

PLATTE RIVER ACADEMY
PTO Board Minutes
November 9, 2009

Attendance:

Board Members: Nicole Cimbura, Pamala Carter, Crystal Lytle, Susan Klee, Debbie Montelli, Cindy Osoro, Shelly Torgerson, Dana Ulrich

Visitors: Bob Barber, Jill Nelson, Kathy Gallegos, Diane Phillips, Lisa Olson

Meeting called to order at 6:33 pm.

1. Approve Minutes

Minutes were distributed for October 12th meeting. Cindy moved to approve the minutes. Debbie seconded the motion, which unanimously passed.

***After the minutes were approved there was brief discussion about earmarking funds brought in by the Run/Walk for the Middle School sport uniforms. It was said it would be a moot point until a fund request comes in due to the fact that nothing was voted on by the board in previous meetings. However, since the Run/Walk is a sponsored event, the money should and would go towards sports uniforms should another fund request come in.

2. Treasurer's Report

Eric distributed financial report for October 1st through October 31st via email. Crystal moved to approve the treasures report, Pamala seconded the motion, which unanimously passed.

3 New Business

a. Staff Birthday Breakfast :

- i. PTO is in charge of Staff Birthday Breakfast on December 8th at 6:45am. Sign up sheet to be passed around to serve approx. 60 people. Have food in teacher's lounge between 7am to 7:15 am.

b. Casino Night Update: Debbie has decided she does not want to do the Casino Night fundraiser. She feels she has too much on her plate and would like to focus on making the fundraisers PTO has better.

c. Committee Chair Thank you ideas – Crystal would like to find a way to say “thank you” to the committee chairs who put so much time and energy into PRA. Her idea was to have a potluck tea or brunch for all those who

have helped, maybe in the spring. Nicole suggested magnets that the PTO could give and had been looking into pricing. Most felt it was a great idea. Cindy suggested that some might not like the idea and that is why some of these people are volunteering “behind the scenes” and that maybe we could just write thank you notes. For now the idea has been tabled.

- d. Cosa Bella Handcrafts: Ana Yacaman sent PTO a request to do a fundraiser by selling her personal handcrafts and then giving PRA a 30% contribution of her profits. Most felt that this was a conflict of interest for the PTO and the school. If the PTO did this for one person or business, then the PTO would have to do it for all persons or businesses. It was then suggested that maybe the PTO have a Holiday Bazaar next year so all whom would like to participate in this type of capacity would have the opportunity. Another suggestion was the bulletin board for business cards to be displayed in PRA foyer discussed in the previous month’s meeting. Pam said she would let Nicole know of the Board’s decision.

4 Committee Reports

- a. Bake Sale –Nicole stated that there was still an issue of people working bake sale giving away left over bake sale item to kids without money. It was asked by administration to stop the free give a ways on all bakes sale items, popsicles, or any food items for sale at lunch. The committee has since started taking the left-over baked goods to the fire station.
- b. Box Tops – Debbie reported that box tops were going well and that she has received the first 1000 box tops.
- c. Coca-Cola – no report
- d. Grocery/Scrip – Pam stated that Karen O’Keefe is now NOT the new chair and she will put something in the newsletter to find someone. Also, she will continue to educate parents on the benefits i.e. Safeway you can receive 4% back and Shell gas is also a participator.
- e. Hospitality – Crystal reported that Veterans Day is going well. All is ready to go with 2 sessions set up. Susan Kelly has volunteered to have the bake sell committee provide food for the refreshment table and everything is ready.
- f. Hot Lunch/Milk –Café de France is the new vendor and is up 100% while offering hotdogs and hamburgers. Showing to be a very positive change. Also, due to the snow days, there will not be a reimbursement of funds. Hot lunch was able to cancel on one of the days, but on the day Subway was the vendor it could not be cancelled. So, Dr. Stueven picked up the order and delivered all the sandwiches to the Denver Rescue Mission.
- g. Middle School – Debbie reported that there is a dance on the 20th for the 7th and 8th grade only.
- h. Peach Sales – no report

