



PSA Meeting - 03/09/2009

Reports:

**Mailbox Issue:**

Theresa did not know PSA had a mailbox. There were several bills and letters that we were waiting for from Monarch. Teresa has since asked RSD main office to send the letters home with her daughter in the future.

**Spring Fundraiser:**

Theresa also provided information about a spring fundraiser. This was given to Patty.

**Life Guard Funds:**

The family fun night last month was big success. Patty paid Mary Cook the lifeguard fees but she would not accept it. Mary insisted on donating the money instead. Patty had a card for everyone to sign to thank Mary for her willingness to provide life guarding services during the event.

**Book Fair:**

The book fair event is happening Tuesday March 24. Margaret Jennings would like to know if PSA is willing to sponsor classroom books. The cost is approximately \$250. Each classroom teacher has a wish list and Margaret narrowed it down from those who have multiple requests. Suggestions were made about providing baskets where parents can look at a teacher's wish list and buy specific books for teachers themselves and put it into the basket. Another option is an additional basket where teachers can place books they no longer want for other teachers who may want those books and take them at no cost.

The tentative plan for the book fair includes a mini variety show, high school students reading stories to younger kids, creating bookmarks or coloring a page. There will be raffles and prizes (certificates we have from Monarch and other places). PSA will provide appetizers and dessert. Theresa will follow up on rules about eating in the LRC.

**Monarch:**

A parent brought up concerns that they have not received items that were on back order. Suggestion was made to contact Lisa Dewindt-Sommer to follow up.

## **Rochester School for the Deaf**

PSA Meeting - 03/09/2009

Reports:

### **Camp Night:**

Discussion concluded with agreement that each camp presenter will have 3 minutes to share information about their program. If they may include a PowerPoint, send it on to Julia in advance. We will have booths/tables for each program. Julia will bring open registration forms for summer events at Rush-Henrietta and Brighton. This would allow families to sign up together for specific programs so any child is not alone at those events. This event will be from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. on April 16 at RSD.

### **Scholarship Forms:**

Theresa will try to find the scholarship form and work on it so that it is ready for the Camp Fair. Julia will work on the Camp Fair flyer to distribute to families.

### **Teacher/Staff Appreciation:**

We have had lunch for staff/teachers/administrators annually. Theresa wonders whether there is an interest in doing something else. Some of the ideas included students writing a card to present to their favorite teacher or a group of teachers, making flowers (real/fake); making a craft at home for teachers, or providing sweets. A majority of the board members elected to keep lunch and pick one of the ideas as a supplement. We would most likely go with cards that students can write to their favorite teacher. Patty will look into the cost of providing boxed lunches to save time due to the long line to get lunch. May 4 – 8 is the week of appreciation at RSD. We'll need to choose a date that week. This will be discussed at the next meeting.

### **Family Learning Vacation:**

This event is happening June 27 – 28 for RSD parents and parents in the community with children who are deaf. PSA has been asked to brainstorm ideas and recruit 2 people on the committee. Concerns were raised that this event is happening after school ends and people may have already planned their vacation. There also is the ASDC conference happening at the same time. Board members felt that they have done much more this year than ever possible and feel that taking on the FLV event is more than the board members can handle at this time. We have many projects going on that need to be focused on. The vote to assist with FLV was not accepted.

### **RSDAA 5K/Fun Walk**

Theresa reported she was not able to make the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting and since that time, has not received an update. There is no update to share at this time.

### **RSD Annual Spring Festival**

This has not happening this year at RSD.

## **Rochester School for the Deaf**

PSA Meeting - 03/09/2009

Reports:

### **After-school events/teams:**

A parent was informed that there is a new after school program for children in grades K-3<sup>rd</sup> grade. Many PSA board members were not aware of this new program. Julia shared information that was received by her child's teacher at RSD. There is concern that if many PSA board members were not aware of this activity, it is possible that many other parents also did not receive this information as well.

A parent shared concerns that St. Mary's has 90% of the students participating in the after school program. This is a very strong program that includes participants from K – 12. This parent wants to have a program for 8 – 12 year olds. By adopting the same program that is available at St. Mary's, we stand to recruit much more parents/deaf students into RSD. The person that runs the St. Mary's program is a recreation therapist who has taken on the full responsibility of this program. This recreation therapist also works closely with the school districts to ensure transportation is worked out for all students involved. This same after school program is offered daily (Monday – Thursdays) and includes activities such as bowling, sports program and field trips.

A long discussion began regarding whether Rec. Center at RSD can be opened up to include day students? How does St. Mary's cover the cost of bowling and all other events? How much are the parents expected to contribute? We need to look at whether there are transportation issues, as some districts do not provide a late bus. Will the rides home later be longer or shorter for some students? If parents cover the cost for some of the activities, can parents also elect to have their child participate in events that do not cost anything? Is this an option? Should PSA consider covering some of the activity costs?

Board members agreed that more details, data and documentation are needed before we can move forward with a meeting.

A meeting needs to happen to include Jen Adams (Outreach), Chris Bradley, Mary Cook and the recreation therapist at RSD. We may include RASA coordinator too.

### **Next Meeting:**

The next meeting will be on April 6 at 6 p.m.

### **Announcement :**

Links to the PSA Website : [http://www.rsdeaf.org/school\\_parent.asp](http://www.rsdeaf.org/school_parent.asp)

The PSA board bios and pictures are up on the website. Here is the link :  
<http://www.rsdeaf.org/news.asp?action=view&ID=458>