

Riverview High School PTO
Meeting #2
February 16, 2022
6:30 pm

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Heather Deem.

President: Carrie Longstreth
Vice President: Heather Roupas
Treasurer: Stephanie Vespi
Secretary: Heather Deem

6:30- Carrie Longstreth called the meeting to order.

In attendance: Dr. English, Mr. Hewitt, C. Longstreth, H. Roupas, S. Vespi, H. Deem, E. Aftanas, K. Migely, D. Polsiak, A. Bauer, K. Harley, G. Biondich, L. Loughren, A. Hoolahan, K. Lio, W. Hudak

-Meeting began with a presentation by Stacey from Food Services. Stacey went over our Nutrition and Wellness policy and guidelines. There are standards that we need to follow. What passes as healthy food is surprising. If it says “whole grains” on the product, it passes as a whole grain. That includes items like, “Flaming Hot Cheetos”.

-Fruits and vegetables are offered to all students and encouraged, although that doesn’t mean that they take and eat them.

-Stacey mentioned that if your child is still hungry after lunch, they are not taking all of the possible free items available.

-Left over, untampered food is boxed and donated.

-Every three years the administration reviews our policies.

-The wellness committee is always in need of volunteers. These volunteers help with things like: the Turkey Trot (cancelled this year) RVTV mental health segments, the school's Grow Pod, etc.

-Breakfast "to go" carts have not been happening because of covid restrictions but free breakfast IS being served from 7:20-7:40am in the cafeteria.

-You may be able to find more information on our school's website.

Principal's Update:

Mr. Hewitt spoke about winter sports winding down and spring sports beginning to have open gym time.

-The gym floor is not as bad as previously thought. We are still waiting on word as to what exactly needs to be done but it has been dried out. The roofing company will pay for repairs to the roof.

-Senior awards at the Oaks Theater have been scheduled and the underclassman awards in 10th St. auditorium as well.

-Graduation is also being planned to be back to normal.

-Kathy Migely expressed concern about the kids lunch situation. As of now they are separated and at times, facing the back of student's heads. No talking or socializing is allowed and is punished. Heather Roupas asked if all of this will end when we are able to go mask optional. Both Dr. English and Mr. Hewitt agreed that yes that would all end.

-Dr. English will bring up and will recommend to the school board in March that our district should go mask optional. He will do that only if Covid numbers continue to improve in our district. He feels cautiously optimistic that we will be able to be mask optional this spring.

-Several parents asked why so many other, much larger districts are mask optional now and why we aren't. Dr. English can only guess that it is from an enormous amount of pressure in those areas and he is committed to listening to the experts and following their guidelines as he is not a medical professional.

-Emily Aftanas brought up an incident at a boys basketball game against Apollo Ridge where that school refused to wear masks and a confrontation ensued. Mr. Hewitt mentioned that all we can do is what we're doing, contacting each school and telling them that we are wearing masks. Emily asked if we should have a protocol in place.

-The School Board is meeting three times in March. The meetings are regarding the budget, a study session and a voting meeting. Residents/parents are only allowed to speak in the

voting meetings and for only 3 minutes. It is suggested to submit your questions and comments ahead of time by emailing them.

-Heather Roupas asked if the water filling stations are open. They are open but the water fountains that you would sip from are not. Heather asked about the vape detectors. They are in every bathroom and have not eliminated vaping but have significantly decreased it. The detectors also alert them to loud noises in the restrooms. No one can slam a seat in there without the administrators knowing it.

-Deb Polsiak asked if Jr. High would be able to get back to any normal social events and activities soon. Mr. Hewitt said the Key Club is ready to start planning as soon as they are able!

-The Raider mural was painted over this past Fall. Parents in attendance asked why that happened. After a bit of a pause Mr. Hewitt and Dr. English said that it was deemed “no longer appropriate” and that the school was wanting all Raider marketing, gear, logos to be the same “R” and the same colors. The Raider Pirate mural will be replaced with either the “R” flag or a ship of some kind. When that will happen is up in the air. As of now an “R” flag wall sticker is up in the gym.

