

# Richland Elementary PTO Meeting Minutes

December 5, 2018

## Attendees:

Gene Nicastro

Amy Tannert

Nicole Cugliari

Karen Dudkowski

Amber Louis

Crissa Jones

Heather Rice

Diane White

Kristy Ryer

Dana Malady

Eileen Cassidy

Jenny Browning

## I. Call to Order

Opening Statement- Amber Louis

## II. Review & Approve September minutes

September 12, 2018 minutes approved by Crissa Jones and Amy Tannert

## III. Guest Speaker- Dr. Silbaugh

- 2018 Academic Achievement & Growth Report
  - Published Annually
  - Outperforming the top 10% in Pennsylvania in all areas except one
- School Start Times
  - Currently looking at school start times
  - Town Hall sessions asked community to come give insight
  - Podcast available on website
  - All resources including FAQ's found on website
  - In mid-December an additional chart and podcast will be sent out
  - Trying to minimize impact on K-3 students
  - Current studies only focus on older adolescent, so trying think long term for ALL K-12 students to meet all students needs the best they can
  - Many Richland parents expressed concerns including late busses, morning times affecting pre-school schedules for younger siblings, specials later in the day, increase in early dismissals due to after school activities, and request to compare these start times to other top performing schools.
  - Working to minimize time frames by structuring current wait times more effectively
  - Board will have information meeting in January and vote towards February
  - Feedback and other insights are welcome though email to Dr. Silbaugh
- In Depth Program Review
  - This year's focus is Social Studies and Gifted
  - Each department has a vision and a philosophy statement that accompanies it
- Strategic Plan

## IV. Principal Update- Gene Nicastro

- Successfully defended his dissertation last week

- Successful Ice Cream Social Night
  - Original night was cancelled because of snow day
  - Evening included ice cream social, book fair, science fair and STEAM Lab open house
  - Event was well attended despite last minute day change
- Twitter account for Richland Elementary
  - @Richland\_PRSD
- Mrs. Ferris and Mrs. Fickes were recognized with our first Staff Appreciation Award, largely because of their contributions to the STEAM Lab
  - Winners will receive a gift card and an Oar Traveling Trophy

## **V. Old Business**

- Gift of Time
  - Most successful year so far
  - Brought in \$2700
- Science Fair
  - Much higher participation than previous years
- Book Fair was successful
- Stuff-A-Bus
  - Scheduled early this year
  - Not as much of a participation this year due to timing
- Staff Appreciation Award will run quarterly

## **VI. New Business & Upcoming Events**

- Holiday Shop is coming up December 10-13
  - Volunteers needed
  - Sending filled out gift tags helps process run more smoothly
- Student Sing Along and Holiday Parties scheduled for December 21
- District Wide Parent Book Club currently reading "Anxious Kids, Anxious Parents"
- End of Quarter is January 18
- No School on January 21<sup>st</sup> due to Martin Luther King Day
- Food Advisory Committee Meeting scheduled for January 23
  - Morning and evening sessions
- Family Movie Night will take place January 25
  - Great time to check out the new auditorium
  - Kids will vote on the movie when they return from winter break
- Strategic Planning Town Hall meeting scheduled for January 30
- Father/Daughter Dance scheduled for February 8

## **VII. Adjourn**

- Please join us for our next PTO meeting!