

Walnut Ridge SCA Minutes
January 4th 2016

Board Officers:

President: Kim Rivera, Vice President: Trisha Furman-Leve, Treasurer: Jorge Troche,
Recording Secretary: Alleen DeJager, Corresponding Secretary: Carrie Baker

The AM Meeting was called to order at 9:34 am

The PM Meeting was called to order at 7:04pm

- **Presentation: Maureen Sweeney: Walnut Ridge Teacher of the year**

Literacy Presentation:

- Kindergarten students will receive developmental reading assessment this month
- Up to this point students learned about letters
- District wide literacy support in Vernon: Students in Vernon are immersed in literacy.
- First grade started the DRA process in September.
- January kindergarten will take formal turn. At this point some are already readers and some are still identifying letters.
- 80% of what we read comes from Dolch words

The ABCs of Reading

- **D.R.A.:** Nothing you can prepare them for. We arrive at a number based upon the individual assessments. Teacher takes student and administers D.R.A. Between January and June teachers will check in on a monthly basis with running records to see what is sticking and what needs to be practiced. Running records are done monthly in the classroom to check skills. Data is used to determine on which skills the student needs to focus. During small group instruction the other students are engaged in literacy skills, physical skills, and social skills. The small group instruction might be grouped based on skill need. Typically homogeneously grouped.
 - Mrs. Sweeney made note of **The Daily 5** that can be googled by parents.
 - Suggested to google high frequency words and dolce words.
 - Demonstrated the book **Ten Apples Up On Top**
- What parents can do:
 - Read with children
 - Keep it relevant : Books that the children enjoy
 - Keep it Positive: can be frustrating
 - Be consistent
 - Celebrate their accomplishments at home
 - When students know those high frequency words let them read books that have them included
 - Talk about what was read

- Mrs Sweeney suggested that parents google the 30 Million word gap: dif. between children that come from literacy based homes vs children that do not. Children being read to are hearing that language.
- Small group instruction:
 - Students are working at instructional level in small groups
 - Students will use just right books when they book shop but small group books are instructional.
 - The look book in the baggy is the book that they love to read using pictures . They will use context clues with these books to enjoy the book.
 - Other students are working in Literacy Centers during this time:
 - Working with peers without teacher
 - Working in small group with children at all different letters
 - Working together using a variety of manipulatives
 - Practice Skills such as: Sharing, waiting, and talking
 - Listen to Reading
 - Writing
 - Read to Self
 - Read to others
 - Word Work
 - During this time pulling groups and working on skills that are needed based on D.R.A.
 - Reminder Parents can use the Level iT app or book wizard app to scan books
- **Parent Question:**
 - can we call teacher and ask for D.R.A. Levels
 - Answer: Absolutely so that you have a guideline but may change quickly..may not. Reminder instructional level and independent level are different
 - Parent question is support provided:
 - Answer: Yes. Title one and reading specialist. First graders go to title one immediately or will work with reading specialist. if not getting at least 80% accuracy level they go to Title One to receive the extra support just for phonics .
 - Kindergarten will start going now ...if they don't have letters at all they will have been going already at this point.
 - Speak with Teacher
 - Parent Question: If kindergartener has already received DRA in October will they be DRA again in January
 - Yes. And running records
 - What is Title one:
 - Many schools in district have enough students that receive free lunch. We get federal money.

- ⅔ teachers. There are 3 in this building. They work specifically with students that have difficulty with literacy. They will pull the child and then the child goes back to the classroom. Some first graders will be pulled during instructional literacy time from their classroom and title one does similar skill at slower pace. Don't take them out of specials. Some students may receive double dose of literacy. At times will be pushed into the classroom. Same materials but more multisensory or at a deeper level. They may have different books in Title One than what they have in classroom. Fiction, nonfiction, poetry etc.... They are not reading same level book over and over but working with different books while in Title One to avoid boredom.
 - Parent Question: Does information from assessment follow them and are they grouped based on those levels in classrooms.
 - All. Teachers help build first grade classrooms. We match and mix students for a variety of reasons. Students are mixed up based on a variety of levels, academic needs, social needs, and gender. We do our best to get a perfect Bell curve in each classroom. All Vernon elementary schools do this. We do not take all high readers and place in one classroom. We Make sure that there is a decent bell shaped curve in each classroom. You want children blended with different children to learn with and through. K-6 is a heterogenous group.
 - Parent Question: 1st grade child does well with Dr. Seuss. Should the parent challenge her and encourage her to choose different books for variety.
 - Answer: allow the child to continue to read what they love because it encourages reading. Can go to Walnut Ridge website and look at Mr. Joseph's page to see what they may love and might entice to choose something new. Help choose other books that are Dr. Seuss and are not embedded with rhyme or possibly Mo Willems.
 - Parent question: kindergarten child bringing home books from the library that are too difficult. Will books that are leveled come home in kindergarten bc the books the child is currently reading are too difficult.
 - Those are "look books". Want to avoid those books that are strictly site words. The challenge is positive but parent encouraged to speak with teacher and ask for book recommendations as well as possibly look into Mo Willems and Dr. Seuss.
- **Principal Rosemary Gebhardt's Agenda:**
 - Thanks to all SCA parents
 - Holiday shop successful
 - Fundraiser brought in so much money
 - DRA testing begins next week teacher will take child one on one with teacher for a couple minutes first grade

- Upcoming Principals Forum: Tuesday the 19th 6:30 (snow date January 20th). Mrs. Keane, Mrs. Krops, and Mrs. Rogers will be present.
- Family Math Night: January 27th sign up online and on paper. This is to assist families with math. Parent component will be presented by the math supervisor and math coaches.
- Preschool open house February 25th try not to turn anyone away it is \$300 per month or \$ 150 for free reduced lunch children
- March 15-18th Kindergarten Registration
- Dial 4 testing for incoming Kindergartners will be held at the end of April to help ready determine readiness of child for kindergarten. This is not an intelligence test just to determine level of k readiness.
- Two training: January 13th Foundations training for teachers next week to ensure fidelity in building as well as title one back up.
- Readers Workshop training: January 29th with Robin Cohen to ensure readers workshop being done with fidelity.
- Mind travelers will be awarded soon in January. Two winners for preschool, kindergarten, and first grade
- Librarian request things that he needs for items Stevie the bearded dragon. Asking SCA for funds to feed and care for Stevie. These items will cost the SCA approximately \$160
- Reminder student of month and safety of the month are listed on the blog
- Parent question: Will unexcused absences for illnesses change? This parent was concerned about absences for illnesses adding up.
 - Answer: Only absences for vacations are unexcused not for illnesses. Must be related to illness. As long as doctors note excused absence. If you call nurse or Mrs G. The school will work with you.
 - Parent Again: How many days do they have to be missed for student to be left back.
 - Answer: Technically unexcused 30 days or more they can't go on to next grade level. Retention is a parent decision can't really force retention at this level. Mrs Gebhardt works closely with families to help make decision
- Mrs. Gebhardt would like to have an Author come in and may ask SCA to fund that...could be \$1200 paid for by SCA
- Kim Rivera
 - Dinner with Santa was a success thanks to all for attending and helping
 - Gertrude hawk over \$4000 towards the schools .. There are still a few in main office that didn't pick up.
 - Holiday shop thank volunteers
 - Father daughter dance parents for committee February fifth.
 - Family movie night: ballots will come out for kids to choose movie February 26th
 - Sparta lanes : family bowling . \$100 to sponsor a lane
 - Gertrude Hawk again in February
- Jorge treasurer December see attached document with Treasurer's report

**Walnut Ridge Primary School SCA
Treasurer Report- As of December 6, 2015**

Deposits		Disbursements:		
Previous Balance as of 12/6/2015:	\$ 12,959.39			
Current Balance as of 1/3/2016:	\$ 18,327.73			
12/16/2015	\$ 2,100.75			
12/16/2015	\$ 1,123.57			
12/16/2015	\$ 972.65			
12/16/2015	\$ 437.00			
12/16/2015	\$ 380.00	2047	\$ 496.00	Heaven Hill Pumpkins
12/16/2015	\$ 10.00	2048	\$ 50.00	VTFO-permit
12/15/2015	\$ 1,050.00	2049	\$ 35.89	<i>pending</i>
12/15/2015	\$ 740.00	2050	\$ 23.95	D.D reimbursement
12/15/2015	\$ 279.00	2051	\$ 1,157.75	Spirit Wear
12/15/2015	\$ 20.00	2052	\$ 680.63	Dictionaries
12/4/2015	\$ 50.00	2053	\$ 1,117.11	VOIDED- See ch#2070 \$902.25
12/4/2015	\$ 1,513.00	2054	\$ 88.61	K.R reimbursement
10/9/2015	\$ 90.00	2055	\$ 61.65	K.R reimbursement
10/9/2015	\$ 620.00	2056	\$ 200.00	Rogowski Farms Pumpkins
10/9/2015	\$ 60.00	2057	\$ 31.94	K.R reimbursement
9/9/2015	\$ 238.00	2059	\$ 200.00	Executive SCA Dues
9/9/2015	\$ 377.00	2060	\$ 250.00	Executive SCA
9/9/2015	\$ 125.00	2061	\$ 760.00	Create A Masterpiece
		2062	\$ 39.14	D.D reimbursement
		2063	\$ 200.00	LNO basket
		2064	\$ 33.87	<i>pending</i>
		2065	\$ 160.00	<i>pending</i>
		2066	\$ 67.62	<i>pending</i>
		2067	\$ 547.00	Exec SCA Giving Tree
		2068		VOIDED
		2069	\$ 1,305.25	<i>pending</i>
		2070	\$ 902.25	<i>pending</i>
		Fee	\$ 17.00	Returned item
		Fee	\$ 20.00	Charged back item Check #1629
Total:	\$ 10,185.97			
		Total:	\$ 8,445.66	

Attendance:

○ AM

- Erica D Wine
- Sasha Oatley
- Meagan Arnold
- Stacy Barberich
- Clarissa Piper
- Liane Herman
- Lin
- Linda-Allen Poole
- John Callahan

○ PM

- Heather Miller
- Keri Carrino Bracchi
- Jacly McCabe
- Christy Jackson
- Pat Furman
- Liza Giessuebel