

**Redmond Junior High PTSA
Unit 2.8.80
General Membership Meeting
September 29, 2009**

Call to Order: President Lisa Schildt called the meeting to order at 7:06pm in the Redmond Junior High library. The required quorum was present.

Minutes: Minutes from the May 26th, 2009 meeting were approved as distributed.

President's Comments: Lisa opened with a general greeting, and welcomed guests Principal Prato Barone, ASB advisor Chris Broderick from Redmond Junior High, RJH School Resource Officer Bill Orson from Redmond Police Department, City of Redmond Teen Services Administrator, Ken Wong, and City of Redmond Teen Programs Coordinator, Nancy Chang.

Opening Business: Lisa introduced Heather Brown, who has been Acting Secretary since July 1, and who is the candidate for filling the vacant Secretary position. Mary Bourguignon moved to approve Heather Brown as secretary for the Redmond Junior High PTSA. Kathleen Reynolds seconded the motion. The motion passed and Heather Brown was elected Secretary.

Lisa explained the need to amend the Standing Rules to list as standing committee members the committee chairpersons able to attend board meetings on a regular basis. In prior years, the inability to achieve a quorum at meetings made it difficult for the Board to conduct business. The proposed change would reduce the number of Board members required to constitute a quorum. This is the same approach used by Redmond High School PTSA. Shelley Flores moved that we accept the proposed change to the Standing Rules for 2009-2010 as amended. Byron Shutz seconded. The Standing Rules were approved as amended.

Principal's Report: Principal Prato Barone reported on the following: 1) RJH is considered a high-performing school, and has accepted 20 additional students into the Quest program. Next year there will be two sections in the Quest program; 2) Seventh graders are adjusting to their new schedules; 3) Lake Washington School District is focusing on providing academic challenge and rigor, addressing the question of which skills and attributes do we want the students to have; 4) There is a staff-driven initiative focused on collaboration and connection. Programs are in place to foster increased collaboration between staff; 5) Incoming 7th graders are in general an academically successful group. This year there are four 7th grade students beginning the year in the Safety Net program; 6) RJH is developing interventions to help students complete homework. A pilot program is underway to have some students work on homework during lunch periods. This extended time period to help students complete homework is modeled after other Junior Highs, such as Inglewood; 7) Teachers are participating in professional learning communities activities to discuss teaching techniques with colleagues in their subject area and to share ideas of teaching approaches to reach students with different learning styles; 8) This school year is a levy vote year. The new levies will replace the levy expiring in 2010.

Lisa commented that there is information about the levy in the legislative advocacy newsletter.

ASB Advisor's Report: Chris Broderick (1) provided an overview of ASB (Associated Student Body), a student membership group; (2) His job as the ASB advisor is to advise the students in planning cultural, athletic, recreational, and social (CARS) activities. ASB focuses on keeping school fun socially; (3) ASB will continue to work on finding ways to highlight the students, such as adding picture display frame in the hallways; (4) Chris displayed the mascot for this year's magazine drive fundraiser, Feed the Beast. The goal for this year's magazine drive is \$70,000; (5) Student leadership is the vehicle used to drive ASB activities. The ASB Board consists of five elected officers, plus the five runners up serving as general representatives. A student from every homeroom is elected to be ASB representative. Chris closed with thanking PTSA for volunteer help with ASB activities.

Special Guests Report - City of Redmond Afterschool Programs

Ken Wong and Nancy Chang presented an overview of the RJH After Hours Program sponsored by the City of Redmond. The program focuses on enrichment programs that are about having fun. Activities take place both at RJH and sometimes offsite. Upcoming programs include climbing at Vertical World and a class in glass blowing. The programs are typically 2-4 weeks long to provide participants with an introduction to the activity. RJH After Hours meets Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. Approximately 150 students participated in the RJH kick-off event.

Nancy Chang is the manager of the program at RJH. There is also a city-wide leadership program called RYPAC to help young people learn ways to give back to the community. RYPAC meets the first and third Thursdays of the month to plan community service projects. The program is funded through the city parks levy that was passed two years ago

Officer Bill Corson

Introduced himself as the School Resource Officer (SRO) for RJH for the next 2-3 years. Officer Corson talked about his work as SRO, and also about the availability of a Youth Eastside Services (YES) counselor at RJH to provide counseling in the areas of drug and alcohol use.

Treasurer's Report: Carrie Casanas explained that our unit's Standing Rules require that we carry forward at least \$5,000 forward. With the start of the 2009-2010 school year, we have \$2,068.68 in excess of the required \$5,000. Carrie recommended that the General Membership approve allocating the \$2,068.68 to the budget line item "Academic/Special Projects Fund." Kathleen Reynolds moved that the additional amount of \$2,068.68 be added to the "Academic/Special Projects Fund." Mary Bourguignon seconded the motion. The motion passed with no opposition. Carrie provided a copy of the financial report to date.

