

**Rio Del Mar School  
Parent Alliance General Board Meeting**

September 8, 2009  
**DRAFT OF UNAPPROVED MINUTES**

Board Members Present: Athena Wolfe, Maria Townsend, Corrie Slyder, Lisa Bird, Michelle Moyer, Andrea Burrell, Cindy Evans, Sheila Hurley.

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Board Members Absent: Claire Andrews.

Others Present:

Principal Deborah Dorney, Maria Meade, Ben Roeder, Linda Orosco, Micheal Jacque, David Borba, Jennifer Allen, , Cherie Kilian, Jannen Harris, Kimberly Grover, Rachel O'Hara, Jan Adamson, Cybele Candau, Christine Riccabona, Corinne Kaermmerring, Alysén Lanagan, Justina Bryant, Kristen Barrett, Eliece Horton, Denise Russo, Stacey Ely, Michaela Cecchini, Linda Moore, and Rebecca Jot.

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1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m. in the school library at Rio Del Mar School by President Athena Wolfe. Board members and attendees introduced themselves.
2. **Minutes:** The minutes of the May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2009 meeting were distributed. Attendees were given time to read the minutes. A motion was made to approve the minutes. The motion was approved.
3. **President's Report-(Athena Wolfe)**
  - a. Athena welcomed the attendees and described the meeting protocol. She stressed that the PA Board alone is not the Alliance but is composed of the entire Parent Body. She encouraged attendance and involvement and thanked those attending. In an effort toward efficiency, our goal is to adjourn meetings at 8 pm.
4. **Treasurer's Report (Maria Townsend)**

Maria explained that all the money the Parent Alliance made last year is paying for expenses of this year. This year's money raised will be used for next year. Attendees were asked to review the budget for a few minutes and ask any questions. Also available for review was the Balance Sheet listing assets and liabilities, as well as Allocated Funds.

  - a. Changes to the budget were noted during the presentation as follows:
    - i. Income- (deduct \$500 from Parent Donations).

Expenses- (add \$500 to Technology and reduce \$1500 from Math Supplement-Lower Grades).

A Motion was made by Denise Russo, to approve the budget with the changes noted above. Motion was approved by majority vote.

b. Miscellaneous

i. Balance Sheet: Allocated classroom fund balances vary depending on the individual class parent donations. What is shown on the report is a reflection of the current balance, not necessarily what was donated or already spent. Several questions about Classroom funds such as what happens to the classroom money if it's not spent within the year. (It goes into the General Fund, but most teachers spend their entire allocation).

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ii. Principal Dorney commented that teachers would prefer a class donation in lieu of materials at the beginning of the year to save storage space. In addition, teachers are often able to get better pricing on supplies. The administration is reconsidering how this will be done for next year.

iii.

A question was asked of Principal Dorney as to how or why we lost classroom aides and how much it would cost to have 2 aides. Principal Dorney replied it would cost \$30K to hire two aides, and that we would not be able to pick and choose the aides, i.e. we would get the next two aides on the PVUSD hiring list.

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Parent Donations: A call for parent donations to the PA General Fund on Back-To-School Night only brought in \$600. The budget reflects \$2000 income from donations. A parent commented that others have asked what is the amount they should donate to the General Fund. A quick calculation showed that the PA must raise funds the equivalent of \$175 per student. It was discussed how we can increase parent donations. Some parents felt another request describing the suggested amount and ways the money would be spent be sent out. Included would be a more manageable breakdown (i.e. \$20 a month).

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5. Principal's Report-(Deborah Dorney)

a. Back-To-School Night was a success. Teachers said they had high attendance.

b. STAR scores from last year were mailed home. Rio's overall school score will be official on Sept. 14<sup>th</sup>. We've continued to make growth every year. This year we broke a score of 900 (the state standard is 800). The highest possible score is 1000 so we still have room to grow.

