



REDDING SCHOOL for ARTS

# Parent Teacher Club

*Meeting Minutes from November 30, 2011*

ADOPTED

## **Meeting called to order at 8:00am**

Minutes from October meeting will be voted on at the January meeting.

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT (Laura Porzio)**

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Thank you to all the volunteers who helped with the auction. It was a great success and a fun night!

We are finally making headway on the mascot contest. For those of you who don't know, we started on it last year; the kids had voted to make our mascot the fox barely beating out the platypus. Since then we have been working with students to determine what the mascot will look like. Many students submitted fox drawings for our consideration. We have narrowed it down to two students' drawings. The staff will now have a chance to review the choices and vote. By next meeting we should have the final one!

A huge thank you to Dawn Brooks and everyone who helped with the veteran's assembly and reception. It is always such a great assembly. Dawn put together a wonderful coffee reception. She has already committed to doing it again next year.

The scheduling of snack cart and Jamba Juice has been worked out. The snack cart will continue to be Tuesday and Thursday. Jamba Juice will be Wednesdays for the upper grades (as it has been) and Friday for the younger grades. A parent asked if our school benefits from Jamba Juice. Yes, a percentage goes towards funding the annual Honor Roll trip. A reminder that you can get up to 10 hours of volunteer hours per year for donating to the snack cart. You can donate anytime. You receive 1/2hour of time for 30 store bought snacks and 1hr of time for 30 homemade snacks. Next week the new schedule will start.

Student Council Bake Sale will be this Friday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>.

A big thank you to Hilly for all her hard work for the last year and half as Vice President. She has decided to step down to allow for more time for her new job and family commitments. She has done a great job and will be much missed.

## **VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT (Hilly Wallis)**

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Nothing new to report. Curious what other parents thought if we changed the directory to an "opt-in" directory for next year? Meaning once you opted in and supplied your student's info, their info would continue to be in the directory every year until student was done at RSA or you requested that it was removed. Families would have the opportunity to update the information, but it would minimize the annual work. Something to consider for next year. The parents in attendance felt that it was a great idea.

## **TREASURER'S REPORT (Maureen Gaynor)**

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See "committee reports" below for auction totals and Scrip news.



## GOVERNING BOARD REPORT (Stephanie Byars-Dickie and Laura Barnett)

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Governing board met on Nov 17<sup>th</sup>. Jean will be reporting the results from November student assessments in December. The board acknowledged what a huge success the auction was and the veteran's assembly. Facility tours have been very successful. Many people from the community have had the opportunity to tour the facility and have been impressed.

There was a WASC rep here during the veteran's assembly. They were impressed that we were doing what we reported we did. WASC stands for Western Association of Schools and Colleges.... It is a step above a Distinguished School accreditation. Mrs. Dunaj is leading the effort to write the documentation. Next Monday, which is a minimum day, parents are meeting with Mrs. Dunaj to review the draft of our school's revised mission statement. If you have any input, talk to Laura or please attend the meeting. This is a very important issue. The new statement goes beyond the performing arts. They are contemplating adding verbiage regarding the mandarin program, LEED, sustainability, etc. The mission statement is important because the governing board uses it as guidance when making decisions.

The mandarin program now accounts for 60% of our student body and will continue to do so in the near future. Immediate attention needs to be given to enrollment as we cannot continue to add 60+ kindergarteners each year. Our facility is not big enough to accommodate a program growing at that pace. The governing board needs to know what the school community envisions. If we add something into the mission statement, all decisions made by the board will need to reflect it. A parent requested that the proposed verbiage be available to parents to review. Can it be posted on website or can it be sent out to the school community? Laura Barnett will talk to Margaret or Jean to see if Jennifer can post draft on website. Parents are encouraged to get involved and give input as this could shape the future of the school.

The meeting to discuss the proposed mission statement is December 5<sup>th</sup> at 1:30. Meeting place to be determined.

ESLRs (Expected Schoolwide Learning Results) have been posted throughout the school. These are goals we are focusing on as a school.

Building updates: The permit has been granted for the staff parking lot. The completion of the parking lot will depend on weather. Hope to have it done by January. They have begun to monitor our energy uses to compare to what was expected.

Three RSA students were presented awards at the governing board meeting from the Lions Club for entries into the "Know Peace" contest.

Jon Oldham is looking for reports from committee/board members so the governing board is better connected to what is going on. Jon is going to start popping in on committee meetings.

There will be no more RSA News postcards. This should save money and paper; an effort to conserve. News, updates and reminders will be sent out through email and phone messages.

