

**Mary Rieke Elementary  
General PTA Business Meeting  
December 3, 2015; 7:00 – 8:14 pm**

**I. Call to Order:** The Rieke PTA General meeting was called to order at Rieke Elementary at 7:00 PM, December 3rd, 2015 by Interim President Nate Wood. Notice was given to all PTA members via an email of the Rieke Rapper. A quorum of Board members as stated in the standing rules (majority) was present. Kes Wold was introduced and appointed as recording secretary for the meeting.

**II. Approve Minutes**

**MOTION** to approve minutes from May 19, 2014 and October 15, 2015 was introduced, seconded, and approved unanimously.

**III. Principal's Report**

Principal Torres discussed the Right Brain regional art initiative, in which schools bring in art residents to integrate them into curriculum and schools receive money for each art resident. Beth Nelson, a parent in the Hayhurst community, was introduced as a new Educational Assistant. There was a discussion about the Rieke Field, which is owned by PPS but the turf is owned and maintained by Portland Parks & Recreation. The field is on the PP&R schedule for upgrades in 2017. In the interim, teachers and parents should remind students to adjust games/activities to reduce the risk of injury. Meetings have been held with Rieke staff and PP&R staff. There was a discussion about creating a Rieke Field subcommittee. There was a discussion about the ongoing PPS boundary change initiative. There was call for donations to the food bank and the holiday drive is going on now. Susan Brodahl was thanked for her leadership with the Food Backpack program and Melissa Light is now in charge. Principal Torres discussed the Schoolwide Expectations initiative to create a positive environment for the school. Reward tickets are given by teachers and staff for signs of positive behavior. Parents are asked to provide feedback on the program. There was a discussion about potential issues, such as students' name not being drawn or students losing the tickets. Ideas on what could be given as prizes are welcome.

**IV. Reports of Officers**

- **President:** The interim president highlighted the website ([www.riekepta.org](http://www.riekepta.org)) as a source of information and thanked Omar and Selma Filipovic for their efforts in creating/maintaining the website. He recognized the PTA Board members and encouraged others to volunteer and help. He highlighted the Volunteer Spot, the list of events, the holiday drive, and the donate button on the Imagine Fund section. The Rieke PTA currently has 170 members. He discussed how the Rieke PTA won a gift basket from Aspire Dental because parents/kids participated in the Halloween candy buy-back program. There was a discussion about opportunities to share information with suggestions including web site submission, "office" hours during pickup/dropoff, and better use of our Facebook page
- **Treasurer Report:** Co-Treasurer Amy Michaud reported on behalf of Justin Norman that everything was going fine. More detailed reports to follow as things pick up. Amy also introduced herself as the Special Ed Liaison, and presented Nate Wood with a thank you card and gift cards for his service as interim president.

**V. Committee Reports -** Covered above in Reports of Officers.

**VI. Old Business**

- **Book Harvest:** Katie Unflat said that 1,250 books had been collected, which is the highest number to date. We shared with the Children's Book Bank, which redistributes books back to PPS families in need.
- **Rieke Service Club:** Katie Unflat said there is a sorting party for gift drive collecting on Dec 14. There is a tag on the Board when you walk into the front doors (also online) you can take for purchasing gifts for selected families. A number of gifts remain that need to be purchased. There is also a service club project for the Oregon Food bank on January 2nd. They need help packing food. Interested parties should contact Melissa Light.
- **Science Fair:** Kim Meyers and Katie Unflat are co-chairing the event, which will be on Thursday 2/25 in the Rieke cafeteria. Entry forms are in the next Rieke Rapper and all grades can join in the fun, either as participant or spectator. The Science Fair is separate from the OMSI night, which will be the last Monday in April.

- Food Pantry: Families in need typically take home a box of food to get them through the winter break, when backpacks aren't available, but there was not enough donated last year to do the food box. There are also more families this year. The program needs snacks for kids.
- Raise it for Rieke Auction: The auction will be on April 16 at the Melody Ballroom. A silent auction will be done first with more items than last year. A live auction will be done upstairs. Melissa Chureau and Melissa Light need help procuring auction items, marketing/logo, decorating, etc. Volunteering will kick off in January.

**VII. New Business:**

- PTA Merchandise: There was discussion about interest in creating items that have the Rieke logo. A Rieke parent can help with the production.
- Standing Rules and Special Election: There is interest from two parents for president and vice president. The Rieke Standing Rules need to be revised to insert Vice President into the officer section.
  - a. **MOTION** to change the standing rules to insert Vice President into the officer section proposed, seconded, and approved unanimously
  - b. **MOTION** to nominate Jill Brown as Rieke PTA vice president was proposed, seconded, and approved by unanimous consent
  - c. **MOTION** to nominate Holly Ingram as Rieke PTA president was proposed, seconded and approved by unanimous consent

**VIII. Announcements for upcoming Events**

- Writer's Tea (12/9) – Katie Unflat was coordinating
- Connect to Kindergarten (2/10) – Kassie Hughes was coordinating
- Science Fair (2/25) – Kim Meyers and Katie Unflat were coordinating
- Art Fair (TBD) – There will be a kick-off discussion in January.

**IX. Open Discussion**

- There was a discussion about the Art Fair, including the possibility of integrating it into the Auction and/or Carnival and the need for volunteers.
- There was more discussion about the Rieke Field replacement project, including the type of materials they may use
- There was a discussion of the impact of the homework survey. Teachers were given the full report and asked to review it and to see if they were consistent with the grade level guidelines. There was interest in knowing if 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade projects would continue.
- Parents were interested in the status of the Oregon Battle of the Books effort.
- Topics taken from the list on the wall for future discussion include front door safety (locking), more parent/PTA involvement, and a Rieke culture night.

**Adjournment:** Interim President Nate Wood adjourned the meeting at 8:14 PM.