

HOME & SCHOOL

River Woods Elementary School
RIVER WOODS HOME & SCHOOL

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

November 14th, 2024 at 7:00 PM

I. Student Ambassador- Hattie Neill, grade 5 student & student council member

-Student Council collected 1,203 socks and underwear for students in communities that were hit by hurricanes

-Student council events will be planned for the rest of the year at the next meeting

Hattie was asked what her favorite field trip has been at River Woods so far

-Her favorite field trip has been the outdoor ED field trip in 5th grade

She was asked what advice she would give to incoming kindergartners.

-Her advice for kindergarteners would be to ignore kids who might not be kind and to stay positive

Hattie was asked about recess and what she thinks kids would like to have during recess.

-She thinks outside is a lot of fun already. She does feel like a lot of kids like to play soccer outside so she would recommend adding something soccer related to recess

II. Secretary's Report - Becca McIlwee

A. [Review Minutes from General Home & School Meeting on 9-12-2024](#)

Approval of the minutes: Ali Albright , Lauren Naab

I. [Treasurer's Report](#) - Becky Wolski

A. [October 2024 monthly budget activities](#)

B. [October 2024 notes to share](#)

C. [October 2024 reconciliation summary,](#)
[October 2024 reconciliation detail](#)

D. [Sept 2024 reconciliation summary,](#)
[Sept 2024 reconciliation detail](#)

-Net: \$1,800

-Spent \$2,600

-Discussed the Treasury Details report that was handed out. It shows the activities in September and in October and it shows every dollar and where it is coming from and going towards

-Reconciliation Summary was provided to show that we are balanced

II. [Vice President's Report](#) - Dawn Gambini

A. Fall Celebration Recap

-All room parents are filled except for one classroom

-It was deeply appreciated that there were a lot of last minute parents getting together to make sure the parties happened for certain classrooms to make it fun for the kids

B. Winter Celebration Update

-December 20th

-Finalizing those volunteers

-Planning forms will go out after Thanksgiving break

C. New Volunteer Spotlight

-Veteran's Day volunteers are now being showcased on the bulletin board

-Two more volunteers will be showcased after Thanksgiving break

III. President's Report - Meredith Pollack & Jacki Chaidez

A. Poinsettia Sale

- We did extend the poinsettia sale to Friday
- We get about a 30% kickback from these sales

B. Long Term Project

- Continuing the fundraiser for this project for next year but it will look different
- We really need feedback for this project and the google form is still available
- Talked about forming a subcommittee of volunteers to help layout the project and continue specific discussions

C. Any Soldier Service Project

- Service organization
- Have students write letters/make care packages
- Letters go out to soldiers who are deployed and will be received on Christmas

D. GiftSmart Box

- New toys can be donated
- It is district wide as well
- \$25 spending budget
- Wrapping paper is also needed

IV. Principal's Report - Gina Baumgartner

A. School Report Card

- We look at the data from the previous school year
- State accountability assessment tool
- 71% of students met their growth rate in ELA
- We have seen a trend which has pointed out the need to focus on explicit vocabulary instruction to help with that growth rate
- Once a month in our professional learning meetings we have discussed vocabulary instruction

- Student engagement
- 63% of students met their growth rate in Math
- We are well above the state averages for achievement
- Growth rate explanation for why it is more difficult for high achieving schools to hit that growth rate
- Because it does not allow students to go above grade level so there is a ceiling

B. Academies

- Social Emotional Learning which came from training last year
- We examined what we have in place to support students social emotionally
- The first academy training will be the Hands Off Academy which will be taught by Gina
- Another will be social emotional regulation
- 4-6 students in the academy
- Might use older students to be a co-teacher as a great role model for the younger students

C. Red Birds Care

- For families with needs in the school
- We created an Amazon Wishlist for those needs, example little sized underwear which has recently become a need

D. Upcoming Events:

a. Movie Night - November 21

- Inside Out 2
- 6 o'clock start
- Pizza for sale

b. PJ & Cocoa Night ~ December 5

- Staff members and community members will be reading books

-All gather in the LC at the end for another book to be read aloud

-Starting at 6 pm

c. Winter Celebrations ~ Community Contributions ~
AnySoldier.com

VI. Teacher Liaison ~ Angela Matteson

-A big Thank You for the things parents do for teachers

-Teachers really appreciated the survival kits

-Hospitality asked for teachers to please provide feedback on what they liked or don't like

VII. Committee Updates

-Carnival has been hard at work and has subcommittee chairs with the exception of the hair room so if anyone would like to volunteer for that it would be great because it is a very popular room

-Spirit Wear has 25% off

-There was an detailed explanation on how the Holiday Teacher Gift Cards work

Kristin Fitzgerald -School Board Member

-Adopted updated plans for the next five years

-10 year study

-Looking at sustainability of our buildings like solar

-Parent concern: We would love a little bit more space especially since our music classroom is outside

-Student data reports which after reviewing it there were drops of achievement because of the pandemic but we have made some of those deficits back

- We hired math specialists to help close those gaps
- Most of our budget goes to staffing
- Summer school program is fantastic! It's great that we have a summer school program because other districts do not have that option
- Question: Is there any way we could have a Dual Language specific summer school?
- By law our summer school includes our EL students
- The problem is in order to have additional staff to support that demographic

Motion to Adjourn

Lauren Nabb and Ali Albright