

Minutes of the RPA Meeting on September 3, 2014

Attendees: Marjorie Stamper-Kurn, Julie Porte Vega, Debbie Deganshein, Mark Headley, Terry Weinstein, Amy Schoenblum, Ginny Fine, Bridget Rivezzo, Colleen Broderick, Anne Schreiner, Jessica Baiocchi, Marianne Mitosinka, Kristin Porter, Karen Kelley, Deborah van Eckhardt, Courtenay Martin, Anthony Carbone.

Minutes: The minutes of the last meeting were approved.

Comments from the Raskob Administration: Jessica reported that school is currently prepping for Back-to-School Night, which is Thursday, September 11, 2014 at 6:00 pm. BtS night is an adults only event. Elementary families meet in their child's classroom. Middle school families meet downstairs in front of the classrooms – then will visit the different classrooms.

Teacher/staff development day will be on Oct. 24 and will be part of EBISA Symposium series, featuring guest speaker Sam Goldstein, neuropsychologist, who will speak about resiliency. Students will still come to school – classes will be taught by the TAs. Marjorie will look into the possibility to getting Dr. Goldstein for a parent education gathering – Jessica will get info from Edee.

Raskob is still hosting tours for immediate placement. There are 62 families at Raskob right now and there is space for more students.

Chromebooks have been licensed and are being used in middle school classrooms. There are 27 of them. Writing classes use them every day, history and science use them also. Elementary uses Macbooks and iPads.

Treasurer's Report: Ann reported that the class of 2014 was the largest graduating class at Raskob, so funds will probably be lower for escrip, Amazon, and dues simply due to fewer students. Anne will report on the budget at the next meeting. We started this year with only \$1500 in the bank because we intentionally spent down our reserves last year to purchase Chromebooks, Kindles and lunch tables for Raskob. Our current balance is \$4,500 and 45% of families have paid their dues so far. The

RPA's goal is for 100% of families to pay dues (\$55 suggested, but any amount is appreciated).

Recruiting: The RPA is still looking for VP of Fundraising and a communications assistant to help Bridget. Bridget is an 8th grade parent and it would be helpful to train someone who can take this job on next year.

Other News from Marianne: Yik Yak is a new app that allows users to post anonymously and it has a lot of malicious content. Marianne suggests that parents get on to Yik Yak, which will make it uncool immediately!

Marianne will probably not be at Back-to-School Night. Packets of RPA information regarding dues, escrip, box tops, spirit wear and communications will be handed out. Julie will have the room parents introduce themselves. The RPA table will be in front of MS classrooms. At the table will be examples of spirit wear, which can only be purchased online (link to spirit wear is always in Raskob Notes.) Marjorie will speak about what the RPA is, Bridget will discuss communications and remind people to pay their dues.

A revised directory is coming out. Jessica agreed to add the RPA positions on the directory.

Communications Discussion: People have had difficulty getting WiFi at HNU when they log on as a guest. Jessica said that there have been WiFi issues at Raskob also.

A suggestion was made to set up buddies for new Raskob families. Terry Weinstein will be the buddy for elementary families and Julie Porte Vega will be the buddy for new middle school families. Jessica should advise Marianne of any new families so that we can welcome them and introduce the buddies.

RPA website access is on "Parents" section of Raskob website or, you can link to the url on Raskob Notes.

A suggestion was made to create an information page about how the RPA and Raskob communicate with families. Bridget agreed to prepare this and have it available at Back to School Night. It will also include information

about the RPA website. Tony Carbone said that he is in IT and could be a technology resource for families and the school.

Calendar of Events for 2014-2015

- Quarterly coffees will coincide with RPA meetings on October 1, February 4 and April 1.
- RPA will put on 3 thank you breakfasts for staff this year. All will be held on Thursdays: Oct 16, Jan 15, March 26. The first two will be put on by MS families and the third will be put on by elementary families.
- Book Fair will be the first week in December. Teacher wish lists need to be collected a little earlier than in the past. Also, we need to figure out how to keep track of wish list items that have been purchased in person and online.
- Parent Ed events will be in December and either February or April.
- Funds collection will be just before winter break for staff holiday gifts. There are 28 teachers/staff and the goal is to collect \$100 for each.
- Winter Concert will be on December 19th – the last day before vacation. Jessica will arrange for Raskob to provide beverages (coffee, tea, water and perhaps apple cider) and the RPA can provide cookies.
- Raskob Social will be sometime in March.
- Science Fair will be May 4-8 (RPA will not provide hospitality this time around.)
- Teacher appreciation luncheon will be on Wednesday, May 6. The cost of catering for the luncheon is usually \$400-\$500.
- Open House May 14. We will have pizza and will have a pizza donation basket. Ginny will get pizza. Parents will sign up to bring fruit or salad.
- Awards Night potluck June 4.