

Richland Elementary PTO Meeting Minutes

September 9, 2020

Virtual Meeting through ZOOM

Attendees:

Jenna Sloan	Sara Hurwitz	Rene Hoy	Jessica Wilson
Amy Tannart	Kristy Ryer	Jessica Rugg	Stacey Waller-Kerns
Britani Namey	Jill Gruber	Bethany Weakland	Lauren Oeler
Nicole Cugliari	Sloan Curren	Leah May	Jen Clowser
Beth Cassisi	Karen Dudkowski	Diane White	

I. Call to Order

- Welcome/Opening Statement- Amy Tannert
- May 2020 Minutes approved by Amy Tannert and Rene Hoy

II. Guest Speaker- Jill Gruber- PR Communications

- Works on various communications for the district
 - Friday Flash, Week Ahead, PR Happenings and other special announcements
 - Works closely with Rachel Hathhorn
- Contact Jill to submit items that need communicated
 - Email: prnewsletters@pinerichland.org
 - Deadline to submit is Wednesday at 8am
 1. If you are going to be late, please give a heads up that something is coming but is not finalized yet
 2. FAQ's are also available on website
 - Info usually goes in flash, on headlines/website and on calendar

III. Principal's Update- Ms. Sloan

- Excited to be here among an energetic team
 - Beyond impressed with teamwork and commitment to growing as a whole
- Goal as a district isn't just to get back in school but to STAY in school
 - Must be prepared that there may be a need for virtual instruction
 - Working on doing that in the best and most effective way possible
- Made arrangements with PTO for weekly pick-up and drop off of PTO necessities
- Working hard to maintain no visitors in the building
- Thank you to PTO for improvising with "Back to School" Breakfast
- A few concerns brought up by PTO Board and parents
 - Weight of student backpacks
 1. Teachers are currently working to reconsider what needs to be transported back and forth to reduce backpack weight
 2. 100% in person, Hybrid and 100% virtual all have different classroom needs
 - Drop off / Pick up line
 1. Going more smoothly
 2. Allowing leeway for kids getting into homeroom
 3. Another reminder of traffic pattern will be in Friday Flash

- Early dismissals addressed
 1. Reach out to Ms. Sloan and office secretaries for early dismissal
- Recess
 1. Exploring more creative ideas to make recess fun
 2. Shared equipment is currently not able to be used
 3. Homeroom teachers may send out an email to families with approved items students can bring in for individual use during outdoor recess
- School Pictures
 1. Still planning on doing school pictures. Currently working out details.
- Classroom Parties
 1. Looking for ideas on how to still have classroom parties in a fun and safe way.
- Pickup Security
 1. Concern over security of kids being dismissed to cars
 - a. Suggestion of possibly using QR codes or universal signs
 - b. Staff does have a process that is followed and is effective but is open to checking into additional options

IV. Old Business

- Recap end of 2019-2020 School Year
 - 2019-2020 Yearbooks were just distributed
 1. A limited number of yearbooks are still available for \$19
 2. Virtual families can pick up yearbooks in vestibule outside office

V. New Business

- Student Directories
 - Deadline to submit entries and preorder was last Friday
 - We expect directories to be distributed end of September/early November
- Spirit Wear Sale
 - Ends Friday 9/11
- Moe's Taco Kit Fundraiser
 - Deadline to order is Sunday 9/13 at 6pm
 - Order pickup will be Tuesday 9/15 at 5pm in Richland parking lot
- KidStuff Book Fundraiser
 - Virtual only this year
 - Will be coming out in the Friday Flash this week and additional info will be sent home to parents
- Fall Fundraisers
 - Yankee Candle is usually done in the fall but will not be available this year
 - Looking to do Believe Kids instead
 1. Will be a virtual fundraiser
- Ice Cream Social will be cancelled this year
- Science Fair
 - Currently postponed
 - Hoping to run this in the spring

- Gift of Time
 - On hold, hoping to still find a way to run this
- Book Fair
 - Will be virtual this year
 - More information will be coming out soon
- Assemblies
 - In person assemblies can not take place this year
 - Some virtual options are being explored
- Box Tops
 - Large decrease in sales from this since going digital last year
 - To submit, download BoxTops app and scan receipts within 14 days of purchase
 - Can still clip physical BoxTops if available
 - Will only run one collection this year in the winter
- Upcoming meetings may have a slightly earlier start time to accommodate the large number of parents picking their children up from school
 - Will send a communication when a time is finalized
- Ms. Sloan requested the PTO help with a Punchbowl account to support the RAMS WAY program
 - Annual subscription
 - To reduce touch points this year, virtual greeting cards will be sent to families as students achieve certain Rams Way recognitions

Please join us for our next meeting on Wednesday, November 11th. Time TBA.