Jonathan Foster, a community member has been added to the governing board.

Jean reported on STAR results; our math scores were down. They are now looking at ways to improve the math scores; they are looking into new curriculum.

There has been an increase in families who qualify for Title 1 funding due to the economy. The process of applying for Title 1 funds is time consuming; they have reallocated some resources to file the necessary documentation.

As mentioned, enrollment issues are looming. The board is looking at different solutions; ultimately need to start bringing in fewer Kindergarteners.

Flagpole dedication is postponed until January.

If you are interested in these issues, consider attending the governing board meetings, where many of these big decisions are being made. Next meeting is December 15<sup>th</sup>. If you cannot go, please email suggestions and concerns to Stephanie or Laura B. (email posted on the PTC agendas.)

## **TEACHER REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT (Rebecca Lahey)**

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They are in the process of changing our report cards. Next week expect to see a different format than before. The new format is more standard based, reflecting CA state standards. They are more specific than the old ones. Each grade level between K and 5<sup>th</sup> will have its own report card. They should give you a better idea where your student falls or where there is a discrepancy. The process of switching over is a work in progress and expected to take a year to refine.

All teachers are very engrossed in the WASC process. They are collecting data and considering how their lessons fit in with the statements made in the WASC document.

## **DIRECTOR'S REPORT (Margaret Johnson)**

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A letter was sent out to parents of the school community before the break regarding a handful of important issues. Please stay out of the bike lane when you are waiting to pick up/drop off. We have many bike riders now and they need a safe lane to ride in. A parent commented that should drivers stay out of the bike lane they will block the cars intending to park thus creating back up onto Shasta View. Margaret will look into this further. Also, the Fire Marshall has asked drivers to not block the emergency entrance to the school while waiting in the dropoff/pickup line. This lane/driveway needs to be open so emergency vehicles can get in if needed. One parent suggested marking the driveway "Keep Clear" – Margaret thought that would be a good idea; possibly they could do so when they come to mark the crosswalks. Someone requested that the letter be added to the website in case they had missed it in the mail.

Flagpole update – Permit has been granted and Gifford Construction will be putting in the flagpole at no cost! However, they will not pour concrete until ready to do all the other concrete in the parking lot. A dedication ceremony will be scheduled once they have a firm date.

The pictures of the "Know Peace" Lions Club contest winners will be posted in the community room after students have had a chance to view them in Ms. Brown's room for a few weeks. The "Know Peace" contest was a great example to the students that art truly has an impact on our world! Part of our mission at RSA – is to be a participant in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

With winter being here, we may have rain on a Monday that an assembly has been scheduled. Should that happen, the assembly will be postponed until Tuesday. If it continues to rain through Tuesday, the assembly will then be postponed until Wed. If it is still raining Wednesday, the assembly will be postponed until the *following* Monday.

Parent Question: Is there a counselor available to students on site?

Carol Wahl is a counselor. She is available to meet with students. However Carol is not in the position to meet with students on an ongoing basis. If the student needs an ongoing counselor, the answer is no. All concerns should be brought to the attention of the teacher or administration.

Parent Question: Are the heaters working? If so, can we expect to see them coming on more?

The heaters are working. They are scheduled to come on 30 minutes before lunch and during lunch. The heaters outside the class doors are also on a schedule. They will not come on unless the temperature reaches a certain level. Margaret will check with Mr. Stanton to see that they are working as expected. Some parents are concerned it is too cold during lunch and in the hallways. Margaret reminded everyone that the hallways were never meant to be heated. The heaters in the front of the classroom doors are meant to create a transitional airway. Margaret also reminded everyone that we are still learning about the buildings quirks and how it really functions. On paper is one thing, but in real life is completely another. This is a learning year.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

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### Theater Booster Club

Stacey Cahill reported the Applebee's and Mary's Pizza Shack fundraiser coming up. The TBC is raising funds to buy a banner to go over Pine Street. The initial investment is considerable, but then the banner may be altered and reused. The funds are not currently available, that is why they must fundraise for them. Vouchers have been sent home for the Applebee's event. You must present the voucher at the time of dining. 15% of your dining bill from Applebee's will be donated back to the school, and 20% at Mary's Pizza Shack at the next event. (Date is on the website).

Volunteers NEEDED; Great opportunity for those who need evening or weekend hours. TBC is looking for people who can do makeup, hair, or work the front of the house.

