



**General Membership Meeting Minutes**  
**Redmond Junior High PTSA**  
**Unit 2.8.80**  
**November 8, 2011**

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**Call to Order** – Elizabeth Hansford, PTSA co-president

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Redmond Junior High library. Elizabeth introduced the PTSA officers that were present. There was a quorum.

**Presentation regarding high school transition** –Redmond High School Principal Jane Todd

Ms. Todd introduced the Redmond High School co-presidents, Jan LaFond and Shelley Flores.

Ms. Todd took questions from the audience. Her responses follow:

- **Teacher transfers**—Junior high school teachers who wish to move to the high school are placing their names on a priority moving list. The RHS administration is analyzing the number of teachers they will need for the core 9<sup>th</sup> grade classes, and they will have a good idea of the staff moving to RHS by winter break. RHS is conducting the teacher transfer process differently than Eastlake High School. Ms. Todd doesn't know which teachers from RHS are going to the STEM school; the planning team teachers have first priority. Junior high teachers with a K-12 teaching certificate are eligible to transfer to the high school.
- **Grade level differences**—There are differences in the way the upper and lower level grades will be managed. Ninth and tenth graders will have a more structured environment and less flexibility. The eleventh and twelfth graders will be allowed increased specialization of classes and concentration of electives, more freedom and more accountability. There is a philosophical difference in the way the upper and lower grade levels should be managed. The administration is considering breaking up the ninth grade into smaller units for more class flexibility, and so teachers can get to know students better.
- **Ninth grade population**—RHS is expecting about 450 students in the ninth grade in 2011-2012.
- **Crowding**—RHS is concerned about crowded hallways and having enough passing time between classes. It is a balancing act between not cutting into instructional time and having enough time for passing. The reconstruction project will provide a little more cafeteria space, but not solve the lunch crowding problem. RHS could add three double portables. Most teachers currently share a classroom. The administration is thinking outside of the box for new space. One idea is to triple shift the classes. There are 287 students attending RHS on a variance right now. If a surplus of students is enrolled for the fall, they will have to consider whether or not these students will stay at RHS.
- **Alternative programs**—There are currently three courses in school that students can take and receive UW credit. The Running Start program must be a good fit for the individual student, and it should not be used to alleviate crowding. An online learning credit is currently available, but it is expensive for the student.
- **Athletics**—Intramural sports for ninth graders is being considered. There are some varsity sports that are no-cut, like the current junior high sports program. RHS could have more C teams for students that are new to a sport.
- **Transition planning**—At the end of November there will be a high school staff meeting covering the transition, paying specific attention to the ninth graders' academic and social developmental needs. There will be an ongoing attempt to assimilate ninth graders. Staff ideas on the transition will be implemented in the second semester of this school year.
- **PTSA transition assistance**—According to RHS PTSA President Shelley Flores, the RHS PTSA is will provide a program for parents to ask questions of RHS administration. RJH parents can subscribe to the RHS newsletter this year by sending an email request to [rhs.ptsa.news@gmail.com](mailto:rhs.ptsa.news@gmail.com).
- **Questions** regarding the transition can be sent to Principal Jane Todd at [jtodd@lwsd.org](mailto:jtodd@lwsd.org).

### **Principal's remarks and Q&A regarding junior high transition – Redmond Junior High Principal Kelly Clapp**

- Ms. Clapp has met with parents at Redmond Junior High's feeder elementary schools this fall and she has enjoyed hearing parents' perspectives.
- Ms. Clapp passed out a proposed class schedule for next year. It is an A/B schedule, with 105 minutes per class, except for Wednesdays when classes are 40 minutes long. Teaching in 105 minutes sessions takes different skills that teachers will be taught.
- Crowding will still be an issue next year.
- RJH staff and administration are hard at work planning for:
  - Ways to mark the end of the eighth and ninth graders' school year, and to assimilate new sixth and seventh graders into Redmond Middle School
  - The new PACE (practice, activity, choice, enrichment) and RTI (response to intervention) programs PACE will be a free period four days a week, and RTI will give struggling students extra help.
  - Next year's Back to Business Days which will be enhanced to give new students a greater orientation to middle school
  - A health and fitness structure
  - The middle school elective program
    - Electives may be paired up.
  - Staffing the middle school
    - Interested teachers will be placed at the high school first, then they will fill positions at the middle school
- There are five learning teams working on the transition.
- Incoming sixth graders will be instructed on note-taking, agenda use and writing respectful emails.
- The type of middle school athletic program offered is up to LWSD Superintendent Chip Kimball. RJH has sent the superintendent proposals which include an intramural program.
- The most common student concern is getting lost on first day of school.
- In order to prepare today's seventh graders for leadership next year, RJH will offer a seventh grade leadership class in the spring 2012, and hold a student advisory in early December in order to advise Ms. Clapp on a "what a good school looks like."
- The Quest highly capable program will continue to be provided at Redmond Middle School.
- Questions on the transition can be sent to Principal Kelly Clapp at [kclapp@lwsd.org](mailto:kclapp@lwsd.org).

