

Ames School PTA Meeting  
October 17, 2014

**November Referendum**

*Mr. Ben Sells, Riverside Village President*

- Please vote on November 4<sup>th</sup>!
- This referendum is Property Tax Neutral and will NOT increase property tax bills.
- Each Riverside resident will receive a flyer in the mail about the referendum.
- The referendum will allow money for street repairs to be upfront which will save the Village money by avoiding cost increases due to inflation and by coordinating street repairs with sewer projects.

**American Association of University Women (AAUW)**

*Robin Benoy, Co-Chair (with Nancy Dvorak)*

- Sponsors programs and activities that support the intellectual and personal development of its members and of the community, with particular emphasis on women and girls.
- Women's History Month poster contest
  - All 4<sup>th</sup> graders will participate
  - Trophies will be awarded
  - Posters will be displayed in the public library
  - Looking for community volunteers to run the poster contest
- Women's History Month essay contest (7<sup>th</sup> graders)
- Cougar A.D.V.A.N.C.E (8<sup>th</sup> graders)
- Ann Willard Arts and Citizenship Scholarship (RBHS senior girl)
- STEM Fields of Study Scholarship (RBHS senior girl)
- Return to Learning Grant (any age woman)
- Find out more at website: [riverside-il.aauw.net](http://riverside-il.aauw.net) or on Facebook: AAUW – Riverside Branch
- Upcoming fudge sale – look for information in E backpack
- Binders of past contest entries were circulated and will be left in the Teacher Lounge for viewing

**Teacher Report**

*Mrs. Heather Klaus, Art Teacher*

- Student Council
  - Is up and running and the students are very excited
  - Working on project to support the troops – look for information to come through E backpack
- Correction to Veteran's Day Assembly – the time is 1:30 NOT 1:00 on November 11<sup>th</sup> (All are welcome to attend)
- Recent areas of study in class rooms include:

- Solids and Liquids
- Extreme Weather (2<sup>nd</sup> grade) – parents will be invited at a later date for research project presentations
- Art – K-2 film won the After Hours Film Society "Say it in 8" student film competition!
  - See E backpack for information regarding the showing of the film at Tivoli Theater on Monday, October 20 at 5 PM
  - Tickets are \$5

### **Nurse's Report**

*Mrs. Sonja Lewis, School Nurse*

- Head Lice
  - A few cases have been reported by parents but no lice have been found for any classes checked at school (notices will be sent home if found at school)
  - Evidence of head lice
    - Scratching the scalp a lot
    - Nits look like dandruff but are very difficult to remove
    - Small lice or large gray or brown lice
  - Prevention
    - Keep coats on hooks at school (Do not leave on floor)
    - Put hats inside coat sleeve
    - Consider putting hair in braids
- Vaccines
  - New mandates for two doses of Chicken Pox and MMR for Kindergarten, and grades 6 and 9)
  - You may have received a notice
- Viruses
  - D96 has not received instructions from the CDC regarding Ebola
  - Best protections:
    - Good hand washing (20 seconds or sing the ABC's)
    - Cough into elbow
    - Try not to touch eyes, nose, or mouth
    - Fever at 100 or higher – keep student home from school until the child is fever-free (without medication) for 24 hours. Siblings that do not have a fever may attend school.
    - Children that are vomiting or have diarrhea should stay home.

### **Superintendent Report**

*Dr. Bhavna Sharma-Lewis*

- Undercover Boss
  - Dr. Sharma-Lewis will substitute for teachers in the district, so the teachers can observe other teachers in order to learn from one another
- 2014-2015 Action Plan

- Dr. Sharma- Lewis reviewed and highlighted objectives in the 3 goal areas
- <http://www.district96.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/09/September-2014.pdf>
- Working on 5 year strategic plan (Where do we want to be in 2020?)
- Next BOE Meeting – Tuesday, October 21
  - BOE to appoint architect
  - BOE to approve Comcast proposal
- Senate Bill 16 (SB 16)
  - The bill has passed the Senate and can be called by the House at any time (but most likely this Spring)
  - Considered by critics to be a Robin Hood mindset
  - District 96 will lose about 74.6% of state funding if the bill passes (a reduction of \$789,000)
    - We are currently funded 80% by local taxes
    - There will be no increase in education funding by the state
  - Authors of SB16 greatly underestimated how the impact would cut funding for special education and other targeted, categorical grants
  - Contact our State Representative
    - PTA has sent general information about the bill via Feedblitz
    - Express your opinions to Representative Michael J. Zalewski ([repzalewski@gmail.com](mailto:repzalewski@gmail.com))
  - Karen Valdez of ED-RED (Education, Research and Development) has been invited to speak at the December finance committee meeting. The meeting will be open to the public.

