

PRESENT: Eric Anderson-RMS Principal, Nancy Collie-Volunteer Coordinator, Melanie MacKinnon-PAR Co-Convener, Maggie Carlson-PAR Secretary, Terrie Monroe, Kathy Hennessy, Art Farley, Wendy Russo.

PAR Business meeting minutes are now located in a notebook in the office – They are posted on the web site as well.

You are welcome to come before PAR meetings from 8:45-9am, the 3rd Friday each month, for coffee and a chance to chat with Eric and Joel.

INTRODUCTIONS – Good Morning and Welcome - Melanie MacKinnon
Please introduce yourself and name/grade of your student.

PRINCIPAL REPORT – Eric Anderson anderson_er@4j.lane.edu ,
Joel Lavin lavin@4j.lane.edu (not present)

Hot Topics at the last PAR Education meeting, evening of 10-15-09 – Eric was able to go over all the information given at site council. He was also able to ask questions of parents about their ideas and feelings on the following topics:

1. Site Council: The members of Site Council have been reading the book “The Global Achievement Gap” by Tony Wagner. In the book, it talks about that even the best students are not getting what they need. Many High School students are not ready for college. Schools need to better prepare their students. These ideas are being looked at by RMS administration and Site Council. Eric feels Roosevelt has room for improvement and will have Site Council assist in setting goals and creating a plan to accomplish this.

Also discussed was “Apple Classrooms of Tomorrow – Today”. You can go to apple and download the document on this. Apple is developing a program to be used in schools. It helps “Tag” students go as far as they want in a very relative way.

Eric reminded PAR that Site Council meetings are open and anyone is welcome to participate as a non voting member.

There was a request from PAR parent for the Site Council agenda to be posted on the web site prior to the meeting and then the minutes to be posted after.

2. Grading system at RMS: Eric asked the question of parents – What do you think of Roosevelt’s grading system?

Staff have reported that many students are not happy with the system and would prefer A, B, C, D, F system to the C1, C2, C3. The teachers have some mixed

reviews and many are not able to recall when and why this system was started. Many of the teachers grade by percentage anyway and would like to see the system change.

Having worked with many High School students, Eric talks about the frustration he experienced when trying to help a student figure out their grades and its middle school history. Spencer Butte and many other schools use the A, B, C grading systems and Eric had a system of comparison. But, when looking back at a Roosevelt's student grade's they become not useful for comparison. A C2 can be anywhere from a 70% to a 93%. This is a wide range.

The other problem he reports is seeing High School students from Roosevelt not worry enough about C's. They had an attitude of being a custom to seeing C's, i.e. C1, C2, C3.

Eric would like to see Roosevelt' system, change somehow, even if it is just A1, A2, A3 instead. Staff, students and parents should believe the grading system is relevant, descriptive and an accurate assessment of student outcomes.

Comments made by PAR parents: Many reported they liked Roosevelt's current system, because it decreased the pressure many students would feel if there was a stricter grading scale. It also gave their student time in Middle School to learn how to be a good organizer, without having the students grades suffer in the learning process. Parents reported loving Basmati. Parents made comments on how wonderful many Roosevelt teachers are at communicating to them regarding their student. Teachers are fast at answering emails.

3. Communication: Eric asked the question, how is it? Do people feel like they are getting information by House advisor, emails, e news, auto dialer, newsletter, etc. PAR parents were happy and felt informed.
4. How did open House go? This was another question Eric asked. Eric was wondering if it should happen more than one time a year. Parents commented that they needed more time in Math and Language and less time in other classes. They would also like more time in the House to get to know other parents. Maybe have snacks in House with more socializing.

Many years, PAR education does a talk just on the Roosevelt Math program. It has not been done this year. We will look into getting this on the calendar as a solution.

5. Enrollment: As follow up from the last PAR meeting, Eric went downtown to the school district office to request that Roosevelt be allowed to take in more transfer students. Roosevelt was down 25 students as of the last meeting. The district allowed Roosevelt to admit some 7th and 8th graders, but not any 6th graders.

Roosevelt would have liked more 6th graders to help keep enrollment higher in the next few years. The district is happy with the fact that in other middle schools, enrollment is up. They are happy other schools are able to add programs. They would like to keep it balanced. Roosevelt will need to drop programs next year. This will mean less choice and classes.

Roosevelt is short about 18 students this year. This is much better than the 50 students we were short at the beginning of the year. We will have to work on our school in a new way come next year.

AGENDA –

1) McKinney Kids in Transition – Art Farley art@cs.uoregon.edu and Eric Anderson anderson_er@4j.lane.edu

This program is for students in families that are homeless. It helps stop the moving around to different schools that homeless families are faced with. It provides after school help with homework, support, nutrition and transportation.

The program has been up and running for a few weeks. 7-8 students are on the list for the program, but it is helping at least 13 students now.

2/3 of the funding needed to run the program has been found. A remaining 1/3 is being asked for in a Grant to EEF. If you are interested in helping with this program contact Eric Anderson.