### Book Fair

Christy Largent reported that the Scholastic Book Fair is scheduled for Dec 7-15<sup>th</sup>. An email went out at 9am Monday for volunteers to sign up to help and was completely full by the end of the day. Thank you for your support. Teachers will have an opportunity to preview and create teacher wish lists. This event will be in lieu of the normal monthly book orders. Some teachers already sent out the December catalogue. Use it as a guide and please shop the book fair. A parent suggested that someone be sure the teachers are aware that they can create wish lists. If we reach a total of at least \$3k worth of books sold, our library will receive 50% to buy books.

### Science Committee

Monique Gaido reported there have been no meetings or emails yet. The first meeting is December 8<sup>th</sup>, time to be determined. It will either be right before school gets out or right after school. The science committee was started last year to support the teachers. Dan Hatch is the leader. Now that teachers have had some time to settle in the science committee is looking to see where they can help. December's meeting will specifically be focused around forming a plan for the garden project and chicken program which will be starting soon. If you would like to lend your talents to either of these projects please come to the meeting or email Monique at moniquegaido@gmail.com. The garden and chicken projects will be incorporated into the kids' curriculum during normal class hours. However, plans need to be put into place about how to manage the projects when school is not in session.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of funding from PG&E is been received.

The Science Committee will soon start training for teachers and parents on the available Full Option Science Standards (FOSS) kits that fit into this year's theme.

Contact Monique with any questions or if you would like to be added to the science committee email list. Receiving the emails will keep you updated on the committees work. Many people on the list who have a particular interest in the science program, but it does not commit you to any responsibilities.

### Scrip Committee

Maureen Gaynor reported for Michelle Woodcock, our scrip coordinator. Mail in orders are due this Friday. There will be holiday booth sales before and after school on the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>. Scrip is a great way to donate money without doing anything you don't already do. You can even buy scrip for groceries, gift cards and dining that you probably already do. Simply buy the scrip cards, they look exactly like gift cards and spend them like cash or give them as gifts. We make anywhere from 3% to 20% of the value depending on the retailer.

We may have a credit card processor for the booth sales. More information will be released as we get closer.

If you are planning on attending the Applebee's TBC event, be sure to pickup an Applebee's card at the front office – we make money on both ends!

## **FPAE**

Daria O'Brien reported that they have welcomed some new board members and said goodbye to old ones. They have also been fortunate to welcome some new advisors. They have had 2 successful fundraisers. They were able to make approx. \$17,000 on the Fellowbrick road fundraiser. Keep an eye out for signs showing where it will be. They have been able to renegotiate their contract with Trilogy. The school has been a great help and they expect to be grant ready beginning of next year!

A second opportunity to buy bricks is likely in January. If you have questions about what the bricks look like, you can check out the samples.

## **Snack Cart**

Shoshannah Appelbaum reported snack cart is going well. Thank you Shoshannah for stepping into this position.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

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### **Auction report**

Laura and Maureen reported that the auction was fabulous. Attendance was about 100 fewer people than previous year. However we made close to the same. We do not have all the expenses turned in, but with the bulk of them in we think we did close to last year's figures. Total raised was over \$46,000 (gross). We believe the net will be close to \$29K + !! This is great especially considering the lower attendance and the state of the economy.

Thank you again to the Auction Committee; they did a great job keeping expenses down and putting on a great event.

The biggest difference from the year before was the proceeds for Fund A Need (FAN). This year's take was much lower than last years at approx. \$6750.00 (the prior year we raised approx. 11K for FAN)

### **Fund A Need update**

Progress is being made! Last year's FAN was "Put the Play In Playground". Since we were waiting to move into the new building we weren't able to do too much until September. But since then we have ordered several things for the playground as well as the exercise circuit equipment. And the circuit equipment is finally here! Contractors have volunteered to help install! However it has come to our attention that we will need to pull a permit and create a site plan before installation can begin.

### **Vice President**

At last month's meeting Hilly gave her resignation as VP. At that time we reported that we would take nominations and then vote on it at this meeting. However, after re-reading the bylaws it was apparent that the process was

explicitly different for a mid-term vacancy. Rather than a vote, the exec board appoints a person to a position that is vacated part way through the year.

We had 4 different people email that they were interested in the position! Two of the four returned their information to the exec board and met with us. As it turns out we will be able to use both! This is great news.

First, let us introduce our new VP, Steve Coulter. Steve has two girls at RSA. He is a local contractor and born and raised in Redding.

Second, we have been looking for someone to assist Maureen with the Treasurer position as a Treasurer in Training type position. As it turned out, the other parent who was interested in the VP position had experience as a PTA treasurer and actually had more interest in that position. She was happy to fill this void we had! Please let us introduce Brenda Sinclair. Brenda and her daughter Carly came to RSA last month. They are from Millville, where Brenda was on the board for many years. She is looking to this position to help her get involved and better acquainted with RSA.

