

Raskob RPA Minutes
1/9/14
8:40-9:40
California Room HNU

Attendees: Karen Cevallos, Marianne Mitosinka, Bridget Rivizzo, Marjorie Stamper-Kurn, Lisa Crawford, John Garfield, Jessica Baiocchi

Welcome and comments:

Jessica: Edee is unable to attend due to illness. We have hired 2 new TA's for elementary classes. 4th grade will start 1/10/14 and the 5th grade will start next week. We have sent an e-mail to try to book a room for parent education in March.

Review and approval of minutes (last 2 meetings): Both approved unanimously. (Karen will send minutes to Debbie to put on web site.)

Fundraising:

Lisa: We will have our first meeting to plan the March event on Sunday 1/12 at 4pm. We will come up with a name for the event and plan for how to publicize the event. Anne has volunteered to pay for food as well as to host. We would like to use e-vite and use the import feature to upload addresses. Idea: We can have RSVP address embedded in our present communication system as well. We will emphasize that the event is an opportunity to connect with the Raskob community. We need to decide the priorities for donations: Possibly: Garden and library, Jessica will bring the question to the staff in the next meeting.

Amazon associates account: \$150.00 raised in the 4th quarter (Oct., Nov. and Dec.) We should remind parents to use it as we approach other holidays. We could also encourage parents to broadcast the link to the wider community—friends and family. Bridget will create a blurb for parents to send out.

Parent Education: Marjorie: Dr. Michael Thompkins is booked from 7-8:30 on 3/27. We are waiting to hear about a room. He is a well established cognitive therapist that has written a book for teens. Our budget and cost is \$250.00. The initial communication plan is to start sending out save the date notices. We will ask for RSVPs. We will outreach to Bayhill and the EBISA group making sure that they know it is targeted to children with learning differences. We can ask them to send us RSVP numbers. Could we have a donation basket? Possibly we can put a donation basket in a "low-key" area. We will see if we get outside groups coming in. We can set up a specific Gmail RSVP address asking for name, class and school. Idea: In the future we could look at education events as fundraisers. Although the RPA has only taken on two education events, parents have presented the idea of

having “chats” in their homes. This would be a forum for taking on specific topics, with or without a specialist, where parents who are interested could address issues. One idea is that Gloria Tempestoso would host and facilitate a conversation on LD kids in college. We need to look for a date when it is not too close to other school functions. A possibility is the field studies week: April 28th. There is also a possibility to have parent discussions after coffee.

Raskob Cares: Marjorie: Committee is very small—4 signed up and only one is still interested. She is willing to organize food and carpools. Reporting about families in need can be anonymous and Edee can let us know if who could benefit.

Communication: We’re getting close to the Google Group launch—Dominique is no longer able to moderate. We need to find someone to moderate. Marianne will put it in the news letter. Someone needs to generate all of the copy for the plan, check the group, invite people and let them in. Once it is up and running it is a minimal time commitment but there is effort required to get it started. Without a volunteer, we do not have the capacity to begin this. We also need someone to help with the notes—an apprentice. There is a 20-hour volunteer commitment: Jessica can send out a letter to remind people of their commitment. There is a form on the web site that they need to fill out to get credit for hours. The hospitality committee also needs people to begin taking over and find out all of the things that they have been doing for teachers, staff and incoming families. The February RPA meeting is the quarterly coffee. Marjorie will invite Polly Mayer.

School Garden: The beds and irrigation system have been included in the plan for the whole school landscaping. HNU should be doing the irrigation and soil amendment. The RPA will set up the basics but teachers, classes and parent volunteers need to micro-manage from there on out. Edee has money to look at setting up the space: ie tables and chairs. This is a teacher decision.

Committee Reports:

Technology: Edee is working with technology consultant to see what we need. If we have a specific plan we might have a better chance of getting a new grant. This would be a good target for donations at the March party.

Library: This is a possible fundraising target.? Jessica wants a person to manage the library before buying the equipment (per advice from HNU librarian). We can look at funding someone for one semester—on-going is difficult given the ebbs and flows of RPA funds.

Closing Comments: In order to have more parent education, perhaps we could look at the webinar format. We need to define our goals for parent education if we want to develop this area more. Ideas for increasing involvement: We could have two meetings—one in the morning, one at night. We could have evening meetings around 5:30 and provide pizza and child care (with games or something fun for the students to do.) These models have worked in other schools.