

ROLAND PARK COUNTRY SCHOOL  
PARENTS' ASSOCIATION  
MINUTES  
Friday, November 4, 2011

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

There was no Executive Board meeting.

FULL BOARD MEETING

Meeting was held in the Trustee Seminar Room and was called to order at 8:04AM by Tammy Fawcett, President.

Present: Tammy Fawcett, Carol Witz Hunt, JoAnn Hitt, Mary Alane Downs, Kathy Blue, Mary Louise Wooley, Jenny Washburne, Cindy Cook, Aileen Grebow, Tonya Hardy, Lisa Haywood, Ingrid Polk, Diane Sugiuchi, Georgia Usry, Kim Mitchell Wolf, Nancy Mugele, Steven Shramko, Jean Waller Brune.

Absent: Ingrid Obrecht, Mary O'Hern, Theresa Leatherbury, Donna Sturtz, Jessica Bertozzi, Sheeba Mathew, Lee Roebuck, Cindy Rohde and Amy Sponseller.

Meeting called to order at 8:04 am.

- **MOTION: Minutes of the October 7, 2011 Parents' Association meeting were unanimously APPROVED.**

**President's Report** (Tammy Fawcett):

Mrs. Fawcett thanked the parents for help with all of the recent school activities that need support. She announced the Blood Drive will be held on November 21. Also mentioned was the school's support of the Kami's Jammies Program of the Casey Cares Foundation. On November 15 the Lower School will have a dress-down day. The Upper School will wear pajamas and donate a dollar or bring in a new pair of pajamas. The Middle School will sponsor a week long collection of dollars and pajamas.

**Head of School Report** (Jean Waller Brune):

Mrs. Brune announced that the Red Hot Chili Cook-off, scheduled for Sunday, November 6, still has room for cooks and tasters.

The 2012-13 school year will begin earlier (before Labor Day) on August 30 and last 176 days. Orientation will take place on August 29, which will count as an official school day. Most of the private schools in the area are trending to longer school years to assist in completing their curriculum.

There are 668 students at RPCS this year. The school budgeted for 650. There have been 85 new applications for next year, so far. 35 of the applications were made online. 4 out of 5 Visitation Days are filled and there is discussion of adding another day.

The new open vista of the school is more welcoming now that the Leyland Cypress have been removed from the bridge north. Hopefully the remaining Cypress will be removed soon.

Mrs. Brune remarked that the visiting students feel welcomed at RPCS and the school's reputation in the community is positive thanks to our parents. The Fall Sports banner has been hung. It acknowledges the tennis, soccer and field hockey teams. The new fence (in place of the cypress trees) will have places to hang banners.

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*A research program in effective teaching sponsored by the University of Pennsylvania on the top ten girl's schools in the nation will take place in the near future. RPCS is the only Baltimore school selected to participate. Roland Park Country School provides relevant education for the 21<sup>st</sup> century. There is rapid change for which our students are well prepared. Our students have grit, creativity, are problem solvers, are collaborative and have rigorous, relevant, respectful relationships with teachers (who are trained with schools attuned). Teachers are on top of their curricular game and teach to the student's abilities.*

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Roland Park will be reviewing the contract with Garrison Catering this year. The school is also considering including lunch within the tuition. Any change would happen in the 2012-13 school year. The cost of the Quid Nunc would also be folded into the tuition.

Sally McMillan is scheduled to be the Crane Lecturer and will speak today to the girls about women's suffrage.

Former Headmistress, Anne Healy is ill. She was the author and epitome of the resilient, cooperative spirit as it applies to the school philosophy.

#### **Treasurer's Report (JoAnn Hitt):**

Mrs. Hitt reported that the PA dues have been transferred to the PA account. Only two families refused to pay dues.

#### **Lower School Network Report (Donna Sturtz):**

Mrs. Sturtz submitted a written report.

#### **Middle School Network Report (Kathy Blue):**

Mrs. Blue reported that there were 40 people that attended the 6<sup>th</sup> grade parent social. It was held in the Lenci Room and was a success. The 7<sup>th</sup> grade social was well attended, but the 8<sup>th</sup> grade had the lowest attendance of 20.

#### **Upper School Network Report (Mary Alane Downs):**

Mrs. Downs reported that there was discussion in the Upper School Network about the stress levels of the students. The girls are low on sleep and have little down-time. Ereni Malfa, Upper School Head, is reviewing the tri-school schedule. She is also revisiting the idea of a sports/PE study hall option for girls that play sports. There is ongoing discussion of a structured

study hall rather than “free time.” The Robinson lecture was not well attended at night. The Crane lecture was well attended.

**Holiday Fair Report** (Steven Shramko):

Mr. Shramko reported that 20 of the 46 vendors from last year are returning. At this date we are \$2,000 behind last year’s total pre-fair income. There are 10 new vendors. Kaleidoscope and the Book Store will have tables in the vendor area.

World Wide Winter is the theme of the Fair. The Lower School games will be moved to the gym MPR. There will be a silent auction of wooden RPCS letters that will be decorated by Jean Brune, Ereni Malfa, Maintenance, MS Music, Athletics, (possibly) Art and Mr. Shramko. Greens will be taking orders online again. The bake table has 62 volunteer bakers. There will be baskets to raffle.

**Volunteer Report** (Ingrid Polk):

Mrs. Polk reported that the Volunteer Committee is busy staffing the Holiday Fair. They are also working with Nancy Mugele and Mary Louise Woolley on the online volunteer form for the Lower School.

**Concessions** (Carol Hunt):

Mrs. Hunt reported that Peppers is doing double the business that it did last year and the income represents the increase in sales.

**Web Secretary** (Mary Louise Woolley):

Mrs. Woolley added to her written report that she needs some feedback on the redesign of the Parent Pages.

**Resale Shop** (Georgia Usry):

The income from the shop is ahead of last year. Mrs. Usry noted that the Lower School girls may come down with an adult during the day to buy uniforms at the February sale.

**Post Prom Committee Report** (Aileen Grebow):

Mrs. Grebow reported that the committee has had its first meeting. They still need a communications chair. They also need 10<sup>th</sup> grade parental involvement so they will know how to carry on next year. They have visited Timonium Fairlanes. Committee parents will be staffing Peppers and serving breakfast over the course of the next few months to raise additional funds for the Post Prom.

**Alumnae Association Report** (Kim Mitchell Wolff):

Mrs. Wolff reported that there are 12 cooks and 75 people signed up for the Chili Cook-off. Football will be on a large-screen TV and beer and wine will be served. Tickets are \$15.

**Hospitality Report** (Tonya Hardy):

Mrs. Hardy reported that the Employee Appreciation Week is scheduled for April 30 to May 3. They are looking for volunteers. They are also asking Starbucks for a one day donation of coffee.

**Mentoring Committee** (Lisa Haywood):

Mrs. Haywood reported that surveys have been sent out to summer buddies to see how effective the buddy system is working.

**Nominating Committee Report** (Jenny Washburne):

Mrs. Washburne reported that the committee will meet next Friday for the first time. They will be looking for names of possible PA officers from current parents and Kaliq Simms.

**Communications** (Nancy Mugele):

Mrs. Mugele notified the parents that Gilman will be having a helicopter land on its field for a pep rally today. The Newsletter includes the specific Thanksgiving donations that will be made to Paul's Place. The strategic marketing that is being conducted for RPCS is studying a new branding with logos, website and talking points for parents.

No further business before the Board, meeting was adjourned at 9:22 AM

Respectfully Submitted by,  
Carol W. Hunt