
RICHARDSON ELEMENTARY PARENT SUPPORT COUNCIL (PSC) MEETING SUMMARY

September 25, 2008

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. Principal **Pat Steingruebl**, Physical Education teacher, **Tom Keefer**, and 21 parents were present. **Becky Neve**, PSC President welcomed all to the meeting. She gave an introduction about herself. PSC Treasurer, **Deb Flom**, and PSC Secretary, **Suzanne Ericson** also introduced themselves.

The next meeting will be **Thursday, November 20, 2006 at 6:30 p.m.** The theme for the evening will be Math.

Note: FREE childcare is provided for school-age children.

Special Presentation

Ray Heiland, Costco representative gave a presentation about the partnership of Costco and Campbell's. As part of that partnership, a local school was chosen to receive bonus Campbell's labels. Richardson was chosen and received 250,000 additional labels from Costco to add to the donations made by our students. **Mr. Keefer** will be using this to purchase PE supplies such as balls, jump ropes, batting T's, and a parachute to name a few.

Teacher Presentation

Mr. Keefer spoke about the importance of physical activity. There are brochures in the office available upon request regarding PE goals. Physical Education class teaches athletic skills through discovery as well as social skills. Students receive PE twice in 6 days for 50 minutes each. He encouraged parents to be active with their children and to be models for fitness. A parent asked about going outside for PE in the winter, which will be looked into as a possibility.

Treasurer's Report

Deb Flom shared that the Kathryn Beich fundraiser is the only one Richardson school is doing this year, as it is the best value for the school with the addition of the cookie dough. She also gave an overview of the budget, which is available upon request. The group was informed of the designation of carnival profits. They went towards the Artist in Residence programs including the Bravo Performances. There was enough additional money to purchase one Smart Board for a classroom.

Principal's Report

Pat Steingruebl gave an update on the size of our school. There are 483 students, which break down to 4 sections in Kindergarten and 1st grade, 3 sections in 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th grades, and 2 sections of FAN (special services). The number of students in each section was reduced due to compensatory funding from free and reduced lunches. There is new staff this year in Kindergarten, 5th grade, literacy specialist, and behavior specialist. The behavior specialist worked with the 5th graders to put on a skit about school rules. The Responsive Classroom model is used school wide. There is information in the student handbook about the school's behavior policy.

A couple of recent field trips occurred. The 4th graders went to the River Rendezvous, which fits in with their social studies curriculum, and the 5th graders took a paddleboat ride on the Mississippi River to Fort Snelling. They did experiments that tied in with their science curriculum.

The school goal continues to be Literacy. Richardson is in the 4th (and last) year of the Reading First grant. Test scores have increased due to this concentration. Math scores have improved as well due to teachers teaching the constructed response method to solving word problems. At conferences this fall, parents will receive their child's MAP test scores for grades 2-5. Report cards will be out in December. The staff looks at the school's test scores and sets goals for improvement. The areas with lower scores give teachers direction in planning curriculum.

A parent asked about the use of spelling. It is not taught as a separate skill school wide but rather as part of writer's workshop and in literacy.

Pat also shared that there are Smart Boards in all 4th and 5th grade classrooms. The school had 2 portable boards that are now mounted and the rest were purchased through a grant from Microsoft and from the carnival profits.

PSC OFFICERS:

PRESIDENT:

Becky Neve 748-0103 BECKYNEVE@COMCAST.NET

TREASURER:

Debra Flom 748-6934 DEBRAFLOM@AOL.COM

SECRETARY:

Suzanne Ericson 704-0397 MAERICSON2000@AOL.COM

Volunteer Coordinator's Report

Deb Flom, Richardson's volunteer coordinator sends out a weekly news update via email. If you are not currently receiving this and would like to receive this email, please contact her to get on the list. Her contact information is at the top of this page.

There is a need for a Word Masters coach for 3rd, 4th, or 5th grade. Sessions can be held before or after school.

A Hospitality Chairperson is also needed. There are only 4 events that are covered in this: Open House, Fall & Spring Conferences, and Kindergarten Registration. The job is half over at this time of the year. Please consider helping with the other events.

Fundraiser items will be at Richardson school for pick-up on **Thursday, November 13 from 3:45-6 pm.**

Upcoming Events

Target - Richardson receives a percentage of your purchases made on your Target credit card. You can designate Richardson as the school of your choice on the credit card application. Results for schools are posted at the North St. Paul Target. If you haven't already upgraded your Target charge card to a Target VISA (free and no annual fee), do so to give a half percent of your VISA purchases to the school (can be used any place a VISA is used).

Wendy's – during each 1st Monday of the month between 5 and 7pm inform the employee at the Wendy's on White Bear Avenue (by 694) you are from Richardson and 10% of the sale goes to Richardson!

Campbell's Labels; General Mills Box Tops; Kemp's Milk caps; Land-O-Lakes' Milk caps; Nestle Pure Life bottled water labels; pop top rings for Ronald McDonald House; Tyson Project A+ Labels - Each classroom is collecting these items. Your participation and support earn valuable materials for our school.

Roller-skating - Have fun and support Richardson by going roller-skating or roller-blading with your friends at the Richardson Saints North Roller-skating nights! \$4.00 per child. Next skating night is **November 6** from 6-8 pm.

Used printer ink cartridges and old cell phones – Please turn these into the office. Attention: Mr. Keefer.

