

Raskob Parents' Association
Meeting 12/4/13
8:30-10:00

California Room HNU

Attendees: Julie Porte-Vega, Karen Kelley, Edee BenAri, Anne Schreiner, Bridget Rivezzo, Marianne Mitoşinka, Lisa Crawford, Jessica Baiocchi, Karen Cevallos

Last meeting minutes: The online approval system is not currently working. We will return to bringing the minutes. Last months' minutes were approved, but Karen will bring them and these minutes to the next meeting.

Raskob Administration Report:

- Collection for annual fund has begun. We have already received 15-20 donations because of "giving" Tuesday. The online option is helpful. HNU will add Raskob as a drop-down item so it is even people can donate more easily.
- We have two new interns from HNU. Both are Psychology students and will work as TAs in the class, on the playground, and directly with students.
- Administration requests that RPA take on the garden. No one on staff has the expertise to get it going but teachers are interested in using the garden with students. Ian Kelley is a possibility for this job, but will need assistance. Marianne and Julie will contact Merritt College for info about their landscaping and Karen C. will try to find organizations willing to help. If we get the garden started, HNU might pitch in with "service days" supplied by some of the sports teams.
- Our "Non-public School Status" was renewed which helps with recruitment.
- There has been a new, second door added between the writing and science rooms assuring 2 exits. HNU responded promptly—3 days to complete it. The work included painting and new white boards,
- The staff runs disaster drills monthly. Upper grade students have a shelter in place space in the basement and the elementary students have one upstairs.
- The winter performance will be on Fri. Dec. 20th—the time is still to be determined.
- Lisa Jones and Karen DeGalan will be organizing a cookie exchange for Dec. 11th. Parents will bring the cookies.

Treasurer's Report:

- We received \$436.00 from e-scrip and one more family paid dues raising participation to 71%.
- No expenses this month with a balance of over \$7,000.00 and an \$1800.00 outstanding expense for carts and headphones.
- \$200.00 went to the speaker, which needs to come out of the general fund.
- Mini-grant program is only for teachers.
- The spreadsheet can be modified to include a general fund category with donor as a line item.

Fundraising:

- *Sees candy sales:* We grossed around \$3100.00 in sales with 31 families participating. We will net about \$900.00—very similar to last year.

- *Box tops*: \$45.00 was submitted and a competition for a class party will be begun to encourage students to bring in box tops.
- *On-line Mall and Amazon Associates* is beginning but we're not sure what it will net. These must be entered through the specific portal in order to benefit Raskob. Bridget can continue sending out reminders and making the link accessible and easy for families.
- *Safeway* is no longer paying e-scrip for credit card purchases.
- *March party (soiree)*: Anne has agreed to host. The date set is March 8th. The committee is now forming and will meet on Jan. 12th (Sunday). At this time, the committee will come up with an enticing name (hopefully). Julie Porte-Vega volunteered to help on this committee. Some ideas: Raskob Community Mingle, Spring Fling.....)

Book Fair:

- Carla and Becky did an excellent job.
- Sales were up 35%; the online option was a great addition.
- The only two improvements would be to get teacher wish lists sooner and to be able to track them online.
- There is a suggestion on the table to offer Raskob parents a continuous online option with Luanne's book store, but she has not been approached about the idea.

Parent education:

- We have no official update from the committee.
- A parent not on the committee has an idea about showing a movie about Dyslexia so she will be put in contact with Marjorie.

Committee Reports:

- *Technology*: We did not get the grant but will meet with the Assistive Technology Consultant, Jennifer, to work on a "wish list" so we can start looking at costs and budget. Jennifer is already planning to meet with some of the staff and the students.
- *Building and Grounds*: We're waiting to hear from HNU. At this point there hasn't been communication so Edee will look into it.
- *Library*: We are not buying a self-check out system right now because there is no one to implement it. We would need an intern who would cost about \$600.00-\$800.00 per month. If we were to write a grant it would be a capital grant. HNU will tell us how much the system will cost and Edee will work on her budget.
- *Raskob Cares*: This committee is currently not functioning. We can't refer families to it before it is started. Marianne will look at volunteers to see if someone would take over as chair.
- *Teacher Appreciation*: Collecting for teachers gifts now,

Communications:

- Google group is in limbo.
- Discussion over whether we send out too many e-mails to parents. The consensus was that they need the reminders.

Closing Comments: Next Meeting will be on 1/8/14