

# Red Pine Elementary School PTO Meeting Minutes

## September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2009

### **Welcome**

- Introduction of PTO board members, PTO Liaisons, Red Pine teachers and parents

### **Liaisons Reports**

#### Principal's Report : Gary Anger

- Enrollment for 2009-2010 is 890 kids making Red Pine the largest elem. school in District 196. Red Pine is over the projected number of children enrolled including those in the K-plus program at Pinewood and other district schools. Red Pine is also 186 kids over the district-wide average of children enrolled. Greenleaf Elem. is the next largest elementary school in the district with 837 children.
- Class sizes this year average 23 ½ children per class. The metro area class average is 27/28 children.
- The Open House was a tremendous success. Great turn out again this year!
- Thank You to Mary Beth Wehrman for the successful Summer Activity Cards; the Eagle Scouts who did the wood chipping out front of the school; the sundaes for the staff from the hospitality committee.
- Thank you to the many families using alternate drop off locations or carpooling the first week of school. This has decreased the congestion in the school parking lot tremendously!
- Red Pine exceeded their reading goal last year by 10%. Red Pine had the highest percentage of kids hitting their growth targets in all of the schools in the district.
- Mr. Anger is planning to spend the night on the roof of the school if the kids meet their fundraising goal.

#### Site Council

- Nothing to report at this time

#### Teacher's Report

- Great start to the school year!
- Thank you from K-1-2 teachers for the money from PTO last spring to purchase new books.

### **Treasurer's Report : Sarah Draxler**

- Families in Need and the Garden Committee have extra money in their budget
- Mrs. Rathman has been informed that there is \$161.00 left to spend from Scholastic.
- Sarah reminded parents that you can make donations to Red Pine PTO through your employer.
- Committees that need to get money to school and cannot drop it off may not send it to school with their children! You may always contact a board member who would be happy to help and pick it up!!
- We have a Retail Connection Number to be used for all copying costs at Office Max. Receipts need to go in the PTO box for Sarah and Office Max will send an invoice to the school. Committees with laminated cards from last year may still use those.

## **Committee Introductions and Updates**

### Art Adventure

- Prep work in conjunction with the Minnesota Institute of Art is underway.
- The committee is in the process of recruiting volunteers for this school year. Once enough volunteers are found they will go through training with the Minnesota Institute of Art as well.
- Theme for this year is "Let's Celebrate Life" which will explore many different celebrations from around the world.
- Art Adventure will present to the classrooms of Red Pine in February and March.

### Barnes & Noble Book Fair

- This year's book fair is Nov. 13. The book fair runs during all hours of operation but special events are from 5-8 pm at the Apple Valley Barnes & Noble.
- The Theme will be "Our Favorite Minnesota Authors" and we will have autographed books from various local authors.
- Face Painting will be available again this year.
- All money raised during the book fair goes towards purchasing books for the library.
- Carbone's has again offered to allow Red Pine parents to visit the Rosemount location the night of the book fair (and up to one month following) and if you mention you are a Red Pine family 5% of your bill will be given back to the school. The money raised from Carbone's will go towards books for specialists, special ed., gifted and talented, etc.

### Box Tops

- Nothing to report at this time.
- Reminder to parents to send in box tops. The grade with the most box tops has a surprise staff member serve them lunch for a day.

### Bulletin Boards

- Brenda LaChance will be overseeing the bulletin boards in the entryway of the school. If your organization or group has something you would like posted on those boards, please contact her.

### Directory

- There will be a form coming home this week in the Friday folders for families to fill out and return to school with necessary information for the all school directory. This includes teachers lists and contact information. There is an option on the form to not participate if you so choose, simply check that box on the form and be sure to return the form to school.
- The district will be printing this directory for Red Pine.

### Fall Family Fun Night

- Thanks to Stacey Notch who has volunteered to head this committee.
- It was mentioned the event was scheduled for Oct. 22 which is also pick up night for Innisbrook. In an attempt to reschedule, it became difficult to find an open date with all of the days off in October and also because the days leading up to Halloween are also fall conferences.
- There was a discussion of moving the event to the spring in conjunction with the Arts Evening as the fall is busy with fundraisers, conferences and area sports that have already booked the gym.

