

**Richmond PTA General Membership Meeting Minutes 2/25/10**  
**Richmond School Cafeteria 6:30PM**

Board Members in attendance:

Jeanne Kaliszewski, President  
Andrea Obana, Special Events Coordinator  
Mary Klinger, Vice-President  
Carol Shaw, Secretary  
Jeff Hopper, Advocacy and Outreach Coordinator  
Amy Starr Thomas, incoming Secretary

Members Absent (Excused):

Jessica Gifford, Treasurer  
Mitsue Ham, Assistant Treasurer  
Karin Schulz, Teacher Representative

A quorum of members as stated in the Standing Rules was present

Notice of meeting was given on-line through the listserv

Attachments: Flyers from Mt. Tabor Middle School

Discussion Items:

1. Welcome
2. Presentation by Jason Breaker, Mt. Tabor Middle School Assistant Principal, Michael Bacon-Brenes, Japanese Immersion Teacher, eighth grade students (see handouts attached).
  - a) Two 8th grade girls presented their experience at Mt. Tabor Middle School. They explained that 6th and 7th grades are mixed in the JMP program and that 8th graders are mixed with students outside of the JMP.
  - b) Jason Breaker announced that tours will be given at Mt. Tabor on March 3rd and 9th. Opportunities are given on the tours to ask questions regarding the JMP program. Mt. Tabor is a SUN school and has lots of opportunities for encouraging "positive risk-taking behavior."
  - c) QUESTIONS  
Q: Do you see benefit of proposed 6-12 Immersion program?  
A: (Michael Bacon-Brenes, teacher) First reaction from a teacher's perspective is that it is a very good model for teacher collegiality. (There is strong teamwork at MTMS). The FLAP grant has allowed teachers to work with high school and middle school teachers much more closely. This benefits students. Kids benefit from diversity of multiple languages/focus of study on a second language. From parent perspective there would be a loss of music and athletic programs at Grant High School as they could not be duplicated.  
A: (Jason Breaker, Middle School Administrator) This would create a vibrant setting for learning. 6-12 configuration makes it easier to work on collaboration and to

articulate immersion program. Many parents have a safety concern, but there are ways to arrange the building to address this. There is a great potential of older kids to mentor younger kids.

Q: I am excited about the cohort in Middle School. Is that a benefit in middle school?

A: Transitions- cohort model negates transition risk factors. From a teacher perspective (Michael Bacon-Brenes) By 8th grade the teachers know the students and parents very well and can support them well. In high school the kids want to have extra friends, connections outside of the JMP.

### 3. Technology Update, Jeff Hopper

a) The Richmond Technology Team was developed because of the grant Richmond received for mobile laptops.

PPS Members include:

Bev Pruitt

Bill Aubrecht

Scott Armstrong

Greg Davis

Richmond Parent Volunteers include:

Jeff Hopper

David Gregor

Justin Brown

Rian Schmidt

Web administrator

Russell Chamberlain

Tech happenings:

A. The mobile laptops have been in use since December in Bill Aubrecht's 5th grade class. Bill has integrated the laptops and a smart board into the classroom.

This month, our Media Specialist Scott Armstrong has had most students 1-5 in front of the laptops learning how to search the PPS library stacks.

In the coming months we'll see how to best support 2 additional laptop labs for other classrooms as well as in use for student testing. The laptops are crucial for testing in the future since the computer lab may become a classroom.

B. A new phone system is being deployed within Richmond which will allow calls out and in to classrooms. I believe this means teachers will have voicemail. This also provides a way to have school announcements by the principal and I think replaces the inside bell? New network cable being run to classrooms enable richer web experiences when using 30 laptops at a time in a classroom.

C. BigTent. Kristina Kallen in the office performed the official kickoff of BigTent which is going to help facilitate communication for Richmond. BigTent shares many web 2.0 capabilities of a site like FaceBook, but it maintains private content better, has a public facing and internal calendars, and provides the infrastructure to host discussions, post volunteer opportunities, even have a good place for want ads for babysitters, items for sale, etc without being invasive on our emails! Ideally content is presented to you that you want to see (that's the Web 2.0 way). So if I am a PTA member, interested in volunteering, on the Technology Committee, and a second grade parent -- I shouldn't miss a memo on anything that I'm interested in!

#### DISCUSSION:

E-mails are being sent in batches for people to join. Today we have 144 members so far. The hope is that you can be selective about information, but you can have access to all information related to Richmond. One reason we are moving to Big Tent is that the ONK listserv administrator is graduating after this school year.

The log-in will be integrated into new Richmond site. The red-dot technology being used to build each school's new website is in progress. The launch has been delayed until possibly spring.

A lot of people think there is a lack of communication this year about what is happening at the school. Can we put Shinbun out weekly (as was done in the past) on Big Tent so people will check it?

Can meeting notes be posted on Big Tent so everyone can access them? Yes.

There will be moderators for RSF, PTA, ONK. In general though it will be a self-moderated group with non-anonymous postings. Rules will include that there can't be any talk about students, teachers. We will need a policy statement from PPS.

#### 4. Blog for Richmond, Shawn Bowman

a) In connection with the Science Fair which will happen on April 23rd, Shawn Bowman is starting a Blog for Richmond. On March 24th, to celebrate Ada Lovelace Day, bloggers will post about women in science, math or technology who have inspired them. The Richmond blog will be a supplement to the Science Fair. Kids can e-mail and it will be posted on the blog. More information about the blog and the Science Fair will be sent out on the listserv to parents. The Science Fair will be held after school on April 23rd. It will be an opportunity for students to give a presentation about an experiment, a scientist or a science concept.

#### 5. Announcements about upcoming PTA/school Events

- March 2nd RSF Pizzacato Fundraiser
- April 22nd Run for Richmond (Formerly Spring for the Arts), also Earth Day, a fundraiser to raise money for Art and Science Enrichment

- April 23 Science Fair
- May 8th Spring Festival
- April 1st Budget information comes out from PPS
- April 20th Local School Advisory Committee at 5PM. Anyone can come and have a conversation with the principal.

6. Announcement about PTA Board for 2010-2011 school year

Returning members:

Mary Klinger, currently Vice President, will return as Richmond PTA President

Jeff Hopper, currently Advocacy and Outreach Coordinator will return as Vice President

Amy Starr Thomas, incoming Secretary

Andrea Obana, Special Events Coordinator

Jessica Gifford, Treasurer

Mitsue Ham, Assistant Treasurer

Karin Schulz, Teacher Representative

7. Adjournment