

Rice PTA Board Meeting Minutes
August 17, 2009

The regular meeting of the Rice PTA Board was held at the Rice Elementary Library on August 17, 2009. The meeting was called to order at 11:40 am by President, Jennifer Deen. A quorum was present.

President's Remarks:

- Jennifer Deen thanked everyone for coming and announced that everyone should go ahead and eat their lunch (a short break was taken so everyone could get a plate of food).
- Ruth Davis announced that volunteers are needed for helping with the Kindergarten lunch period during the first week of school and at Meet the Teacher. Sign-up sheets were passed around. A sign-up sheet for monthly bakers was also passed around.
- Ruth announced that Rice has become an Exemplary rated campus and commended the teachers and staff for working so hard to achieve this rating.
- Jennifer passed around a conflict of interest form and announced that everyone needs to sign it. A copy is included in each committee notebook.
- Ruth announced that a sign-in sheet was also being passed around.
- Jennifer thanked everyone for coming to the meeting, thanked Ruth for her help, and thanked Shawn O'Dell and The Diner for providing lunch.
- Ruth thanked everyone who has been volunteering in the office.
- Jennifer asked everyone to introduce themselves. Each board member took turns standing and introducing themselves to everyone on the board.
- Ruth asked that everyone pickup their committee notebook which includes a name tag. She asked that board members wear their name tag while on campus and be prepared to help answer questions during Meet the Teacher on Thursday. She also requested that if you have not already done so, please go to the TISD website and complete the volunteer registration process. A TISD volunteer badge is required to volunteer on campus.
- Ruth announced that a copy of the PTA schedule and important forms and documents are included in each notebook. Everyone should make note of their budget. You must get board approval prior to exceeding any budget.
- Jennifer noted that the first newsletter deadline is next Tuesday. She also announced that Rhonda Hopkins has agreed to co-chair the Splash Day committee and asked that everyone to be on the lookout for someone to volunteer as Rhonda's co-chair. Ruth stated that if you are aware of anyone who would like to volunteer, please put them in touch with her – the more volunteers we can put on each committee the better.
- Jennifer discussed that changes to the board this year include the elimination of the Historian, Circle of Dads, and Texas Public Schools committees. Also, the Aluminum Can Drive and Environment committees have been combined.
- Jennifer advised that if you are in need of more than 100 photocopies, a work order can be made through the Rice office but must be made a minimum of at least one week in advance. Copies are also available at OfficeMax for \$.05 per copy (tell them you are with Rice PTA) and you may submit a PTA reimbursement form for the cost. You must put a copy of anything you are sending on PTA's behalf in the PTA box on the stage. Additionally, the PTA box contains extra forms if needed

and disposable cameras that are available if you are attending an on campus event and want to take pictures to be included in the yearbook.

- Jennifer also advised that the PTA has a drawer in the office and that if you have money to turn in, you should place it in the drawer and inform our Treasurer, Justin Rowe, so that he can come and pick it up.
- Jennifer reminded everyone that all board members must be members of PTA and you should turn in your membership application as soon as possible. The cost has gone up from \$5.00 to \$6.00 per person due to an increase in Texas PTA's fees.
- Jennifer reminded everyone to be sure and greet the new staff, and PTA is providing breakfast for the teachers tomorrow morning. She and Ruth displayed gift tote bags that will be given to the teachers at an event later in the year.

Principal's Remarks:

- Mrs. Sturm announced the following enrollment numbers:
There are 70 new students enrolled and the average class sizes are Kindergarten 20, 1st Grade 22-23, 2nd Grade 21, 3rd Grade 22, 4th Grade 20, 5th Grade 26-27. Overall Rice is very full.
- Jennifer Sturm announced that there are several new staff members at Rice this year and several positions that have changed. Leslie Wood is now Secretary, Kristin Reinert is the new Attendance Clerk, and Coreen Renshaw is the new Receptionist. Carolyn Ortega is a new 3rd grade teacher and Lisa Schwartz has moved from 3rd grade to Instructional Specialist. Ms. Dickey is a new Library Aide. The Lifeskills classes have changed to Precision Teaching classrooms for students with Autism and will be taught by Jamie Womack and Melissa Reynolds with two new assistants. Brandi Lopez is the new Spanish teacher and Jennifer Thrasher is the new music teacher. These are all great additions to the staff.
- Mrs. Sturm announced that she is thrilled with our Exemplary status – the teachers have worked very hard. Owens, Jack, and Rice all achieved exemplary status.
- Mrs. Sturm remarked that there were lots of changes at the end of the last school year and everyone is excited about their new positions.
- Mrs. Sturm announced that a new Rice website is in the works and will be unveiled soon. A new parent handbook will be available on the new website. A discussion took place regarding the potential to send out electronic newsletters similar to those sent out by Hubbard Middle School. This may be something that could be developed in the future.
- Mrs. Sturm announced that the theme for this year is *Inquire, Inspire, & Impact*. A lot of teacher training took place over the summer months and everyone is ready to get started.
- A discussion took place regarding the limit on the number of students per classroom in 5th grade. Mrs. Sturm explained that TISD will not take any action until after school has started and they have an exact count on the number of students in 5th grade.

