

**TRIADELPHIA RIDGE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
PTA PLANNING MEETING**

DATE: 9 November 2010

LOCATION: TRES Media Center

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 pm by Janet Currie.

**Approval of minutes from October meetings:** Motion to approve minutes made by Rebecca Gruber; second by Terri Brooks. Motion approved.

**Treasurer's Report (Rebecca Gruber):**

- There was not much activity between September and October
- Membership was about as expected: \$813 under budget
- Gift wrap sales have started to come in – about \$800 sales in cards
- Fall spirit wear sales were about the same as Fall 2009
- \$362 of direct donations to date, \$250 in additional donations expected
- Skate Night expense was approximately \$600
- Uncertain as to when “WeDo” expense will come through

**President's Report (Janet Currie):**

- Race to the Top (President Obama's Educational Initiative): Along with about 14 other states, Maryland is slated to receive hundreds of millions of dollars as part of this initiative. Howard County signed on with the state and will receive \$800,000 over four years. It was advantageous for the county to accept grant money, as counties will be required to comply with outcomes of the initiative whether they accept monies or not (Montgomery/Frederick counties declined); counties refusing funds would not have input into determining the outcomes of the initiative. The goal of the initiative is college preparation and global performance. Grant income will be used in Howard County for curriculum and teacher changes in the 2011-12 academic year. Methods of evaluating teachers and administrators may change as an outcome of the initiative. Expenses related to the implementation of Race to the Top will probably cost more than incoming grant funds. Additional information is available on the HCPSS website.
- Viridian: This green energy supplier solicited PTA members at the summer leadership conference; they will provide a bonus to TRES PTA for each family that signs up (similar to the offer made by Verizon a couple of years ago). The bonus is approximately \$2/family. Terri Brooks will investigate the viability of this option.

**Principal's Report (Kevin Mulroe):**

Parent/teacher/student conferences: students will be coming into first quarter conferences this year, to share progress on their self-determined goals. Reminders will be sent home to parents that students should attend conferences as well. The new format for conferences will reinforce positive behaviors with students present.

**Delegates (Terri Brooks):**

- At the most recent PTACHC meeting, folders about Howard County Library were distributed; many services relating to student assignments, homework, projects offered by the library
- Race to the Top: A committee is being formed to study the introduction of foreign languages into elementary school curriculum
- A G/T diversity subcommittee will investigate different ways students can be introduced to G/T curriculum, with respect to different learning styles and abilities
- The proposed 2011-12 school year will end on June 8
- There will be \$8 million less in revenue for the next academic year as compared to this year due to loss of federal stimulus funds
- New facility use procedures will be presented to the Board of Education on December 16

### **Committee Reports:**

#### Community Outreach (Lura Fleece):

- The coat drive went well
- We Care and the TRES Student Council will partner to conduct a change drive with students to benefit Howard County Head Start during the first two weeks in December
- Student Council will do a canned food drive the week before Thanksgiving to collect about 1000 cans (2 ½ cans/student) to be donated to Grass Roots.

Cultural Arts: The committed plans to partner with West Friendship Elementary in booking a math-related program in December or January.

Directory (Kathy Wildy): The directory was distributed in October; there were just a few mistakes; Dale Hopkins printed the director for TRES without charge; he also prints the TRES Newsletters. There was a discussion about how to show appreciation for Dale and/or provide him with a tax deduction document.

#### Family Programs (Karen Johnson):

- Dazzle Dash scheduled for December 4; fliers will go out in Friday folders. The entry fee has been negotiated to \$20 for families of 3 or more, or \$10/person. It is still unclear as to whether chorus will perform.
- Over 100 people attended Skate Night
- Next event is a dance in February

Hospitality (Marisa Knisley): On the Monday of American Education Week, the committee will have a table with breakfast and lunch. Classes will be sending invitations for AEW home this week.

International Night (Natasha Moulton-Levy): Plans are coming together well; entertainment is being scheduled; artifacts are in good shape; 55 families have RSVPed; will be soliciting help for arts and crafts prep; need assistance with labeling student artwork ,etc.

Memory Book (Cindy Skalny): Photos can be uploaded onto Shutterfly; the book cover is done: the winning design will be printed on the front, with 5 runners-up on the back.

Newsletter: Will come out the Friday before Thanksgiving.

Reflections: About 15 submissions came in. All participants will receive a gift bag.

School Supply Kits (Kelly Van Houten): Signed with the same company as last year (thereby receiving a discount). There will be options to order colored binders or order online. The kits will be associated with box tops.

Shoppers (Heather Dull): Box Tops brought in \$200 thus far (about half of what was raised at the same time last year); the 4<sup>th</sup> grade brought in the most box tops. 70 Safeway, 60 Giant, 7 Martins cards renewed.

Silent Auction: Planning is underway

Spirit Wear (Rebecca Gruber): Ordered items are to arrive at the end of November/beginning of December.

Staff Appreciation (Kathy Wildy):

- Pies in October went well
- Conference dinner on November 22 will offer soups, stews, chilis, salads. Good response so far.
- December event will be gift wrapping and cookies on December 17

### **New Business:**

A reminder about upcoming events: Report cards on November 15, International Night on November 19, parent/teacher/student conferences on November 22 and 23.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:03 pm.