

# Raskob RPA Meeting

February 4, 2015

## Attendees

- Marianne Mitosinka
- Phillip Wright
- Amy Schoenblum
- Mark Headley
- Ann Schreiner
- Gretchen Ferreira
- Karen Kelley
- Ginny Fine
- Bridget Rivezzo
- Amy Wright
- Colleen Broderick
- Jessica Baiocchi

## Agenda & Discussion

1. **Quarterly Coffee Speaker Polly Mayer.**
  - a. Educational consultant
  - b. Summer program is 6 weeks to 9 weeks
  - c. The program offers educational therapy with emphasis on 1:1 help, including crafts and games.
  - d. Themes: Paddington, Iliad, Odyssey
  - e. Summer test prep class
    - i. 8AM to 9AM in the morning
    - ii. Although times may not work for families that made summer plans, there should/will be alternatives offered to help families who may not fit into this schedule; stay tuned
    - iii. Will there be study help?
    - iv. Study happens at home. It's important to work with your students at home.
    - v. Try this book: 50 Tips to Help Students Succeed. The book places emphasis on the visual model of time.
    - vi. Also, check out Attitude Magazine (online)
  - f. Suggestion by Peg Dawson: Have central location for protocols of the house.
2. **Welcome and comments by RPA president.** (Marianne Mitosinka)
3. **Review and approval of minutes of the last meeting.** (Marianne Mitosinka)
  - a. Minutes approved
4. **Comments from the Raskob Administration.** (Stefani Wulkan, Jessica Baiocchi)
  - a. Nothing to report. Staff is busy with admissions.
  - b. Five new students have started or will start this year.
  - c. This is the lowest current enrollment in at least 10 years (Jessica's estimate).
5. **Treasurer's Report.** Update on finances. (Anne Schreiner)
  - a. Current report handed out at meeting.
  - b. No expenses this month.
  - c. Revenue coming from:
    - i. eScript
    - ii. Amazon
    - iii. Membership dues – 41 families have contributed so far (of 69); about 65%
6. **Parent Education Event on 2/12.** Update on the parent education event. (Marjorie Stamper-Kurn and Amy Shoenblum)
  - a. Upcoming:

- i. Amanda Vogel is all set for Feb 12, 7PM. RSVPs are coming in. Amy Wright offering to bring refreshments. Although she is not charging us, we'd like to give her \$100 stipend.
    - ii. Next coffee coming April 1; guest TBD
  - b. Have we considered a daytime event?
    - i. Polling data supports Wed or Thurs evening
    - ii. Raskob used to have daytime parent events
    - iii. **Action for next board:** start to poll incoming families about days/times for next year's events
- 7. **Raskob Social on 3/14.** Update on planning for our most important fundraiser. Get volunteers for flowers, beer, non-alcoholic beverages, greeters for the door. (Wanda Cole-Frieman and Anne Schreiner)
  - a. Wanda hosting at her home and is providing snacks, wine.
  - b. The purpose is to have a social event for parents to get to know one another.
  - c. Faculty is invited
  - d. Kids are not invited
  - e. The event includes a fundraising component.
  - f. There are opportunities to help out for event.
  - g. So far RSVP activity has been light. How do we increase RSVP?
    - i. Send a reminder through room parents?
    - ii. Should we address parents as they wait in the afterschool pickup line?
    - iii. Bridget will email people who have replied with any requests to support the event, about 2 weeks prior to the event.
    - iv. We will send reminders to people who haven't RSVP about every week.
- 8. **Fundraising Objectives for the Raskob Social.** Review fundraising objectives. Discuss letter and fundraising materials for the Social. (Marianne Mitosinka)
  - a. Invited Edee to speak for a few minutes
  - b. Goal is to not have to pay for a speaker
  - c. Fundraising ideas:
    - i. Balloon with prize inside
    - ii. Raffles are a lot of work, with little return
    - iii. List specific items that parents can give money to, which worked very well last year
  - d. Marianne read off list of items the school/students need
  - e. Last year Jessica went to teachers to see what they needed.
    - i. One of the items needed is an atomic clock, so that each classroom clock keeps the same time.
  - f. The list (of teacher requests) that was sent to Marianne (by Stefani Wulkan) has already been approved (by Raskob).
  - g. We get a discounted price on iPads through HNU.
  - h. **Action:** create a list of items and vote on the top items to sponsor at the event during the March 4 RPA meeting
- 9. **Book Fair.** Update on how the Book Fair went. (Julie Porte Vega and Carla Dartis)
  - a. Summary included in notes; some highlights:
    - i. Great turnout this year. Approximately \$600 was raised for Raskob, which will be used to buy books for classrooms.
    - ii. This represents a 9% decrease over last year's sales; however, more books were sold this year than last year.
    - iii. The decrease may have been attributed to moving the event to December.
    - iv. Online sales represented about 30% of total.
  - b. Does it make sense to have this coincide with Parent Ed night?
    - i. Yes, many parents walked from one event to the other.
    - ii. In the future, Parent Ed will try to align with the book fair.
    - iii. Suggestion: may sell more books if parents are allowed to take book on the spot.

- iv. Need to coordinate with the bookstore about getting around some these issues about book pickup, etc.

10. **Update on Next Year's Board.** (Marianne Mitosinka)

- a. Treasurer: Phil Wright
- b. Parent Ed: Amy S.
- c. VP Fundraising: Open
- d. VP Academic Affairs: Open
- e. VP Communication: Open.
  - i. Role consists of sending Thursday notes and reminders, sending reminders to Marlen, maintaining google calendar and website updates.
  - ii. Are we able to make this a remote job? It may be challenging since so heavily reliant on discussion and minutes from the meeting.
  - iii. Raskob staffing has a FaceBook page, but does not have resources to make it more robust. Would like someone to be able to manage this.
  - iv. **Action for Amy S. and Bridget:** Amy Schoenblum will write up response to negative comments to posted on Great Schools website. Bridget Rivezzo will post.
- f. Secretary: Open
- g. President: Open
- h. How do we fill these positions?
  - i. Timeline: need positions filled by ?
  - ii. Recruit people at Raskob social
  - iii. Suggestion: host meetings from 3-4 PM and offer a free hour of drop-in

11. **Closing Comments.** Reminder that our next meeting is Wednesday, February 4th.

- a. How do we emphasize Amazon?
  - i. Amazon Smile: Debby was looking into this
- b. Resolving traffic issues during drop-off and pickup: Have 8<sup>th</sup> graders receive training and help with afterschool traffic, i.e. "Safety Squad"