Mini-grant Proposals

Lisa reported that she made a presentation to RJH teachers on August 25th to describe the mini-grant process. She then presented a summary of the proposal that had been submitted. After discussion, it was agreed to vote on each proposal separately. The grants were approved as follows:

- Julie Firth / Safety Net Literacy and Special Education – \$156.70 for 15 student copies of The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens
- Heidi Knable / 8th Grade Language Arts - \$1,600.00 for the purchase of 40 dictionaries and 40 thesauruses (approved max by majority vote 6 to 5)
- Mary Chandler / Special Education – \$207.45 for the purchase of audio books
- David Roderick / 7th grade integrated science – \$123.63 for the purchase of four universal battery recharging units for the classroom
- Bret Crane / Computers and Technology – \$599.97 for the purchase of three Flip Mino HD video cameras
- Carol Underwood / Staff communication and student safety – \$693.12 for the purchase of three two-way radios. Discussion recommended the option of Carol submitting a proposal for additional radios in the next round of mini-grants planned for January 2010.
- Darlene Poitra / Transition Learning Center – \$450.00 for three sets of books in *The Wild Side* non-fiction reading series.

Byron Shutz moved that RJH PTSA fund the proposal in the total amount of \$3,830.87. Claire Ronneburg seconded the motion. The motion was approved with no opposition.

Fundraising: Lisa announced that the Everything Party store offers a 10% rebate to RJH PTSA for each purchase. Purchasers are required to inform the cashier of the recipient group name prior to the start of each transition. Everything Party will issue a quarterly rebate check to RJH PTSA.

Committee Reports:

Legislative Advocacy: Byron Shutz reported (1) about the upcoming levy and bond vote in February 2010; (2) Initiative 1033 will be on the ballot in November. He asked that RJH PTSA vote to recommend a "No" vote on Initiative 1033. Kathleen Reynolds moved that Redmond Junior High PTSA General Membership endorse not supporting I-1033 by recommending a "No" vote for the November 2009 Initiative. Carrie Casanas seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Magazine Drive: Lisa reported that PTSA volunteers staffed the order tallying and prize distribution for the ASB magazine drive.

Membership: Shelley Flores reported that membership is now at 517 members (30 of which are staff).

Parent Education: Joanne Hall announced the November 7th Parent Education talk by Laura Kastner, Ph.D., author of *Getting to Calm*. The talk will be at 7 p.m. at Redmond High School Performing Arts Center. Joanne also reported that funding for Parent Education in the district has changed. The district budget is \$7,000. Elementary and secondary sub-committees with representation from each learning community (Juanita, Eastlake, Lake Washington, Redmond) will determine allocation and select which topics / speakers to host.

Staff Appreciation: Heather Brown reported that we had our second staff appreciation event, providing food for teachers and staff prior to Curriculum Night. The next event is on the first Tuesday in October with a Harvest theme collection of baked goods and spiced cider.

Bear Tracks Weekly: Mary Bourguignon reported 618 subscriptions to the Bear Tracks Weekly.

Bear Tracks Newsletter: Lisa reported for Diana Wagner that online publication of the Newsletter is in effect, with approximately 25 to 30 requests for a printed copy. Printing costs for the first issue were less than \$33 rather than \$450 for printing all copies.

Student Recognition: Bryn Parish reported that the first lunch is scheduled for October 8. Bryn thanked Paul Armour, owner of the Avondale Subway, for donating lunch for the day. The selected students' lockers will be decorated by committee volunteers.

Emergency Prep: Kathleen Reynolds and Lisa Schildt will attend the quarterly PTSA Council district-wide emergency preparedness meeting next week.

Grizzly Grams: Becky Holtzinger reported that Grizzly Gram packets were distributed to all staff to remind them to send postcards. She'll do reminders during the year to encourage staff to send Grizzly Grams.

Reflections: Bryn Parish reported that posters are displayed to encourage student participation. The due date for submissions is Mon. Oct 26th for RJH. Winners from RJH will go to the PTSA Council level on November 18th.

Safe Arrival: Suzie Connor reported that the automated School Messenger has been implemented at RJH this year. As a result, fewer volunteers are needed.

Tutoring: On behalf of Chair Tina Monsaas, Lisa reported that there are approximately 20 volunteers providing tutoring.

Student Directory: On behalf of Chair Kathy Dennis, Lisa reported that estimated distribution will be the third week of October.

New Business:

Lisa discussed the possibility for RJH PTSA to sponsor an after school drama program at Redmond Junior High. The membership instructed Lisa to contact Redmond Drama Boosters, and to further investigate possibilities for PTSA sponsoring a drama program.

The meeting was adjourned at 9pm

submitted by
Heather Brown
Secretary , RJH PTSA 2009 -2010