

Riffenburgh Elementary PTO Meeting January 29, 2018

1.) **Treasurers report** (Amanda Waldron)

Beginning balance is 39,808.54 as of 11/01/2017. Income came way of the Scholastic Book Fair (\$2402.29) and Santa Shop (\$2457.17). Expenses were for Skillman deposit accidentally added 2x in July/August 2017 (\$66.87), Garden Tasting (\$14.46), 1st grade mini grants for books (\$194.02), online school directory (\$398.00), Moby Max-Mini grant (\$699.00), Odyssey of the Mind registration fees (\$100) and Learning A-Z/Raz Kids (\$1139.40). Ending balance as of 12/31/2017 was \$42,056.25.

2.) Mini grants (Amanda Waldron)

- a.) **Book room:** (Mrs. Zell and Ms. Johnson) See handout from grant proposed and funded in April 2016. The grant was not paid in full and money was reallocated due to district involvement. Therefore money received was \$6317.29 less than was told. The coordinators of the room have come back to request the dollars be awarded as promised and asked for a payment schedule. As a reminder the Book Room is a model room set up to assist in all reading levels and be a resource for staff and students. The coordinators would appreciate all levels be represented in the room. It has been shown a successful bookroom and help improve the level of achievement for those needing all levels of intervention. Included in this room are not only multiple copies of many books, but hand held gadgets that encourage reading, gifted books, teacher space to concentrate on reading. As discussion developed it was decided to fund \$2500 of said funds. \$2500 motion was approved. As more discussion occurred it was decided to strike the motion that funded the \$2500. It was then motioned to fund the entire remaining amount (from the 2016 proposal) in the amount of \$6317.29 to the coordinators of the book room in this school year. The motion was voted for by all participants so the book room mini-grant from 2016 will now receive the entire amount of funding it requested at that time

3.) VIPs Reports/updates (Merav Tsubely)

a.) **Wellness committee:** (Ms. Alex Priggy) See handout. The Wellness Committee has been around at Riffenburgh for many years. It is the group that plans and runs the annual Walkathon/Riffenburgh Stampede as well as a number of other healthy initiatives. As the school has grown the size of the Stampede has also grown. The Wellness committee feels to stay fresh and current, to have enough volunteers and to get the fundraising to host the even accomplished more help is needed. The Wellness committee is requesting support from a PTO representative to sit on the committee, as well as parent volunteers from each grade level. They are in the throws of planning for next years event now. They request to have committee formed and PTO offered to submit a request to the families via Friday folder. Also, the Wellness committee has not seen an increase in the dollar value of funds donated from the PTO to assist with the event and would like to see an increase in the budget line item as we head into the next year. Chrissy Battaglia acknowledged preparation of the solicitation to families. It was requested that the Wellness team create a short budget to show the expenditures they have and let the PTO know how much they are requesting in additional funding for the next meeting. March 8th at 7:30 am is the next meeting.

b.) **Silent Auction and Family Fun Night:** (Audra Brickner) Molly hogan is organizing theme baskets for the auction. There is no coordinator for the silent auction part so the entire event is now uncertain. The PTO will reach out to see if we can find any volunteers to coordinate or co-coordinate. Discussion will follow if the event can go on. Note it is a week earlier this year and was slated to be March 1st.

4.) Old business

- a.) **Santa Shop:** was a success.
b.) **Bi-laws:**.

5.) New business

a.) Missoula Children's Theater: (Amy Scholl, Jaqueline Tiley) 83 kids auditioned, \$8 a ticket. There was a mid-session board meeting to discuss liability issues and how we could find a solution quickly. The most immediate solution was to have Missoula rent the building from us so their insurance would cover any mishaps that might occur during the production. This was done and the additional cost was \$468. This increase was approved by the 4 board members. Missoula would be liable for anything that happened.

b.) Valentine's Day party: Coming up and all room are covered .

c.) Riffenburgh PTO bylaws: (Whei, John B. and Merav) The PTO bi-laws are outdated and need revision. The review will take precedence during the next session. Whei, Merav and John B will tackle coming up with a rough draft. John B asked if we were aware they are so incomplete. He elaborated saying the common procedure would be to have a motion to change the bylaws and get approval at a meeting. Then he said to set time a time to meet regarding these bylaws and ADVERTISE WELL so all can give input. At that meeting create/add revisions. Meet again to review the insert of these revisions and provide any edits that are necessary. Create the final draft and send to entire Riffenburgh community 10 days or more from meeting date. At that final meeting a vote should be taken and need two-third approval to pass new bylaws.

6.) **School accountability committee**: (Melanie Mierzwa, Principal) The next SAC meeting will be at 7:30am on February 12th. The focus will be to prioritize 2018 and 2019 budget.

7.) **Principals report** : (Melanie Mierzwa)

a.) Assembly: There will be another assembly from Brandon Harrington and this one will focus on empathy. It is a continuation of the Fall assembly that focused on dealing with difficult situations. See January newsletter.

b.) Riffenburgh center pod: This area is being redesigned. Staff met and discussed the feel of the central school pod. They listed what is important to them and the students, also what the future vision of the area should have. The plan is currently being worked out and the hope is to display IB attributes and projects, what could bring more light to the area and a sense of home. Also, a request was sent to the district to get a costs to redo the lighting and remove the raised podium in the center.

c.) 50 year anniversary Committee: Next year is Riffenburgh's 50th anniversary. Ms. Mierzwa wants ideas and a committee to form after the bylaws are done being reviewed, edited and accepted. Ideas might include a legacy wall and possible large fundraising ideas. The hope would be that community members could provide input on what they would like to see in their neighborhood, possibly alumni school.

For next meeting, continuing agenda Items to not be forgotten:

Wellness Committee members and budget

Bylaws to review

Set up 50th anniversary focus group.