

Riderwood PTA Meeting Minutes

November 12, 2024

Attendees - 30 participants

In Person: Simone Garayoa, Jennifer Black, Lauren Zamchek, Samantha Minnehan, Ryan Minnehan

On-Line: Holly Sebastian, Monica Galvan, Alison Knezevich, Alex McCourt, Amy Contevita, Natasha Yeager, Nikki Farrar, Amanda South, Carolina Arbelaez Gormley, Kelly Moran, Jess Sheffield, Mariam Fayed, Erica Smith, Kristen Giladi, Erica Cariello

(Apologies to any family whose name we misspelled or who we missed– we thank you for your participation.
Zoom showed 16 online attendees)

PTA Board Members: Patrick Gormley, Elliott Plack, Cari White, Joanna West, Jill Tamberino, Leo Giro-Herrera

Faculty/ Administration: William Cirrincione, Stephanie Gisriel, Patricia Lige, Mary Lord

November 12, 2024

1. Call to Order (6:30pm)
2. Review Previous Meeting Minutes (from June 2024)
 - a. Quorum established.
 - b. Motion to approve minutes: Leo Giro-Herrera
 - c. 2nd and Approve: Jill Tamberino
3. **Review Treasurer's Report – Joanna West**
 - a. Membership drive for the PTA is short of our goal, but families can still join.
 - b. PTA Income for 2024-2025 is tracking ahead of expenses.
 - c. The Budget is on track for the fiscal year 2024-2025
4. **Teacher Liaison Report- Ms. Gisriel**
 - a. Ms Witte said thank you for the clay and glazing paid for with PTA funds. It's great when the kids can use real clay and see their results.
 - b. Ms. Bollinger thanks the PTA for supporting the Movie night on 10/25. The SCA raised over \$836+ for 2 charities – Direct Relief: Hurricane Assistance and Canine Partners for Life, for the care and training of service animals.
 - c. The SCA's Harvest for Hungry campaign was a tremendous success again this year. 35 boxes of consumables were sent to a local food pantry.
 - d. Ms. Buchman said thank you for supporting the spelling bee club – Riderwood students will compete this spring to vie for 2 positions for Riderwood students to compete at the regional event.
 - e. Pajama Drive coming up. It begins Tuesday 11/26 and will conclude Tuesday 12/10 . More information will be forthcoming from the SCA.

5. Principal's Report – Mr. C

- a. Q1 ended – very successful start to the year.
- b. 11/19 is conference day – no school for students!
- c. American Education Week is next week 11/18-11/22. Please keep an eye out for emails and information sent home with your students
- d. Report cards coming home Thursday 11/14 - we still print them and send them home.
- e. Busy Start to the school year.
 - i. MD State Department of Education did an expert review of our ELA program. Riderwood was the highest performing elementary school in the state with a 92.5% proficiency at all grade levels.
 - 1. They spent 2 full days on site for a review of the ELA program
 - 2. A parent group and a student group were all interviewed by the state team
 - 3. A final report will be presented within the next 2 weeks.
 - 4. Thank you for Ms. Buckheit and all the teaching staff for their hard work- we presented several articles of information for review.
 - ii. Keep submitting pictures for the yearbook. RiderwoodYearbook @Gmail.com
 - 1. Events – Halloween party, Back to School Picnic, Movie Night, etc
 - iii. Student Safety is the # 1 concern at Riderwood.
 - 1. Outside with cars on Landrake and Burnley please mind the traffic patterns. Do not park facing the wrong direction.
 - iv. Riderwood has a Half Day on Wednesday 11/27. Closed for Thanksgiving Break on Thursday 11/28 and Friday 11/29.
- f. Old Trees on campus were taken down over the weekend. It was a hazard as many of the trees were unstable. However, thank you to Mr South for his work getting the Blue Water Baltimore to support planting 80 trees this coming spring.
- g. Lots of field trips this Fall - 3rd Grade for Ft McHenry / 4th grade Biztown
- h. Biztown is being paid for by BCPS – Thank you to the PTA for past support, but not needed this year.
- i. UPDATE on Free Breakfast - Please be mindful of food waste when it comes to the free breakfast. This has led to an increase in rodents. There are more students eating the free breakfast now that the distribution of the food is at more central locations. If these new distribution locations are an issue for you and your child, please work with your child on what is right for your family.