Secretary's Report:

- Carrie King reported that the minutes of the April 20, 2009 and May 12, 2009 board meetings were approved.
- Carrie reported that the minutes of the May 5, 2009 general meeting were approved.
- Carrie announced that Brookshire's is currently offering 50 bonus Box Tops when

purchasing 10 participating items that are displayed in their circular. The offer is only good through August 18th.

Treasurer's Report:

- Justin Rowe reported that a copy of this year's proposed budget is included in each notebook. There is no current activity to report.

Committee Reports

Fundraiser

- Kristie Copeland reported that our fundraiser will continue to be cookie dough sales and will take place September 1st through September 15th. Along with the token prizes provided by Fresh Country, she is working on obtaining a portable DVD player and a mini Acer notebook computer as grand prizes. Last year we sold 3294 boxes and she hopes to beat it this year.

Directory

- Jennifer Deen reported for Melanie Wick that we will be using our new directory system this year and information will go home with students during the first or second week of school. The cost will remain \$2.00.

Box Tops

- Ruth Davis reported for Daphney Young that we will continue to collect Box Tops this year and that Ranger the fish is still alive and well.

Spirit Gear

- Amy DeWalch reported that we have a new logo for spirit gear this year and will be offering some new styles, including a football jersey and cheerleading style t-shirt. A flyer is included in the PTA packet going home with students. Sample shirts will be available in the office to help parents choose sizes. Additionally, there is a typo in the deadline listed in the flyer.

Family Fun Night

- Kristen Sheets reported that she has met with her Co-Chair Sara Lundy, and they need volunteers and suggestions. They are discussing the use of armbands vs. tickets, a haunted house in one of the hallways, and setting up the stations so they are less spread out. Family Fun Night will take place on October 23rd.

Communications

- Carrie King reported that our website is now up and running at www.riceelementarypta.com and there are links on our website to our Facebook and Twitter pages. If there is anything you would like included on the website regarding your committee or event, please email her and let her know. The more information we can get out to the parents the better.

Membership

- Julie McDaniel reported that the PTA membership fee has gone up to \$6.00 this year due to an increase by Texas PTA. Membership applications will go out in the PTA information packet to parents.

Newsletter

- Jennifer Smith reported that the newsletter deadlines are listed on the flyer included in each notebook. Deadlines are generally 4 days after the end of each six week grading period. She requested that you email her any suggestions or questions. Acceptable formats for submissions are listed on the flyer.

Hospitality

- Jill Laymance reported that we are providing a Back to School Breakfast for the teachers tomorrow. Brookshire's and Starbucks have donated food and Karen Horton has donated gifts.

School Supplies

- Susie Loftquist reported that each teacher will be given a highlighted list of those students who have purchased school supplies. Please be a helper in your child's class to make sure school supplies get to the correct students. There will be a few additional school supply packets available for sale during Meet the Teacher.

Reflections

- Ruth Davis reported that the theme this *Beauty Is* The deadline for submissions will be October 16th.

Old Business

Acquisitions

- Carol Foley reported that we are still planning on installing a new playground near the 4th grade building. Carol has written several requests for grant money over the summer and has received some but has some still outstanding. PTA reserved just under \$20,000 toward the playground and Virginia Hodges was able to secure an additional \$4,000. We received a \$5,000 grant and a grant of a substantial discount by a playground equipment company, and we are hoping to receive more. The playground will be completely handicap usable, but this will increase the cost. To raise additional funds, a *Climbing for Change* fundraiser is planned in September wherein students can donate their loose change to help out and a letter will go out to parents with details on how they can help. At some point TISD is supposed to remove the existing playground.

New Business

Acquisitions

- Ruth Davis reported that this year's Acquisitions committee is in place. Members are herself, Jennifer Deen, Jennifer Sturm, Tammani Frazier, Stella Jones, and Lynette Maynard.
- Stephanie Bice began a discussion regarding unused funds from the intended gift to Rice by the Fifth Grade class of 2007. A statue was the originally planned gift but the purchase fell through. Instead, six new picnic tables were purchased to replace the tables between the 4th and 5th grade buildings. Not all of the designated funds were spent and Stephanie suggested and made a motion that the funds be used to

supplement this year's 5th Grade field trip and graduation activities. However, further discussion took place regarding the intent of the funds and how they could best be used. Jennifer Deen recommended that we table the discussion for a future meeting and the motion was withdrawn.

Announcements

Teacher Welcome Breakfast	August 18 th
Meet the Teacher	August 20 th 3-5 pm
First Day of School	August 24 th
Newsletter Deadline	August 25 th
Cookie Dough Fundraiser	September 1 st - 15 th
General PTA Meeting & Open House	September 8 th
Reflections Contest - <i>Beauty Is . . .</i>	September 14 th - October 16 th
PTA Board Meeting at Papacita's	September 21 st 11:30 am

The meeting was adjourned at 1:17 pm.

Carrie King, Secretary

Jennifer Deen, President

Approved:
