

Parents' Council Meeting Minutes
February 10, 2010

Attendees: Connie Smith, Penny McAfee-Hamby, Jayme Hansen, Anne Goodman, Vicki Wallace, Chae Hee Porubcin, Debra Ryan, Amy Lucas, Drew Boster, Bindu Alla, Beth Heaney (apologies for any omissions!)

- Anne Goodman opened the meeting with approval of the January meeting minutes.
- Anne discussed the financial report. The only real big expense coming out of the Parents' Council account soon will be Hy-Vee scrip. The treasurer's report was approved.
- Drew Boster, Director of Development, discussed the Endowment campaign and gave Annual Fund updates. Currently the Annual Fund is at \$171,000, and supports students, facilities, technology upgrades, etc. Drew used the analogy of a bank, whereas the Annual Fund would be a checking account and the Endowment would be more like a savings account, where we would only spend the interest earned. The Endowment is at \$2.8 million and will ensure the future of the school. Estate Planning/Charitable Trusts would be viewed as a vault in the "bank" example. Rivermont has not gone public with the Endowment campaign, as we are nearing 50% of the first phase of our campaign goal (we would like to be at 80% before going public.) Anne spoke about the Annual Fund classroom challenge, of which information was sent home on 2/8/10. Last year, parent participation was at 75% for the Annual Fund drive. With the classroom challenge and various contests to get families involved, Parents' Council is looking to increase the participation number this year. There is a minimum \$5 donation requested for Annual Fund donation—remember it's not how much you give, so long as you give. It is extremely important to show outside sources that Parent participation is huge at our school when asking for grants for Rivermont. Currently, the Faculty/Staff is at 100% participation in the Annual Fund. The first class to achieve 100% participation in the classroom challenge will get a special prize (decided on by that class). Last year the senior class won the challenge and they elected to have Parents' Council purchase flowers for prom. Penny asked about donating an item for the Auction and donating to the Annual Fund. Anne explained that these are two separate ventures, even though both would generate income for the Annual Fund. In order to have a donation counted in the classroom challenge, donate directly to the challenge, and give to the Auction at a later date. Remember, if you have more than one child at Rivermont and make a donation to the classroom challenge, the donation will count for each child's classroom.
- Beth Heaney discussed Pancake Tuesday, which was yesterday. It was a well orchestrated and fun event. In addition to a wonderful lunch, we dined in the true spirit of New Orleans Mardi Gras, listening to Jazz and Zydeco music. A big thank you to June McWilliams and the Parent volunteers that made Pancake Tuesday a great day for all!

- Amy Lucas talked about Red Wheel-our new frozen food fundraiser. The kick-off assembly will be on 2/25/10 at 10:45. Our representative from Red Wheel will give a short presentation and discuss prizes available to the kids for selling products. There are different prizes for lower and upper school that are age appropriate. We will be selling until 3/8/10. Delivery/pick up of the ordered foods will be on 3/25/10 from 11:15-12:15 in the cafeteria. (This is a correction on time from the January minutes.) The orders will be boxed by family name for easy finding and pick-up. This is an early out day due to conferences. It is imperative to pick up orders during this time, as there is no freezer storage available. If families are unable to pick up their orders during this time, they are asked to have a friend get the orders for them or simply not to order frozen foods for this fundraiser.
- Anne spoke about International Food Festival, which is coming up March 5th. The coordinators are Delia Meier, Shobha Babu, and Li Xiao. This is a 4th and 5th grade event through Parents' Council—volunteers will be called from these grades first to help.
- Other Business:
 - Parents' Council cookbooks and scrip was discussed. It was decided to have several “stations” set-up to sell these items at International Food Festival, in addition to having a parent volunteer sell when there is a lot of traffic at the school (like at Conferences, Book Fair, etc). These could also pair up with Rivermont Wear sales. Other ideas for disseminating cookbooks would be giving them to perspective new families, teachers, Gilda's club, etc.
 - Scrip was discussed. There have been a few instances where Parent's Council has actually lost money due to shipping costs, rather than being a fundraiser. An idea was brought up to have scrip orders be placed once a month (from GL Scrip) and as needed from local vendors, like Hy-Vee. This would eliminate small, one and two orders, and get a scrip schedule generated. It was discussed to have scrip order deadlines be the same day as Parents' Council meetings with turnaround being the following Friday for delivery. Beth Heaney will discuss this with Dora Gullickson, Scrip coordinator.
 - The Parents' Council room/office is in need of cleaning and re-organizing. Anne will work with Kathy Brindle on getting help for this project.

***THE NEXT PARENTS' COUNCIL MEETING IS MARCH 10, 2010 AT 5 p.m.
CHILDCARE WILL BE PROVIDED***