2) Grants – Melanie MacKinnon melaniem50@gmail.com and Maggie Carlson scottc15@yahoo.com

\$5000 is available from last schools year Showcase event. This money comes from the House Basket sale and Staffle Raffle. This portion of the monies earned from the Showcase auction goes back to the staff in appreciation for all the work they do.

The following is the list of Grant requests that came in from staff. All of the Grant requests fit the guidelines. The total amount requested came in at just under the \$5000. All of the grants have been approved by those present during the PAR business meeting.

Grants requested:

Judy Wenger - \$400 for yearbooks to be given for students on free/reduced lunch.

Marty Smith - \$125 for Digital camera for Student Government/ACT class (currently borrowing camera from yearbook class)

Dee Ryley - \$400 for three sewing machines for the Quilting class. (currently have 7 very old machines for 28 students)

Richard Long - \$348 for four new software programs for the music department (this will benefit 200 students)

Shane Rhodes - \$400 - \$200 for new security cables for bike rack, \$200 for bike area cleaning and maintenance tools. (this will benefit 100+ cyclists/skater/scooter riders and all RMS students)

Catherine Wiebe - \$145 for French DVD's in French with English/French subtitles. (This will benefit about 160 students each year)

Marna Knoer - \$300 for setting up new math classroom. Class set of rulers, protractors, compasses, math posters, calculators.

Jeff Wyman - \$250 for one class set of novels for Great American Book Club

Chad Heidtke - \$200 for a set of Coghlan's 5 in 1 survival aid compasses. (this is for a new class starting at RMS)

Lin Bruce - \$600 Projector stolen from classroom last spring.

Rebecca Harlan - \$400 for a digital video camera to be used in French Immersion conversation class, Ancient civ class, as well as other classes.

Eric Anderson - \$400 for use as a scholarship fund helping students that can not afford any school field trip fee.

Christie Hoogendoorn and Dee Ryley - \$400 for materials in two 6th grade Cultural Connections classes that have designed and sewn quilts for Sacred Heart's Neo Natal Intensive Care Unit. (Over the last four years they have done the project, the students at RMS have given about 100 quilts to the NICU. The project is part of the unit on community, contribution, and resiliency.)

Total \$4,368

A Roosevelt student requested of PAR that next year the Grant money be dispersed by the Student Government class. Student Government class does a wonderful job each year of running and dispersing funds generated by Magazine sale fundraiser.

By turning over the PAR Grant money requests and dispersment, more students will have the chance to go through this valuable exercise. It will put the choice in the hands of students, who are better connected and understand the needs in the classrooms. It will empower the students, who do the much of the work in bring in items for the House baskets.

PAR asks that, in Spring, Student Government helps each House decide on a basket theme, wraps collection boxes for each House, a promotes the collection of items.

Marty Smith is very happy to take this on for her Government classes and is waiting for an approval from PAR. PAR votes and agrees with this student request.

3) Treasurer Report – Melanie MacKinnon for Coleen Alexander

cmbalex@earthlink.net

See attached reports. No changes to report.

4) **Volunteer Report** – Nancy Collie, RMS Volunteer Coordinator

- a. Magazine Sale – kick off. They will need volunteers to work the turn in tables. There are three turn in dates set. Please contact Nancy if you can volunteer.
- b. Activity Night – Thursday, October 22nd. 6th graders and new to the school 7th and 8th graders can come at 6:15pm. All other students at 6:30. Students can wear costumes, no masks, no weapons. Many activities planned, DJ, Open Gym, Food, Haunted Hallway is in E Hall.
- c. Parent conferences are Nov 9th and 10th. Dinner for staff is being paid for by PAR. \$500 for both nights combined.
- d. 6th Grade Immigration Simulation coming in about one month. Nancy has a group of people to co-chair this event
- e. HAP (Holiday Assistance Program) is coming soon. Students will be asked to bring in can food, pasta, rice, non perishable items or cash to purchase food. Albertsons helps us by donating hams, turkeys, and fruit. Food is then boxed by Student Government and volunteer parents. Food is given to RMS families in need, to help support them over the winter break. It is totally confidential. Fran Calciano, RMS counselor, creates the list of families.
- f. Parents at school - RMS is looking for parents to be present at early and late lunch as well as before and after school. If you are interested in doing a shift once a week, please contact Nancy Collie.

5) **Scrip Report** – Maggie Carlson scottc15@yahoo.com

Capella grocery store and Unique Eugene grocery scrip is available in the office at any time. 10% of the total purchased is donated to RMS by the store. It is like carrying cash. They also make wonderful gift card presents for teachers and friends. Students can use Unique Eugene scrip at Sundance grocery store. Sundance has a wonderful hot lunch and salad bar as well as a variety of healthy food choices.

Scrip table will be set up for both days at the parent conferences. Parents can get help signing up for e scrip and can purchase grocery scrip. Volunteers are needed to help at the tables for one hour shifts. Please contact Nancy Collie or Maggie Carlson at 484-9286 or scottc15@yahoo.com

NEXT PAR MEETING November 20TH, 9AM TO 10:30AM, ROOM B-11

Please join us 9 to 9:10am for good coffee and conversation with Eric and Joel