

**P.A.R.A.**

Parents' Association of Riley Avenue

www.parentsassociationofriley.com

Minutes from November 6, 2014

- **Welcome – called to order @ 7:35pm**

- Pledge

- **Introduction of Administration**

Mr. Enos

Mrs. Grim

- **Introduction of Executive Board Members**

Gary Rider and Maryann Vene, Co-Presidents

Gwendolyn Levesque, Vice President

Denise Gust, Treasurer

Deanna Jakubowsky, Secretary - Absent

- **Old Business**

Minutes from October were not discussed or voted on. Due to an error they were not posted on time – they are available now on the website. They can be discussed and approved at December meeting.

Team Dawg – Riley Administration & P.A.R.A. Co-Presidents met w/ Team Dawg to discussion presentation, target audience, costs and merits of program. School has stated that if offered by P.A.R.A is would do a program in the spring, so we have time. During the meeting we saw a mixed message as to true target audience. We wanted an “extra” program that can accommodate all grades, and this material was stated as heavy for the K-1/2. We thought that it would be best serve the 3<sup>rd</sup> grades but doing the math, costs as much as we have paid in the past for a school wide assemble. This is on hold as we do some additional research and speak to other schools that have had this program to see if it truly a good fit for Riley students or seek other recommendations.

Student Supplies – P.A.R.A. would like to help Riley by purchasing Sani Wipes for classrooms with allergies. **Motion for \$250 to purchase wipes made by Karianne, seconded and approves. No one opposed.**

Indoor Recess – Some games purchased and utilized already. Movies and additional games waiting for discount and Tax Exempt approval – expect them to be delivered within a week.

Riley Wear – Huge Success! Short sale purchases were around \$3000. Spirit wear is not a fundraiser, however P.A.R.A. did profit \$700 from this Riley Wear order due to a discount from factory.

Miss Chocolate Fundraiser – Orders were delivered, only a couple of minor issues that were handled quickly. Good relationship w/ Vendor – Over 55% return w/ profit of \$5368

Yankee Candle Fundraiser – Orders are in. Parents are encouraged to pick up orders on conference days. Board may try and hand out prior. Do not want them on buses.

Scholastic Book Fair – **BIG THANK YOU!! To all our volunteers.** Sold \$9735 worth of books, posters and school supplies. Profit of \$3600. Additionally, “All for Books” donations totaled over \$120 and money was used to purchase books for students. P.A.R.A. to discuss / decide how to handle Spring Book Fair. Warehouse Sale Books vs Scholastic Book Fair - discussion of Pro’s and Con’s.

Diary of a Wimpy Kid Book orders are in and will be delivered 11/7/2014.

Mixed Bag Fundraiser – Profit of \$1491.38

Uncle Jerry's T- shirts – Fundraiser to be done in spring

Chinese Auction – P.A.R.A. looking into hosting outside of school, possible around Feb 2015. Donations from local businesses needed. Planning is just beginning, we are looking for Team members – see website.

Santa - Booked for December 19<sup>th</sup> Discussion about what Santa should give to each child. Ideas included bells, bookmarks and “tickets” for Polar Express. Please submit ideas via email.

Discussed \$5/student to be used by classroom teachers for academic purposes and or field trips. Board asked for funds to be set aside. **Motion made for \$3100 to be set aside for classroom teachers made by Kim, seconded and approved. No one opposed.**

- **Bylaws Committee**

Approved Bylaws changes are being updated and will be posted on website shortly.

- **Yearbook Committee – Mary Ann Vene**

Need photographers. Upload pictures of any class activities on P.A.R.A. website.

Fall Pictures should be delivered prior to Thanksgiving Break

- **Box Tops**

Please cut them out, place in baggie LABELED with classroom # and send them to school.

- **Labels for Education- Heather and Ann**

Art & Physical Education teachers were each given option to spend 16K points – P.E. Teachers provided a list, Art has requested to hold points for later in the year. Our Committee to order requested items. Also discussed options for future – New Debit card option for points. OCT / NOV is a bonus month. Committee is requesting that we try and turn in any extra labels ASAP to meet goal – Due by Nov 17<sup>th</sup>.

- **P.A.R.P.** – will be held in March 2015 - Author Brian Heinz to come to Riley to do 3 assemblies (K-1, 2-3 and 4) and Writers' Workshops for 4<sup>th</sup> Grade in March. Cost for author is approx. \$1350.00 Final Budget & Plan to be formalized over next few months. **Motion made for \$250 deposit for author by Kim, seconded and approved. No one opposed.**

- **Good and Welfare**

Veterans Food Drive – Thank you for your donations.

Riley Coat Drive – Please send in gently used coats with working zippers to help Riverhead families. Boxes will be located in Cafeteria and P.A.R.A. will work on this with the Morning program.

Thanksgiving Food Drive – Will be headed up by Student Council w/ assistance by P.A.R.A. as needed.

- **Fourth Grade Field Trip** – 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Teachers / Administration / Parents are meeting to discuss options. Once trip is decided on by teachers and approved by administration, P.A.R.A. will discuss contribution to field trip for 4<sup>th</sup> grade.

- **Treasurer's Report Reviewed for Month ending October 31, 2014**

- Beginning Balance \$15,426.72
- Ending Balance \$24,582.00

Board will post Treasurer's Report on website and will continue to have an Open Book Policy.

- **Principal Time**

- Student Council created w/ Goal to create a positive community at Riley – Unity Day, Candy Buy Back for Soldiers and Mix Matched Socks Day – all Successful Ideas from students!
- Parent Conference Days November 24 and 25 – half days of school.
- Fun Friday – on Halloween was enjoyed by students!

- **Open Discussion:**

**P.A.R.A. Board** – Thanked Michelle and the Manorville Starbucks for the coffee donation again, it's appreciated!!!

**Karianne** - asked about Water bottle recycling. Offered to have Mark bring home and help recycle bottles from cafeteria.

**Karen** - Discussed other recycling programs that could help bring money in to Riley. Earth Day discussion and ideas were discussed. Website for Terracycle, [www.terracycle.com](http://www.terracycle.com). The Board will investigate and discuss these programs further.

**Terri** discussed Caps for Love. A program that helps children with Special Needs based in Florida. Discussion on using the two programs together (Bottles and Caps) Check them out - <http://www.capsforlove.com/> The Board will discuss the benefits and labor involved with these programs.

**Kim** asked about policy on food in school. Principal Enos said there is no official ban on foods in Riley. The district has not banned food and neither has Riley Avenue, however there is strong support for the teachers and classrooms / common areas that have restricted certain allergy sensitive foods due to student's possible contact. Discussion on the modern day labeling, Allergy sensitivities and issues with home produced foods were held. General feeling was that we would like to see a balance, accommodating the needs / having fun in the classroom with safe treats/food.

**Meeting Adjourned – 9:25pm**