. A great committee to reward teachers and staff and to show them our appreciation.
 - iii. Committee sponsors/organizes a kick-off/Back-to-School Lunch in August, a holiday breakfast in December, and Staff Appreciation breakfast in May (this year, May 6).
- i. Square I Arts
 - i. Chaired by Beth Pantano.
 - ii. Kids make artwork in mid-January.
 - iii. Square I produces the art first in the form of free stickers. Complimentary stickers of kids artwork are sent home along with a catalog and order form with more options including mugs, key chains, mouse pads, etc.
 - iv. Timing is set up so that products ordered arrive by Mother's Day.
- j. Cultural Arts
 - i. Chaired by Nancy Tong.
 - ii. Cultural arts events for this year include puppetry, Mark Twain's The Prince and the Pauper, DHHS ENCORE and VIBE, and DHHS Jazz Band.
- k. Fundraising efforts reported by Nancy Tong
 - i. Book Fair – expected to raise around \$2,000.
 - ii. Square I Art – expected to raise around \$1,300.
 - iii. Fun Fair – Co-Chaired by Kristen Waterman and Beth Ackerman; scheduled for May 30.
 - iv. Give to Grow -- 3rd annual event; supports arts and sciences at Ryerson
 - 1. This event cannot happen without volunteers.
 - 2. Currently looking at venues.

3. Proposed date: March 20, 2015.
5. Volunteer Sign Ups -- PTO Chairpersons have been provided names of those who filled out Volunteer Opportunities form and indicated interest in specific events. Chairs will contact volunteers.
6. Next PTO meeting -- Monday, October 20, 2014, 7:00 - 8:00 pm, in Library -- Presentation by Gail Dahling-Hench, Assistant Superintendent, on the Madison Curriculum