-Parents in attendance mentioned that it seems moral is at an all time low. Heather Deem mentioned that some banners from the gym were taken down to update years ago and never replaced, senior banners, yard signs need to be done and given in a timely

manner- the seniors are not feeling the love from the district this year. Powder Puff was canceled, pep rallies canceled, bonfire canceled....not every parent is able to make their own senior athletic posters and have it hung up for their senior.

-The gym should be covered in banners, signs and accomplishments.

-School spirit/pride and enthusiasm needs to be brought back in some way. Everyone has to do their part in order to accomplish that.

-Can we boost moral and have a community school spirit store or club? Could we form a business class that would arrange for a student store of some kind? Fox Chapel's set up was used as an example.

-All PTO board members agreed that the PTO is willing to help with that in any way.

-Dr. English mentioned that Ms. Deluca was making shirts, Dr. McNally wanted to get a new 3-D printer and that Ms. Gardner would like 6 new air quality monitors at \$70 each. The air monitors were immediately approved by the board, as were the T-Shirts. The 3-D printer sounds great but the board needs the cost information.

Dr. English and Mr. Hewitt said thank you and left the meeting.

Treasurer's Report:

-Stephanie passed out her spreadsheet. The balance as of now is \$28,358.00. There is still money coming out of that number from ski club and dance.

-Moochie Donatucci, who organizes the ski club, asked if they had a past balance and what that was. Carrie Longstreth mentioned that there is a past record of ski club and dance club money being separate, however it really isn't that way any longer. If either club needs anything, all they need do is ask.

-Katie Harley mentioned that it is way more convenient to let PTO manage all the money as one lump sum. If either group wanted to manage their own funds, then they should start a Booster Club. We took a vote to keep both group monies as a lump sum....everyone agreed....K.Harley made the motion, K. Lio seconded the motion.

PTO Dance :

-Katie Harley said that last year the number of dancers was 16 and this year they are up to 28. They are hoping for a normal recital, which will be May 21, 2022. She is hoping to be able to sell tickets as that is a big fundraiser for them.

-Katie is retiring this year from running the dance program and Wendy Wilton is also retiring as registrar. They are in need of next year's volunteers. The volunteers receive free dance lessons for their children and both ladies will be around to help the new volunteers if needed.

Ski Club:

-Moochie was not in attendance but passes along that ski club is going very well. They have 58 members.

-Gretchen Biondich suggested the idea of ski scholarships for kids that cannot pay for lift tickets/gear.

-We discussed perhaps donating gear as well to the club.

Prom Committee:

- Prom fundraising is handled by Patsey Kvortek. The Prom will be at The Oakmont Country Club on May 6, 2022.
- PTO helps will prom promenade by donating \$600. This will take place at the 10th St. Auditorium. Hoping as with everything, that this will be back to normal.

Initiatives:

-Mr. Lindeman is the president of the teacher's union. The teachers have been so generous by getting senior banners made, paying for the light rentals for HOCO, making the t-shirts for Elizabeth Loughren this past fall. We are very thankful.

-We aren't sure where that senior banners stand because the community is replacing the gas lanterns along the boulevard on which these banners have been hung.

-Parents in attendance emphasized the importance of getting some spring activities planned for everyone's mental health. Perhaps we could plan an outdoor spring pep rally or spring fling. K. Migely stated..."Throw on your tossle cap and come out!"

Teacher Appreciation:

-This week is organized again this year by Heather Roupas. It takes place in May. Last year the Oakmont Deli did a great job individually wrapping sandwiches for the teachers. Pam Billet provided wrapped goodies.

-Gretchen Biondich offered up black table clothes and flower vases that she has extras of.

-Anne Bauer, Gretchen Biondich, Stephanie Vespi all offered to help Heather with organizing. It will probably be either May 5th or May 12th.

-Deb voted to adjourn meeting.

Meeting ended 8:33 pm.