

**RIVERDALE KINGSBRIDGE ACADEMY
PARENTS ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES - 10/6/2014

Library

Co-Presidents Taffy Dabby and Amy Carr presiding. List of participants available upon request.

Meeting called to order at 7:05 PM.

Co-Presidents Taffy Dabby and Amy Car welcomed the group to the second PA meeting of the school year.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT Lori O'Mara welcomed the group. Ms. O'Mara presented parents with an extensive overview of emergency procedures and drill protocols at the school. As in past years, all students appear well instructed on procedures and protocols. In addition to routine drills that would be responding to a variety of possible scenarios, every child also receives a thorough in-class lesson on emergency procedures. Ms. O'Mara seemed very pleased with both students' and staff response to date. Ms. O'Mara encouraged all parents to register for Notify NYC, a valuable source of city-wide emergency information and alerts. Parents had the opportunity to ask more specific questions.

Ms. O'Mara shared news of the addition of Ms. Loving, RKA's new librarian. This hire will allow for greater access by the students to the library and its resources.

On October 15th, all 10th and 11th graders will take the PSAT. Parents should encourage their students to get a good night's sleep in preparation for the exam. On October 15th RKA will also host its annual college fair. More than 60 city, state and private colleges are expected to participate. Parents are encouraged to attend with their students. Also in college admissions news, through a generous grant from Senator Klein, high school students will again have the opportunity to take day trips and tour colleges for a very nominal fee.

October 17th will be "Dress Like a Teacher" day. This is "school spirit" effort new to this year.

Following the Principal's Report, Co-Presidents Taffy Dabby and Amy Car welcomed the group. Ms. Dabby reviewed some of the ideas discussed at the Executive Committee meeting which addressed low parent participation at meetings and fundraising events. Parents were encouraged to think about ideas for encouraging more parental involvement. The idea of a "Parent Phone Tree" was discussed. Ongoing efforts to build our PA email list were also discussed.

FUNDRAISING. Ms. Dabby discussed the idea of sponsoring fundraisers to raise money for specific school "causes" - ie, the annual fall Car Wash to raise funds for school athletics, the winter arts festival to raise funds for music and arts programs etc. It was suggested that more focused fundraising will give parents the opportunity to support those efforts that are of particular interest to them and their child/ren.

Other ideas that were discussed included giving parents the opportunity to "pre-pay" for events (ie; Car Wash), having a 50/50 raffle at fundraising events, exploring new fundraising opportunities at the annual Pep Rally (ie; PA-sponsored BBQ). The winter fundraising event with the basketball/entertainment group the Wizards was revisited. A 6th grade parent suggested an alternative group called the Court Jesters. Ms. Dabby will follow up on their availability and costs.

In the absence of PA Treasurer, Taffy Dabby presented an overview of the budget. (Budget breakdown available upon request.) While monies earned to date don't seem too far off from expectations, there does seem to be a growing drop in income, most obvious at the car wash and merchandise sales at Back to School night. The new FanCloth merchandise fundraiser was not well received and new efforts to turn merchandise sales in to a more profitable endeavor will continue to be explored. Executive Board members continue to seek out and encourage new ideas for fundraising and encourage all parents to share their idea.

The proposed 2014-2015 PA BUDGET was presented for approval. First motion by Robin Alpert, seconded by Vicki Auerbach. Budget approved

Meeting adjourned at 8:35.

Respectfully submitted,

JoAnne Jurcic, Recording Secretary