- i. Restaurants –Nicole stated that Red Robin is in January. Debbie will talk with Cheryl to get corporation gift cards to get the extra percentage. Also, maybe look at starting the event earlier since last year seemed to be packed earlier in the beginning hours. Possible date is January 24th.
- j. Sally Foster – Shelly reported that an online check is still coming in.
- k. School Supplies –Cindy reported that a partial check of \$188.30 was not paid in full but was now taken care of is resolved.
- l. Silent Auction/pavilion - Debbie reported that she was still waiting on permits and final payments. She says that there may be an issue of adding another French drain to prevent ice on slabs for safety.
- m. Social –Dana reported that social committee will now have 2 events for the year down from 3, due to the fund change from the Run/Walk. The first will be December 4th for a movie night. The first movie will be at 5:00pm and the second movie will be at 7:00pm. She will have a vote to see what movie will spark the interest of the kids and then decide from there. She is going to have popcorn and candy, with possibly thinking of purchasing the popcorn machine – depending on price. She would like volunteers to come at 3:30 for set up. She is expecting approx 300 people to attend.
- n. Panther Run/Walk – Cindy reported that the Run/Walk was a great success. The numbers are not in yet, but would like to do it again next year. It was a well received, community event. Diane stated that no PTO funds were used for the event; it was all done on sponsorship. She credited her committee members for the success of the event which was done in a short period of time. Nicole asked if they could put something in the newsletter with the winners and thank yous. Cindy and Diane said they would take care of the newsletter. Most of the board was in attendance which Diane said was positively perceived by the PRA whole. Pam then said although it was a great success, she felt that the emails and phone calls the board members received put pressure on them to attend the event. And although she adjusted her schedule, if this is a precedent the PTO board would like to set, then all board members should be made to attend all PTO functions.
- o. Spirit Wear – Crystal reported there was still an issue with the adult hoodies and the sizing of them. Chris Hovater is still trying to get it fixed. A new vendor has been found and all sweatshirts should be in before Thanksgiving. Also, a new order will be placed before the holidays with guaranteed delivery before break. Pamela Garlinski will co-chair with Chris next year to eventually take over the following year since she will not have any more kids at PRA.
- p. Student Directories – Shelly will possibly shadow Donnell to co-chair for next year.
- q. Used Uniforms –Jamie is possibly looking for another rack /rounder. Debbie has wire racks that she is willing to sell to PTO for a good cost if need be.
- r. Teacher Grants –no report.

- s. Teacher Appreciation – Shelly reported that the teacher appreciation week theme is set and is going well.
- t. Bulletin Board –no report

5. Updates –

a. Tech Update: Lisa Olson reported that the tech committee was working on a new website for the school. With the new web site, the committee was going to try and implement a new school store for the PTO so that families could purchase hot lunch, spirit wear, peach sales, and other fundraisers on line with credit cards. The draw backs were it would be an “all or nothing” process by credit/debit card only (no checks or cash) and would include a 4% transaction fee for all transactions. The fee would be for the credit card company (not a profit for the PTO) which is unavoidable. Most liked the idea, but did not like the “all or nothing” approach. Lisa said that the tech committee would more than likely be running a trial period with a small number of people and then run reports to see the results. They would like to have this up and running by January 2010. Most of the board felt we needed to get more of the schools feed back before a decision could be made so a survey could be sent out with SAC’s help. Lisa agreed to get with SAC to put forth a survey and go from there.

b. Charitable Solution Tax – Nicole informed everyone that there is a New Colorado Tax Law which is a Charitable Solution Tax. It was a \$10.00 fee required by any organization that gets sponsors or donations. The law will eventually require organizations to list any and everything an organization gets donated so Nicole cautioned us to be aware of this for the future. The details of the law are still being worked on and as she gets more details she will let everyone know. As for now, she paid the \$10.00 requirement.

6. Vice Principal Report – Mr. Barber reported that the Board Election results came out “Charter Friendly” and that has been a perception in the neighborhood schools of worry. The worry stems from rumors that the neighborhood schools will be converting to Charter schools with the new elect Board if a Charter friendly President is elected. Mr. Barber assured everyone that is not the case and that these are just rumors but the election is a great thing for PRA. Also, he said that the Governing board was looking at adding 2 more school days to the calendar due to the unforeseen snow days. There are no more buffers in the calendar if any more days are taken causing the middle school to be under the required hours for the year. The Governing Board is looking at the Monday after Christmas break and another service day towards the end of the year.
7. Governing Board Report – Mike Rourke reported that he was impressed with the PTO for the Run/Walk and expressed thanks on behalf of the Board and the Athletic Department. He said it has been a great year so far for the Athletic Department but they were looking at selling sports apparel to help with costs and hope that doesn’t step on any toes with the PTO. As far as the Run/Walk, he has a few suggestions for the future. He said we needed to look

at the keys to making it fun, whether we keep a school event or open it further into the community, the PTO could look at advertising with the local running shops and/or the recreation centers. He also said using the timing person was great and that should be done in the future. He then spoke of the budget for the school. He said the board sliced the deficit to \$16,000 and got back to a \$120,000 surplus so they were able to rethink staff pay increases. He feels they have a very healthy cash reserve. He also spoke of the Charter renewal coming up so with the new BOE they will be looking at a 10 year renewal versus a 5 year renewal. He said most of the work will be done in January and February with the approval in April. They do have the information from North Star Academy's Accreditation to help.

The next meeting is scheduled for December 14, 2009 at 6:30pm. Note: Dana will switch with Eric for Governing Board meeting. No further business to be discussed. Meeting adjourned at 841pm.