

Rosemary Hills Primary School  
PTA Board Meeting, Sept. 21, 2009

In attendance: Holly Gross, Emily Mazzella, Lisa Hermes, Hunter Hogewood, Shoshana Lombardi, Anne Lieberman, Ann Jablon, AB Carneal, Sue Choi, Jenny Emmett, Cheryl Rosenblum, Karen Jacob, Kerri Gray, Mary Griffin and Karen Graziani.

Meeting commenced at 6:30.

(1) Introductions were made.

(2) Mr. Viggiano and Ms. Zimmerman were unable to attend.

(3) Treasurer report: Cheryl Rosenblum discussed the budget. Last year efforts were made to draw down the reserves by \$17,000. This year, we would like to draw down the reserves by \$5000, leaving the PTA with reserves in the area of \$20,000, which is the goal for going forward. Fundraising and income goals are ambitious, including PTA membership push and increased income through affinity programs. Expenses for the PTA directory are greatly decreased, outreach has been expanded, and events are somewhat scaled back.

A budget line for health and safety was proposed in the amount of \$500. This would be accomplished by decreasing staff grants and all school general by \$250 each.

The proposed budget was voted upon and passed by the board.

(4) Old business: Holly Gross mentioned that the PTA has purchased seven classroom rugs, as well as aprons and restroom clips for use during lunch/recess. Spiritwear inventory has been replenished. A committee chair is still needed for Spiritwear.

(5) New business: The September issue of the Rainbow will be the last one distributed entirely in paper. The October Rainbow will be distributed electronically via the list-serv and the website. Shoshana Lombardi is coordinating efforts to add increase participation. A letter will be distributed with the 9/29 Rainbow to give families an opportunity to opt-out and continue to receive a paper copy.

The school directory will be handled by a new vendor this year. Directorese is handling all advertising sales. The school still needs to provide the family data. A goal of the end of September is set for acquiring the data and getting the project underway.

(6) Upcoming events

Thank you to grade level VP's for hosting the kindergarten and first grade room parent training. It was determined there is no need and little interest in a room parent gathering for second grade.

The morning session for volunteering training was held on Friday, Sept. 21, 2009. An additional session will be held on Sept. 30 at 6:30 lead by Dana Wright. Volunteer training is coordinated by Ilaya Hopkins this year.

Hunter Hogewood reported that plans for Super Saturday, October 10 from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m., are underway. Several committee chairs are still needed; volunteers are being recruited. This year, a “wheel of fortune” game will be substituted in place of bottlemania. Prizes will include “no homework passes.” New games include a rock climbing wall. The committee is also thinking of including student bands for entertainment.

The classroom open house will be held on Monday, October 12, from 9:30 to 11:00 and from 1:30 to 3:00. The afternoon session is new this year.

The October PTA meeting will be held at 7:00 on Monday, October 12 and will include a presentation by Dr. Stetson, BCC cluster superintendent, on the Seven Keys to College Readiness. The budget will be presented during the PTA portion of the meeting.

Shoshana Lombardi is coordinating classroom coffee gatherings to be held on selected mornings in the staff lounge, so that parents can get to know each other in a social situation.

(7) Fundraising update: Ann Jablon reported that the auction is scheduled for March 20, 2010 at the Glenview Mansion in Rockville. Additional details to follow.

Based on the successful auction social events (Margaritas and Manicures, grade-level mixers), the fundraising committee has decided to sponsor these events on a regular basis throughout the school year.

There is no interest in adding a new fundraiser (citrus items) in addition to all the other fundraising opportunities.

The fundraising committee has received orders for the bricks campaign and will continue to solicit throughout the year.

(8) General items for discussion

Karen Graziani, Green committee chair, reported that the committee has raised approximately \$250 through sales of lunchskins and other items. The committee is working with other event chairs on ways to “green” the events whenever possible. RHPS will be a pilot school in a partnership with Bethesda Green. The committee is interested in investigating using recycled paper in school copiers, and is working with teachers on incorporating “green” elements into the curriculum. The committee is also considering implementing a monthly “eco challenge” for students.

The board considered a staff proposal from Ms. Beardall on behalf of classroom teachers and specialists to purchase and install hand sanitizers in all classrooms and the cafeteria. At a cost of

\$165 each, the total expenditure would be \$7260. It was decided that this expense is not currently in the budget. Less expensive alternatives might include locating hand sanitizers at key intersections throughout the school, or installing one near the cafeteria entrance. It was decided by the board that grade VP's would work with room parents to provide "Costco-sized" hand sanitizers in classroom, to be purchase from classroom funds.

A proposal for refrigerators for 2<sup>nd</sup> grade classrooms was mentioned but has not been formally requested by the staff.

The meeting adjourned at 8:10.