**Mary Rieke Elementary Meeting Agenda**

**General PTA Business Meeting**

**October 15, 2015; 7:00 – 8:36 pm**

1. **Call to Order:** The Rieke PTA General meeting was called to order at Rieke Elementary at 7:00 PM, October 15, 2015 by Huntley Morrison. Notice was given to all PTA members through an email. A quorum of Board members as stated in the standing rules (majority) was present.
2. **Principal’s Report**
* Principal Torres discussed the boundary review process currently being conducted by PPS. She showed a PPS online video that described the process (available at [www.pps.12.or.us/departments/enrollment-transfer/9522.htm](http://www.pps.12.or.us/departments/enrollment-transfer/9522.htm)). The PPS website has a schedule for community meetings running between November 9 and 23. On 10/29, the PPS Committee will release growth management proposals.
* Principal Torres showed the school ratings reports cards from U.S. Department of Education. Oregon asked to be exempt for all-school ratings because of the lack of previous Smart Balance results. The rating report did include progress scores on various indicators. Overall, Rieke did very well compared to the Oregon performance and performance of a “Like School.” We will provide a link to the Rieke PTA if people want to read more.
1. **Unfinished business**
* Approve final 2015-2016 budget: Huntley provided a summary of the 2015-2016 budget. The motion to approve the budget was introduced and seconded.
* Playground: Jim Meurer summarized current efforts to upgrade the playground. He told us that Rieke’s playground is in the budget to have the existing playground surface re-done (no later than June 30th). We are looking into adding a few pieces that are relatively cheap (less than $2,000). Principal Torres also stated that the soccer field will be improved by Portland Parks and Recreation during summer 2017.
1. **Reports of Officers**
* Fundraising – Jim Meurer discussed new and continuing fundraising efforts, including Box Tops, Amazon Smile (same as Amazon but Rieke receives 0.5% of every purchase), Fred Meyer Rewards program, Field to Vine, and Imagine Campaign. A question came up about Scrip and Jim mentioned that we do not currently have a Scrip coordinator to implement the program. Jim also discussed why the Rieke PTA needs to be raising more money than past years have had to raised, which is the slow decline in the reserve account.
1. **Presentation on behalf of kids with special needs:** Amy Michaud discussed how parents can talk to their children about kids in their class with special needs. Examples include children with diminished or nonexistent immune systems, children with autism, and children with behavioral issues. One of the key things is to communicate to kids is that all kids have the same wants and needs but have different ways of communicating them. On the topic of autism, Amy discussed the myth that kids with autism are socially blunted and can’t make friends. Related to kids that are immune compromised, Amy reviewed the PPS policies on deciding when to keep children at home due to illness. She discussed why it is important to follow these policies to help protect the immune-compromised children. Amy mentioned that there is a private Facebook page for Rieke parents with special needs children. People can be added by speaking with Amy and her email is available on the Rieke PTA website.
2. **Volunteer Appreciation:** Huntley thanked individuals that have helped with Book Fair, Community Care Day, Bulletin Boards, Schoolhouse Supplies, Back to School Coffee, Back to School Picnic, and Picture Day
3. **Special Thank You:** Huntley acknowledged and expressed appreciation to Erin Barnett, who is the previous Rieke PTA President. He also thanked the volunteers for various Rieke activities, including Omar and Selma for the Rieke PTA website and Melissa and Pascal for the Field to Vine event.
4. **Homework Survey –** Nate provided a summary of the Homework Survey that the PTA conducted in June. The survey report is available on the Rieke PTA website in the “Documents” section.
5. **Upcoming Events**
* Food Pantry -- Rieke supports 12 families, which covers approximately 40 individuals. Melissa Light will be taking charge of the program in January. She asked people to contribute, either directly with food or with cash/card donations.
* Service Club – Service Club meets once a month to do some service project. The biggest event is related to the Christmas holiday season. The group’s first event was at the Audubon Society in September. Next project is CHAP (Children Healing Arts Project) and is happening on 10/22/15. An email blast will go out.
* PTA Clothing Center
* Dinner for teachers during conferences
* 5th grade movie night – 10/16/15 at 6:30 pm at Rieke
1. **Volunteer Needs –** Huntley asked everyone to look at the Rieke PTA website for volunteering opportunities.
2. **Reports of Committees**
* Dr. Jamie – She mentioned that Rieke is the only certified Green Team in the state. She summarized what each class grade is working on related to science.
1. **Announcements**
* Mr. Swehla discussed interest among teachers for improving cultural inclusivity into Rieke programs and mentioned an interest in developing a Rieke PASS group.
* Next Community Dinner and General PTA meeting will be December 3rd, 2015.

**Adjournment:** President Huntley Morrison called the meeting adjourned at 8:36 PM.