

**Riverwood PTSA**  
**General Membership Meeting Agenda**  
**January 24, 2023 | 9:00-10:00 am**

**Welcome and Introductions** – who we are. What we do – supporting teachers and students. Academic enrichment – 10,000 in teacher mini grants, 2,000 in student grants, 7,500 in scholarships, reflections competition, raider math and writing centers, student achievement programs, classroom supply reimbursements, etc.

**Principal's Report** – Mrs. Kindra Smith – This is the best job ever!! People who are working for the same cause to help 1765 students leave the door happy and with good teachers. Helping kids find out who they want to be – it starts right here. I appreciate everything you all give to us. Graduation date – should have finalized date later today. The Principal's luncheon is held between a group of 15 randomly chosen students and Ms. Smith to address concerns about the school. Principal's list and honor roll is today and tomorrow – I've signed every certificate (1000 out of 1765) – you can find the link to the list on the Riverwood's website. Distinguished alumni event will be held this Friday to induct the following alumni: Courtenay Collins, Bobby Rosenbloum, Gabriel Sterling. Reception

starts at 8:25am. We have 500 seats for guests. Top Fulton County officials have been invited along with top clubs, i.e., SGA, Black student union, Hope, Humanities club, theater club. SGC – School Governance Council – made up of parents, school leaders and teachers who meet monthly to find ways to better the education system. Brad Glenn worked on the Ridgeview committee and has brought the “United Mission” to Riverwood. The mission is finding ways to get kids together, to overcome disparity which can start as early as Kindergarten. One solution is having IB students visit elementary schools to host activities to help kids achieve higher levels. I am worried about 9<sup>th</sup> graders. They drown when they reach high school, visiting 8 classes during the week is too much due to the large school and overwhelming schedules. Stressing out younger students and burning out their excitement of learning too early. Kids are stressed and overwhelmed. Thinking about implementing a Study block to be called, “Tools for Success” for 9<sup>th</sup> graders and finding a smoother transition for parents and students of 9<sup>th</sup> graders. New district grading policy, in the past, teachers could determine how many grades were counted towards the semester. However the new policy states that any student, K-12, follow the new guidelines and it has strangled the kids and teachers. Our curriculum runs a little longer of a pace which is causing a lot of frustration for teachers and students. Now, quizzes and tests are

given at the same time for all classes and it is causing a mess. Myself and Diane Copkas talked to the district – and are making an appeal, partnering with other schools who offer a block schedule, to help the AP and IB program for now. 95% of building construction is complete. This summer the tennis courts, bathrooms and new roof for auditorium will be addressed so Riverwood will not be able to house summer school. Those kids who take classes over the summer will do so at North Springs high school.

**Presidents' Report** – Chrissy McCluskey & Julie Taube – Become a PTSA member or help increase funds for the school by using our Partners: Riverwood PTSA Publix Partner, shop with Amazon smiles. Also, if you are interested in volunteering, please reach out to Kasey Willis.

**Treasurer's Report** – Shelly Casner – we are at 87% of what we budgeted, 325 PTSA members made up of students, teachers and parents. The membership totals are a little lower than last year. We are cautious of our overall spending costs which have gone up, but we currently have a cash overage of \$58k.

**Nominating Committee Chair** – Lee Graiser – motion approved at 9:41am – PTSA slate of new board to be approved in May during general membership meeting.

**Ms. Jill Johnson** - Received 3 mini grants, got a gift of time. I am a busy working mom and these mini grants have helped me to do my job better, faster and more efficient. I received mini white boards, software which coordinates assessments for social studies and math classes, and Quizzes (software) which creates multiple versions of assessments with a click of a button. Quizzes software is adaptive to students' strengths and weaknesses.

Kathy Dees – mini grants are the best thing we do. The money spent connects teacher with kids, Be Pro be Proud is a program for students who find careers in an untraditional way. Our grants benefit 12 to 1000 students valued from \$30-\$2400, touching kids across the entire school.

Ms. Ann Carrier – Media & Educational Technology Instructor. > 23% are ready for retirement. We need to find folks to fill these positions. 32,768 students have already been impacted by Program “Be Pro be Proud”. Professions such as: trade professions, web developers, technicians, Automation and Robotics, etc. are filled by trade schools. It's an untraditional path for students to match their interests with schools who then match them up with employers. This Program will offer 8 groups a day, 45

minutes each over a 3-day span and will impact 840 Riverwood students. Incredible!!

Meeting adjourned at 10:28am

Attendees:

Julie Oshins

Amy Rubin

Lori Rosenthal

Julie Taube

Chrissy McCluskey

Leslie Paul

Angie Goldman

Allison Srochi

Raquel Gonzalez

Alisha Colbert

Shelly Casner

Arin Tritt

Romi Elkounovitch

Jen Cohen

Kathy Dees

Kim Bruce

Carolyn Watkins

Jill Johnson

Ann Carrier

Kindra Smith

Lee Graiser