



**Riverside PAC (Parent Advisory Council)
Wednesday, October 14, 2020
7:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M. Virtual Google Meet
General Meeting Minutes**

Meeting led by Carolyn Wilson, Co-President of Riverside PAC

PAC officers present: Carolyn Wilson, Sandra Brown, Blakely Calabrese, Sue Hourihan

Also in attendance: Violetta Powers and about 10-12 others joined the Google Meet

- Carolyn Wilson introduced herself as did the rest of the e-board Sandra (Co-President), Blakely (Treasurer) and Sue (Secretary)
- PAC's purpose was reviewed as its purpose is to fundraise or raise funds (virtually this year) for teaching and learning needs at Riverside and bringing the school community together
- Fundraising is going to look different this year. We are open to ideas and always looking for creative ways to come together in a very unique school year.
- Noted that this is the last year (2 year term) for this board and need to start looking for anyone interested in joining to replace the current board for 2021-2022. Voting will be at the end of this school year.

I. Principal's Announcements: Ms. Powers

- Welcomed everyone and mentioned how nice it was to see new faces.
- An important message for this year is the home/school relationship. The work done with students at home, the importance of wearing a mask and following school guidelines.
- Super impressed how well the kids are doing in school with this new way of learning.
- Appreciate all the parents hard work.
- Students are happy and grateful to be at Riverside with their teachers the days they are in school
- Full remote and hybrid teachers are working well together
- Tuesday afternoons and Wednesday mornings, administrators across the district collaborate together and Ms. Powers shares feedback. This is ongoing and occurs weekly.
- Thanked PAC for all they do.

II. President's Announcements: Sandra Brown

- Purchases made so far this year include Whoopie Pie Truck for the teachers on their first day back, Kindergarten T-Shirts "Finally a Rocket", lanyards for students, masks for teachers, hula hoops, laundry baskets for items due to no lockers this year, chalk,

cookies and apples for Prof Dev day, and school posters for the hallway about COVID safety.

III. **Treasurer's Report:** Blakely Calabrese

- Finances will be different - No in person Cultural Enrichment, no field trips, no transportation for 2020-2021 year.
- We will be having an Apparel shop in partnership with Ben Franklin.
- PAC will continue to support 5th graders, teacher appreciation, needs of students and staff and possibly a read a thon and/or walk a thon but no big fundraisers this year.

IV. **Fundraising:** Everything will be done virtually

The goal behind fundraising this year is for teacher appreciation and staff needs
Possible ideas include:

1. 5 elementary schools talk of a FitAThon - town wide and done virtually - is there someone interested in chairing?
2. No Yankee Candle this year as YC is not hosting fundraisers this year.
3. Boon Supply - online sales only, sells bags, wrapping paper, gadgets, 40% of sales come back to PAC - looking to do this fall: <https://www.boonsupply.com>
4. Apparel sales
5. Cash calendar possibly
6. Dining for Dollars - January would like to start again - will someone want to chair that?
7. Looking for any other ideas? Please feel free to email us anytime:
riversidepac01923@gmail.com

Carports were mentioned - we had a very generous response from the community but Ms. Powers needs to talk to the town before moving forward with this. This year all ideas need to be offered/suggested across all 5 schools.

V. **Raising for Riverside: Passive fundraising**

- A. BoxTops through an App
- B. Amazon Smile - directions are on our Facebook page
- C. Stop and Shop - need to re-register every year by choosing Riverside on the Stop and Shop Rewards website
- D. Cranney Cares - last year we received \$1000 from Cranney - Simple. You need to put your name (Riverside School) in every month and they draw a name every month. PAC would like to promote that more this year.

OPEN DISCUSSION:

- No plans for a directory but PAC can take it on - maybe someone would like to chair?
- Halloween - Ms. Powers had an idea of either doing a Google Meet - talk to kids - could dress up or put together a Halloween/Fall video and students can send in a picture of themselves dressed up.

She would have guidelines set for example, being in the house etc and have specific expectations.

- Putting it out to other schools - "events" have to be district wide
- Staff Collectively decided no costumes in building this year (question was asked about a Halloween parade)
- Idea: Music during mask breaks

- Wear black, orange and purple the week of Halloween keeping in mind the different cohorts
- Music has been played at lunchtime to keep up positivity
- PAC is always looking for any ideas to bring community together in a virtual way
- Fancy Day - Ms. Powers said yes to Fancy Day – not sure about the food.
We are hoping to have a food donation drive for the food pantry through the week before Thanksgiving.
- 5th grade funds were discussed and prior year's funds
- PAC allocates \$45/per student each year
- 36 5th graders this year - \$45 goes toward - yearbook, pen and shirt. Any additional funds will carry into future years as PAC funds or for a specific purpose if voted on at a PAC meeting
- Cultural Enrichment - if reasonably priced we can consider doing some virtual CE but some places are still charging full price. There is a math CE that is being looked into that may work school wide.
- Grants for this year? They are being prioritized as Arts and Music virtual events are a big interest with the grant awarders
- PAC would like to push out Google Form for email addresses and rebuild our email address database. We were not able to meet Kindergarten families in person as we have in the past.
- When are changes happening for hybrid schedules? Tomorrow (Thursday, 10/15).
- How many classes will be in their remote meetings - Ms. Powers believe it will be the Cohort for your school only

In closing, PAC is always open to any questions, comments or ideas. We are open to different formats including an open Q&A session. Thank you all for joining us tonight and our next meeting will be November 12th. Meeting adjourned 7:55pm.

2020 – 2021 PAC Meeting Dates – Meetings are held at 7:00pm Virtually:

October 14, 2020
 November 12, 2020
 January 13, 2021
 February 10, 2021
 March 10, 2021
 April 14, 2021
 May 12, 2021
 June 8, 2021

Executive Board:

Co-President – Carolyn Wilson
 Co-President – Sandra Brown
 Treasurer – Blakely Calabrese
 Secretary – Sue Hourihan

Email: RiversidePAC01923@gmail.com