

Raskob RPA Meeting

November 5, 2014

Attendees

- Marianne Mitosinka
- Bridget Rivezzo
- Phillip Wright
- Amy Schoenblum (Sasha Carey, 6th Grade)
- Ginny Fine (Isabel, 7th Grade)
- Jessica Baiocchi
- Ann Schreiner
- Debora van Eckhardt
- Tina Sachs (Devin, 6th Grade)
- Liza Finkelstein (Oliner, 3rd Grade)
- Colleen Broderick

Agenda & Discussion

1. **Welcome and comments by RPA president.** (Marianne Mitosinka)
2. **Review and approval of minutes of the last meeting.** (Colleen Broderick)
 - Minutes approved
3. **Comments from the Raskob Administration.** (Jessica Baiocchi on behalf of Stefani Wulkan)
 - Regarding Friday holiday: Administration didn't know that it was going to be a day off. The master plan for campus allows for a potential new building. They are digging to determine whether this is feasible. It will be loud and dusty, so they are closing the school.
4. **Treasurer's Report.** Update on finances. (Anne Schreiner)
 - There has been little activity this month
 - Income
 - eScript, Save Mart and Amazon coming in
 - § How do we sign up for Amazon? Anytime we shop at Amazon, go through Raskob portal: www.raskobrpa.org
 - Jessica registered Raskob at the new Sports Basement coming to Berkeley. Parents will get a 10% discount, plus 5% goes to school.
 - December: expect See's candy revenue to start coming in
 - **Action:** Jenny to find out exact percentage we get back from See's Candy
 - Expenses
 - Teacher reimbursement request came in
 - Balance
 - We will end the month with balance of \$5300
 - Fundraising / Dues
 - About 54% of families have contributed towards dues, which is down from 71% last year
 - How do we get higher engagement?
 - § Goal is to get a higher rate of participation, not necessarily concerned with amount
 - Can we send something home (to come back) with kids?

- § For example, put a reminder in the kid's backpacks, such as a communication from the RPA with message that "we are lagging behind last year". Kids return donation to front office.
- § Message should include targeted spend, e.g. "this is where your dues are going"
- § The reminder letter to parents should include ways to support Raskob and be separate from other communications
- § Possible issue is too many communications from school, but don't want this to get buried if combined with another announcement
- All agree: we really need a VP of fundraising

5. Alumni Night. Update on this event. (Jessica Baiochi)

- The Alumni Night event started 5-6 years ago in order to bring students and parents back to speak to current families
- We need someone new to organize the event this year (Jessica will help).
- The ideal date would be early in the school year (to benefit current 8th grade students); however, should coordinate around breaks so that college alumni can come back.
- Rooms on campus are filling up for EOY, so that may not work.
- Would a spring event work?
 - The decision time for 8th grade students (to select a new school) is March. It would be helpful to have the event before this in order to utilize the insight of former students.
 - Applications actually start to become due in January, so better to have the event by EOY.
 - January may work. College alumni may not be necessary. They are not really in town enough to be beneficial.
 - Per Jessica, a few college students would be able to provide a longer-term view.
 - Ann Schreiner: if we can't get space here in November, we may be able to use her house
- **Decision:** Will target early January for the Alumni event (Wednesday or Thursday of the 1st week)
- **Action:** Jessica will blast date as soon as it's determined

6. Parent Education. Update on an event in early December. (Amy Shoenblum)

- Have a couple of parent Ed Nights per year
- The next Ed Night will coincide with book fair, therefore try to find author
- Looking for bigger name author for later in the (school) year
- Topics may include homework help, teen years (healthy relationships), dealing with adversity, growth mentality
- For the December Ed Night, considering executive functioning as the topic. Two potential speakers (see handout):
 - Carrie Lindemuth is potentially free
 - Strategies for Learning workshop was offered for free
- For Spring Ed Night (February-March), considering Amanda Vogel, whom would be able to speak on nurturing wisdom and grit
- **Decision:** Schedule Carrie Lindemuth for the December Ed Night. If she is free, propose small stipend
- **Decision:** Schedule Amanda Vogel (Nurturing for Wisdom) for spring
- **Action:** Amy Schoenblum will communicate fees for each speaker
- **Action:** Maryanne will reserve a room for the December speaker

7. **Book Fair.** Update on the Book Fair scheduled for 12/2 through 12/4. (Jessica Baiocchi on behalf of Carla Dartis and Julie Porte Vega)
- The wish list is completed
 - The book fair committee has met and tasked the big jobs; everything is moving forward
 - Contact the book fair coordinators if you have availability between Dec. 1 and Dec. 5 and wish to help
8. **Teacher Appreciation.**
- Holiday gift for teachers. When should we get this out?
 - Would like to give each teacher \$100
 - Suggested donation from parents is \$50
 - Enlist room parent to assist with collecting money
 - Use “room parent” drop-off in classroom to collect envelopes from students
 - Concern: discomfort with children handling money
 - **Decision:** Use the room parents to collect money. Use the drop box envelope addressed to “Marlen, for teacher appreciation”. Collect donations from December 1 – 12. Give to teachers on Dec. 17.
9. **Closing Comments.**
- Reminder that the Book Fair is December 2 – 4
 - Our next meeting is Wednesday, December 3rd