- c. School Library- Welcome to new interim Library Technician, Melissa Ramos. She will probably interview for the permanent position in the next few months.
- d. This year's school-wide focus is in Writing. Teachers are looking at skill development across grade levels for student mastery.
- e. Rio School Site Council is in need of members. They will meet next Wednesday 9/16/09 at 3:30 p.m. Members will take an in-depth look at implementing the School Plan. The group can set the calendar and time that works best for them. Contact Principal Deborah Dorney if you have questions or interest.
- f. Principal Dorney's goal is to improve the school-to-home communication through: Radio Rio, School Messenger, Rio Minders (2x month electronically) and printed copies in the office, and the Rio Del Mar website. We are also going to implement email messages once all the school community email addresses are entered. Athena wants people to know to check and subscribe to the Parent Alliance Blog.
- g. The Combo Classes- A parent asked for an explanation for the class changes in Kindergarten and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade. Rio had to make changes after the first week of school. When classes are built in the spring, they are based on enrollment predictions. We knew we lost class size reduction for Kinder and 3<sup>rd</sup>. We ended up having a huge influx of new students in the fall. Rio accrues a large financial penalty for classes exceeding 20 in 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grades. We had to use staffing ratio formulas to create new classroom configurations creating movement of children.

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## 6. New/Ongoing Business

- a. First Morning Coffee Update- (Andrea Burrell)
  - i. It went very well. Set the tone for a great year. One parent was confused as to its new location. Better communication next year.
- b. Rio Minder Editor (Claire Andrews)
  - i. Claire absent. No report.
- c. Harvest Festival (Athena Wolfe)
  - i. October 2<sup>nd</sup> 5-9pm. Food, games, DJ. Lots of community fun! We still need volunteers to organize the booths for Cake Walk, Pumpkin Patch, Face painting; Volunteers are being handled by Denise Russo and Lorna Jordan.
- d. Innisbrook Fundraiser (Stacy Ely)
  - i. Deadline Sept. 14<sup>th</sup>. Order online. Money comes back to the school with the voucher parents print at home. Delivery is mid-October.

- e. Drive For Schools (Corrie Slyder)
  - i. This fundraiser runs from September 23<sup>rd</sup> through Oct 18<sup>th</sup>. Drawing to be held on October 25<sup>th</sup> to win a 2010 Toyota Prius. Tickets will be ready for disbursement to teachers on Sept. 24<sup>th</sup> or 25<sup>th</sup>. Rio will receive 3000 tickets and will send an envelope of tickets home with each student. An incentive is planned for free Harvest festival tickets if parents return their Drive for School tickets at the Harvest Festival.
- f. Monte Foundation Fireworks Ticket Sales (Athena Wolfe for Claire Andrews)
  - i. \$15 a ticket purchased through the school. Rio gets \$10.50 per ticket sold. They will be for sale in the office.
- g. Volunteer Coordinator Positions (Cindy Harrison Evans)
  - i. We have a shortage of volunteers. We need:
    1. Staff Appreciation Chair
    2. Life Lab Chair
    3. Grant Writing Chair
    4. School Improvement Chair
    5. Dinner Dance Auction Chair
    6. Online Auction Chair
- h. Student Directory (Justina Bryant)
  - i. Justina is handling two different databases: The Class Roster database, and the Student Directory. The Class Roster information is intended for use within the Classrooms, and by the Parent Alliance for school wide communication such as the Rio Minders. The Student Directory requires permission from parents for inclusion of some or all of their information, as it is a more “public” document. The Student Directory is distributed only in electronic format. Classroom parents are working with Justina on gathering the class rosters and the Directory permission slips.
- i. Shelving for Room 27 (Athena Wolfe)
  - i. One gorilla rack donated. We need another rack/shelving.
- j. Parent Education (Lisa Bird)

Parent Alliance is exploring the development of a Parent Education program. Lisa Bird mentioned programs such as Positive Discipline, KidPower, and Family Wellness. Attendees were told to contact Lisa if they were interested in serving on a Parent Education committee.
- k. Additional Comments or Suggestions:

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- i. Parent Suggestion: New Parent Orientation to help sort out all the basics. Don't need to wait until next year. Info still valuable now.

- 1. New Agenda Items for Next Meeting;

**7. The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm**

Respectfully Submitted

Lisa Bird, Recording Secretary

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