

Rosemary Hills Primary School  
PTA Board Meeting, January 11, 2010

In attendance: Holly Gross, Lisa Hermes, Leslie Zimmerman, Ralph Viggiano, Kerri Gray, Ann Jablon, Anne Lieberman, Emily Mazzella, Sue Choi, Shoshana Lombardi, AB Carneal and Jennifer Emmett

1. Update from RHPS: Mr. Viggiano reported that children are back in their routine after the snow days and the winter break. He reminded us that the children need hats, gloves and coats daily for recess. The students are getting excited about International Night.

There have been a few improvements at the school, including a freshly painted entrance way and new mat, ceiling repairs, improvements including a privacy wall in the health room, and plans to install a washer and dryer. There are plans in place for improvements in the APR as well and parents are encouraged to volunteer on two upcoming Saturday mornings to sand and re-stain the doors and cabinets in the APR.

A feasibility study is getting underway at RHPS to add a six-classroom addition to the school. This involves architects, plumbing and electrical review, contractors, etc.

2. Treasurer's Report: Cherie Rosenblum was unable to attend. Her contribution was provided by email (attached).

3. Fundraising:

New events: ideas were solicited for new community events to expand on the manicures and pizza night events. Ideas including a movie night held at the school, dinner and a movie at the Majestic theater in downtown Silver Spring and a local restaurant, and a movie on the lawn (outdoors, in the evening).

A proposal was made to discontinue the Sally Foster fundraising program altogether, or to alternate it annually between RHPS, NCC and CCES. A membership-based fundraiser, similar to the one at NCC (a one-time cash donation at the beginning of the school year), would substitute in place of Sally Foster.

Silent Auction: Plans for the silent auction are underway. The auction will be held on Saturday, March 20, 2010 at the Glenview Manor in Rockville and a save-the-date e-mail has already gone out on the list-serv. Forms and flyers are ready to go as well, and nice raffle prizes are coming in. The committee is working on reducing expenses. Using an online component, similar to one used at CCES, is under consideration, but this probably only discourages attendance at the event. The committee will approach the teachers and brainstorm for new and creative teacher contributions. We discussed creating a slide or video presentation highlighting the various activities and events that the PTA funds with money raised at the auction and through other fundraising channels. The presentation could be shown at the auction

Ann Jablon mentioned that the Bricks fundraiser will be revived.

4. Board of Education visit to the BCC cluster: Each cluster is visited on a regular basis (every 3-4 years) by the BOE. This year the presentation will be at Rock Creek Forest. Each school has an opportunity to present a 5 minute program highlighting the strengths and needs of the school.

5. International Cultures Night: International Night will be held Saturday, January 30 (snow date Feb. 6) from 5-7 pm. The event will be shortened by one hour this year, to ease the food distribution and ultimately require fewer volunteers. Entertainment will be eliminated this year as well. The focus will be on family displays and the parade of nations. The Heifer International coin collection campaign has already begun. A farm display in the RHPS hallway will fill up with animals as funds are collected. To date, \$185 has already been raised, and forms for matching donations have been sent home. Teachers have collection jars and an informational packet including teaching materials they can incorporate into lessons. Teachers can use the animal gift catalog to discuss with their class which animals the class would like to raise funds for. Donations end January 29.

Meridian International will present three assemblies on January 26 in the APR, including representatives from Costa Rico and Togo. Presentations will be tied into the Heifer International campaign.

Teachers are encouraged to attend. Teacher outreach includes empanadas accompanied by paper invitations.

Food donations (i.e. local restaurants) are being solicited to supplement the budget.

6. Membership: Membership is slightly down this year compared to last. Emily and Holly attended a MCCPTA meeting on membership. We discussed how to encourage previous members to renew their membership if they have not done so yet this year. Ideas included a “thank you wall” at the school, or “thank you” list in the Rainbow.

7. General Items:

Directory: Directory has been distributed. A volunteer coordinator is needed to take on the directory next year. We discussed using the summer mailing to gather initial information, rather than waiting until the fall, to get an earlier start on the directory for next year.

School Toolboxes: A volunteer coordinator is needed to coordinate the advance purchase of school supplies for rising first and second graders. Toolboxes are purchased at the end of the school year for the following fall, and supplies are picked-up at the classroom open house. This is also a small fundraiser.

Camp Fair: it was determined there is no need to prepare an online camp fair this year.

Fitness stars: Fitness starts program will be revived this year, and will run for one month starting in early February. Plans include class and individual prizes, and incorporating “healthy heart” activities into the Valentine’s Day parties.

8. Next meeting: February 22. Topic will be to explore new ideas for PTA general meetings next year and how to encourage greater attendance. One idea would be to survey current RHPS parents.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50.