### **Submission of previous meeting minutes – Kathleen Reynolds, PTSA secretary**

There were no amendments to the October 4, 2011, PTSA general meeting minutes. The minutes were submitted as written.

### **Treasurer's report – Vicki Krum, PTSA treasurer**

Vicki reported an October opening account balance of \$ 26,656.86 and an ending balance of \$27,254.37. The PTSA has raised \$168.00 more from business sponsors than budgeted, and Pass the Hat raised \$1189.81 more than budgeted. The PTSA was assigned a new bank account number because the bank the PTSA used last year has changed hands. Our bank charges no fees if the PTSA conducts less than 200 transactions per month. In September, the PTSA was erroneously charged \$14.80 for exceeding 200 transactions in a month, but the mischarge was immediately reversed. The treasurer's report was submitted as written.

### **Voting on mini-grant submissions – PTSA Co-President Elizabeth Hansford**

The mini-grants were discussed in the order they were presented. A mini-grant for the library did not make it out of the executive committee.

The PTSA is carrying over \$5,000 from the 2010-2011 school year .

- Byron Shutz moved that \$554.46 be moved from the general fund to the special projects fund. There was no second.
- Lisa Schildt moved to fund the French magazine request at the maximum amount of \$619.07. Byron Shutz seconded the motion. It was discussed whether or not each French student needs to have their own magazine. The motion passed with a vote of 21 to 3.

- Byron Shutz moved to fund the world languages manipulatives request at the maximum amount of \$634.78. Lisa Schildt seconded the motion. There was discussion. The motion passed unanimously.
- Patty Doherty moved to fund the leadership class die cut machine request. Marie Kent seconded. There was discussion. The motion passed unanimously.
- Byron Shutz moved to fund up to \$250, with the other half of the cost coming from the emergency prep budget, for a portable ham radio for use in case of emergency. Janitzia Pizarro seconded the motion. There was discussion. The motion passed unanimously.
- Lisa Schildt moved to fund at the full amount a request for a second automatic external defibrillator (AED) to be located in the gym. Kathleen Reynolds seconded the motion. The device would be closer to the portables and closer to the large groups gathering in the gym than the AED now located in the office. The motion passed unanimously.
- Vicki Krum moved to fund a special education and ELL audio books request at the maximum amount. Patty Doherty seconded the motion. There was discussion. The motion passed unanimously.
- Mari Ilias moved to fund a super-zoom digital camera request for the yearbook club at the maximum amount. Jodi Miller seconded the motion. There was discussion. The PTSA has funded yearbook cameras in the past. The camera would become the property of the yearbook club and it would be useful for sports and drama. The motion passed unanimously.
- Byron Shutz moved to move \$304.46 from the fundraising line item to the special projects line item. Adam Barr seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Legislative advocacy report, Q&A**– *Byron Shutz, PTSA leg advocacy chair*

- PTSA members who wish to be on Byron’s legislative advocacy email list should send an email request to [Byron@byronshutzjr.org](mailto:Byron@byronshutzjr.org).
- PTSA members can submit issues to the state PTA in the spring to be considered for inclusion on the Washington State PTA’s legislative priority list. The WSPTA has switched to a two-year advocacy cycle in order to mirror the legislature’s two year cycle. Fully funding education continues to be a legislative priority.
- WSPTA’s Focus Day in Olympia will take place on Monday Feb. 20, and will include a rally on the legislature building’s steps.
- The best time to contact your legislators is before the legislative session. Your legislators want to see you and will remember you. All PTSA members are capable of advocating for every child.
- The WSPTA’s top legislative priorities as determined at Legislative Assembly can be found on the [WSPTA’s website](#).
- Due to the state budget deficit, there will continue to be cuts to the state’s education budget. To comment on this, contact the governor and legislators ahead of the November 28 special session.
- Byron maintains a website with information on education funding in Washington called Funding Washington Schools. <http://fundingwaschools.org/>

**Lake Washington Schools Foundation** – *Kathleen Reynolds, LWSF school ambassador*

Kathleen informed parents about the foundation’s mission and its programs benefitting schools and disadvantaged students.

**Adjourn** The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.