We are glad to have both of them!

### **Kitchen XMAS**

Our learning kitchen still has needs. One of the RSA parents agreed to throw a Pampered Chef party benefiting our kitchen. Please come by Friday afternoon 3:20-4:30 in the kitchen and buy Christmas gifts, gifts for the kitchen itself or items for yourself. All sales benefit the kitchen in some way. Also, we are still registered at Target. Please consider including the RSA kitchen during your holiday shopping, it would be much appreciated. This is a great time to take advantage of sales and help our school get the items its needs. If you turn in a copy of your receipt for items bought for the kitchen (please write "donation to kitchen" on receipt) to front desk you will get a tax deduction letter after the first of the year.

### **Directory**

It's out! Hilly worked with Paula Venegas to get the data entry done. We tried a new process this year that didn't work quite like we imagined. It is for private use only. To be shared with RSA parents only. Please do not spam RSA parents or post on the web. Strictly meant for communication between parents and students.

However if you do have a business you would like to advertise. We have a Business Directory for all RSA family businesses (whether you own or manage it). Simply drop your business card off to Ms. Jennifer in the front office. Many parents would like to support other RSA families and their endeavors. It's free.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

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### **Scheduled Meetings**

Last month's night meeting went well. We had several people attend, many that do not normally attend the morning meetings. We will continue alternating meeting times for the remainder of the year. The night meetings will be on Tuesday evenings, and morning meetings will be Wednesday mornings. We have pushed back the morning meeting start time to 8:10am; this will allow for parents to get their students dropped off, catch up with a bit and settle in. As always, meetings will continue to start promptly.

Our next Meeting will be January 24<sup>th</sup> in the evening. We have a great turn out today. March and April are also likely to be big meetings; March we take nominations. April we vote for new board members. Meeting dates and times will be posted on the PTCs website.

## **Toys for Tots**

Stacey Wiedenhoft, RSA parent and Regional director for Toys for Tots, reported that there will be a box in the front office for toy dropoff. If you decide to wrap the gift please put age and whether it's geared for a boy or girl. Every toy and every dollar collected in Shasta County goes directly back to Shasta County families. Nothing is shipped out of the area. Last year Shasta County Toys for Tots was able to service over 4100 children. This year there is more need. We ask donations to be brand new unwrapped toys worth at least \$10 (VALUE) or more. The older kids are the hardest age group – ages 10-17 – Unfortunately we cannot do gift cards for the older children as there is potential for them not to be used as intended. If you would like to donate but not sure what to buy you can write a check to Toys for Tots which will then be used to buy toys. Toys for Tots does not accept clothing, toys only please. Toys for Tots is the only organization that takes application up to Christmas eve. Donations will be accepted until school is out. All applications are cross checked. Due to the size of our county Toys for Tots in Shasta can be more personal, they do their best to match up a child's interests and likes with the right toy and make it fair amongst siblings. A parent asked "What do you do with Dollar Store items?", Stacey explained that they do not count as a child's one item but they use them as "stocking stuffers" The Toys for Tots organization is always looking for support if anyone wants to volunteer time. Talk to Stacey.

## **Wish List**

The list of staff wishes were handed out with spaces for those attending to rank the wishes 1-32 in order of preferred funding. Laura explained that some wishes may be modified to accommodate more wishes depending on funding and need. Some teachers had turned in their wishes stating they were asking for a certain number but they would be grateful for whatever the PTC could afford. For instance, the piano lab wish could be funded with or without the headphones and still be usable for the next year before the next stage was funded.

The ink cartridge request would be optimal at 4 sets but would also be grateful for whatever we could give.

When asked if there was room for the Piano Lab request, it was explained that the actual room was not available at this time but the actual request is for phase 1 which includes software licenses for both the upper and lower grade software that could be used in the computer lab.

When ranking consider whether the purchase would be fiscally responsibly and benefit the most students. Once the items are purchased they remain the property of the PTC, the requester or department has the right to use the item while they are with the school.

The ranking not only helps us know how to prioritize funding but also helps the teachers know what the parents find important.

## **Other Announcements:**

Sheri Crow reported that the student council is holding a coat drive. They will be collecting new or gently used coats of all sizes. The last day for donations will be December 9<sup>th</sup>. Collection boxes will be in the classrooms. Information will be sent out soon.

**Daria O'Brien moved to adjourn the meeting.**

**Carla seconds.**

**Meeting adjourned at 9:47am.**