6. PTA President's Report / Committee Reports – Cari White

- a. Recent and Upcoming Committee/Event Updates:
 - i. Back to School Member Donation Drive
 - 1. It has been a big success, just about meeting the goal for monetary donations, but more importantly over 170 families contributed and joined the PTA this year.
 - ii. Art Show Kick Off Meeting
 - 1. Thursday night Kick off meeting with Ms. Witte at RIDERWOOD
 - 2. Monica Galvan is leading the event @ 6:00 pm in the ART ROOM.

iii. Book Fair / American Education Week

1. We need volunteers for next week. 65 volunteer spots are open at 1 hour each.
2. We really need volunteers to help the students checking out books, helping with the shopping process.
3. This is a good fundraiser for the PTA. Please set up the E Wallet for buying books for your student, also you can donate and fill your teachers' wallets to help them get books for their classroom.
4. After hours/ Family shopping is on Wednesday 11/20 from 4-7 pm for family shopping day.
5. The Book Fair will be open 9am-3pm during the conference day as well.

iv. Riderwood Around the World Breakfast on Saturday 12/14 @ 9 am-11 am

1. 24 countries – including 10 new countries not hosted in 2024.
2. Sign up will be coming out for attendance.
3. Amazing Gaze will be there as well. Sign-ups coming soon!
4. There is a planning meeting tomorrow 11/13
5. A great event highlighting the diversity of Riderwood's population.

v. Yearbook Photos

1. Please send in any photos – from all the events.
RiderwoodYearbook@Gmail.com
 - a. Please try to put as much identifying information in each email.
 - b. Event, Grade, Class teacher etc.

vi. Annual FUNdraiser

1. This is the Big adult social fundraiser for the PTA.
2. EVENT DATE: FRIDAY MARCH 7th
3. The Committee is working hard to make this a successful event. If you have any interest in volunteering, please reach out to volunteer and be a part of it. RiderwoodPTA@gmail.com

b. Highlighted Volunteer Needs for 2024-25 School Year

- i. Art Show volunteers needed- all year until Spring event.
- ii. Teacher Appreciation Week
 1. May – looking for volunteers for chairing this event
- iii. 5th Grade Farewell Video – looking for a lead volunteer to put the video together

c. Volunteer Needs for Next School Year 2025-26 - PLEASE CONSIDER

- i. President - 2 year term expiring
- ii. Recording Secretary - "graduating" from Riderwood

7. Other Business – None.

8. General Meeting ended: 7:15 pm / Closed Executive Board Meeting begins

9. Next meeting will be TBD in Late January or Early February . Must be on a Tuesday

Board Positions and Responsibilities for reference (BOLD= Open for 2025-2026 School Year)

President: Work with all parties to drive deliverables

1st VP: Communication

2nd VP: Volunteers & Events

Treasurer: manage the budget and all financial matters

Recording Secretary: Minutes

Corresponding Secretary: All communication, thank you and appreciation

Facebook: [@RiderwoodES](#) Instagram: [@riderwoodelementary](#)

2024-2025 Calendar of Events Still to come – Dates Subject to Change

November 2024

- Report cards distributed – Thursday, November 14
- Book Fair – Friday, November 15 – Thursday, November 21
- American Education Week – Monday, November 18 – Friday, November 22
- Conference day – schools closed for elementary students – Tuesday, November 19
- Early dismissal for students and teachers – Wednesday, November 27
- Schools closed for Thanksgiving – Thursday, November 28 – Friday, November 29

December 2024

- Winter Music Concerts @ Riderwood – Tues, Dec 10 – Grades 2-3 @ 6pm, Grades 4-5 @ 7pm
- Winter Music Concerts @ Riderwood – Tues, Dec 17 – Grades K-1 @ 6pm; Band/Orch @ 7pm
- Riderwood Around the World (formerly the Holiday Breakfast) – Saturday, December 14 @ 9am
- Winter parties in classrooms
- Early dismissal for students and teachers – Friday, December 20
- Winter Break – Monday, December 23 – Wednesday, January 1 – schools reopen Thursday, January 2

January 2025

- Winter Break – schools closed – Wednesday, January 1
- Schools closed – Monday, January 20
- End of 2nd marking period – early dismissal for students – Friday, January 24
- Schools closed for students – Wednesday, January 29

February 2025

- Report cards distributed – Thursday, February 6
- Schools closed – Monday, February 17

March 2025

- Annual Adult FUNdraiser – Friday, March 7
- Spring school pictures – Date TBD
- Schools closed for students – Monday, March 31

April 2025

- Spring Musical – Tuesday, April 1
- End of 3rd marking period – early dismissal for students – Friday, April 4
- Teacher Appreciation Lunch – Friday, April 4
- Spring parties in classrooms
- Spring break from Monday, April 14 – Monday, April 21– schools reopen Tuesday, April 22
- Report cards distributed – Thursday, April 24
- K conferences – no school for K students – Friday, April 25
- Art Show – Tuesday, April 29

May 2025

- Teacher Appreciation Week – Monday, May 5 – Friday, May 9
- Early dismissal for students and teachers – Friday, May 16
- Schools closed – Monday, May 26
- Spring Music Concerts @ Riderwood – Tuesday May, 6 – Grades 2-3 @ 6pm, Grades 4-5 @ 7pm
- Spring Music Concerts @ Riderwood – Tuesday, May 13 – Grades K-1 @ 6pm, Band/Orch @ 7pm
- Field Day – Date TBD

June 2025

- End of year classroom parties
- 5th Grade Farewell – date TBD
- Last full day – Monday, June 9; early dismissal on Tuesday, June 10 and Wednesday, June 11 – if no snow days used