- Stacey Notch motioned to move the Family Fun Night to April 22 which is the Art Evening in the Spring. Kari Johnson second the motion and motion passed unanimously.
- All funds from the Fall Family Fun Night will be moved to the Arts Evening.

#### Food Nights

- Thank you to Jeanette Appold who volunteered to head this committee.
- There was discussion of finding a new location or using Culver's or CiCi's pizza again. CiCi's pizza was used last year and did well initially but interest seemed to trickle quickly.
- There was discussion about having a onetime food night where the teachers would be available to serve the kids and their families, such as at Culvers.

#### Health & Fitness

- Mary Beth Wehrman went over the Summer Activity card and is looking for more help in organizing this. It was popular and seemed to be enjoyed by many Red Pine families.
- Mary Beth is looking for any input to help make it better next year. She is also looking for some new ideas to add to it and may approach student council for any ideas they may have.
- There was discussion of possibly making an activity card for the school year with activities to do over breaks.

#### Hospitality – Community

- There was discussion on the difference between the two Hospitality committees and their purposes. Polly Novak motioned to combine the Hospitality committees into one committee. Yvette Johnson second that motion. Motion passed unanimously

#### Hospitality – Staff & Popcorn

- Nothing to Report at this time.

#### Innisbrook

- This year Innisbrook has moved to all online ordering. Information packets will be sent home in Friday Folders on September 11. Gift Wrap and Chocolates will again be available.
- Red Pine was able to save almost \$200 by not having labels printed on colored labels.
- For those families who do not have computers/internet access, there is a toll free number to call and place an order. Also, Red Pine will have a community computer in the school available for parents to place their orders.
- This is Red Pine's main fundraiser and Mr. Anger is challenging the kids to raise \$25,000 this year. If this goal is met, Mr. Anger will spend the night on the roof of the school. Last year Red Pine raised just over \$25,000.
- Information will be posted in the Treeburne and the kids will see a movie in class to promote this fundraiser.
- To motivate the kids to help reach the goal, there will be 16 winners of small prizes per day. There will also be 8-10 larger prizes to the top sellers at Red Pine.
- Order pick up will be October 22.

#### Gertens Plant Gift Cards

- Nothing to report at this time.

#### Milk Caps

- Yvette Johnson reminded parents to send in their milk caps.
- Home Depot graciously donated a 26 gallon receptacle on wheels that will be in the hallway for the children to drop their milk caps in.
- We will only be mailing in the milk caps for redemption once this year, in the spring, to help cut the cost of mailing in multiple groups of milk caps.

#### School-Pak

- There were 220 orders placed for this fall. Things ran much smoother than the previous year!

#### Spirit wear

- There are many options for Red Pine Spirit wear from hats to T-Shirts to Sweatshirts all in Black, Red and White.
- Order forms will go out October 26 and be due back to school by November 13. Delivery will be before Christmas.
- A reminder to families that this is NOT a fundraiser!

#### Twins Night

- We are hopeful that the 5<sup>th</sup> graders will be singing the National Anthem at the Twins game again this spring in the new Twins Stadium!
- Last year went well. There were 758 tickets sold last year.
- Tickets can be purchased for just admission or the concession ticket includes admission, a soda and a hot dog. Seats are all within a couple of sections that are next to each other. If you want to specifically sit with another family or friends, orders need to be placed together.
- The date for this spring and prices are yet to be determined.

#### Volunteer Coordinator

- Thank you to Heather Schultz who volunteered to head this committee.
- Nothing to report at this time.

#### Welcome Committee

- 20 families (of 35) attended the New Parent Orientation at Red Pine in August. A to Z booklets were placed on the desks of the children whose families did not attend. Julie Herron will be contacting all new families to make sure that their experience went well.

#### Open Forum

- The idea was brought up to sell food at the Back to School Open House in August. Idea was considered although there is concern for how busy that night is with sports and other obligations. Mr. Anger also noted that the food would have to be outside due to no space available in the gym.
- There was discussion on the main form of communication with the parents/families of Red Pine. Feedback is that the school website seems underutilized and not always up to date. Could more information/handouts from school be placed on the website to encourage families to use it more? Discussion followed with on the use of Listserve and Backpack online.