## **Principal Report**

*Mr. Todd Gierman*

- Ames Facebook page is doing great
  - Miss Orr's class received 1,153 views for her latest post
- Surprise Fire Drill
  - Fire Department held an unscheduled fire drill on Friday in conjunction with their Fire Safety presentations
  - The fire drill included a blocked stairwell and a hidden child
  - The entire school was evacuated in about 2 minutes and 47 seconds even with these obstacles in place
  - The fire department commended the school for an amazing job
- Intruder Drill is scheduled for Monday
- Remind App
  - An email has been sent to sign up for a one-way email app
  - Email addresses are kept confidential
  - Allows for short, one-way communication from school staff
  - Be sure to sign up
- Parent University
  - Went amazingly well but wished for greater turn out

- Link to view Parent University can be found on District 96 page (<http://www.district96.org/resources/professional-development/>)
- Early Release/PD update
  - Thank you for Ames support for Early Release Mondays for professional development
  - Teachers are meeting across grade level and across the district
  - Specials teachers are also writing curriculum to include CCSS
  - Most recent professional development topic was differentiating instruction in the classroom
- Implementation of CCSS in the classroom
  - K-5 flexible math groups
    - Guided, small group instruction based on strands of the CCSS
    - MAP data will be used to form groups
    - Groups may be instructed at centers within the classroom or switch classrooms for instruction
    - The eventual goal is for a school schedule that allows for instructional groups to move across grade levels
  - Teachers have problem-solved to find 60 minutes of additional math instruction time per week for this guided instruction
  - This method of focused instructional time was implemented at Hollywood and Central last year with great success
- Online Math Resources
  - Teachers sent letters for access to My Math in the last few days
- Pizza with the Principal
  - Met with Ames Leadership Team to determine selection of students
    - 14 students per lunch
    - Approximately 112 students throughout the year
    - Teachers nominate a student based on the following criteria:
      - Most improved academically
      - Most improved behavior
      - Practices SEL strategies
      - Is a good friend to others
      - Teacher's choice

### **Approval of Minutes September 2014**

- Motion – Lora Gardiner
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Flavio Gonzalez

### **District Technology Steering Committee Report**

*Leilani Navarro and Liz Buoscio, Committee Members*

- Comcast Proposal for increased band width
  - The district needs increased band width in order to administer PARCC test this Spring
  - The committee has negotiated a 36-month contract

- The committee is in full support of the current proposal
- The proposal will be up for vote at the next BOE meeting (Tuesday, Oct. 21)
- Give support for the proposal by emailing [Boardofeducation@district96.org](mailto:Boardofeducation@district96.org) asking them to please vote “yes”
- Support at the BOE meeting is also appreciated

## **Officers’ Reports**

### **President’s Report**

*Lisa Swicionis, Co-President*

- Events/Programs
  - Meet & Greet rescheduled for Tuesday, November 11<sup>th</sup>
  - Parents/Guardians only
  - More information to come
- Be Fit logs
  - ONLINE ONLY after October
- Fun Lunch
  - Huge success
  - Most of the school participated
  - Menu will change month to month (but pizza may be offered again)
- Library Volunteer Schedule
  - There are many spots still open
  - Sign up on Sign Up Genius (<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0c4aaba82faaf58-library>)
  - If someone has already filled a spot but you are available, you may still come
- Fun Run
  - Kick-off assembly will be on Tuesday, October 21
  - Information will be sent home on Tuesday
  - Event will be held on November 6<sup>th</sup>
- PTA Business
  - Lisa and Elizabeth are reviewing bylaws
  - Annual Meeting: October 20<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM Edison School, Stickney
  - Region Director Nomination – form to apply available

### **Treasurer’s Report**

- Pedometers – purchased, issued, and in use
- 146 PTA members (submit dues)

### **Fundraising Report**

- Innisbrook – almost met goal

- Spirit Wear was purchases for custodians this year
- Market Day
  - 170 boxes of cookie dough sold
  - Duct Tape the Principal will be held during lunch on November 21<sup>st</sup>
- Election Day Bake Sale – Volunteers needed
  - February 24 & April 7 Bake Sale Chairs needed or will be cancelled
- On-Going: Box Tops, Labels for Education, Target Red Card, Cleaner Options

### **Room Reps Report**

- All reps assigned to teachers
- 5<sup>th</sup> grade meeting

### **Hospitality**

- Principal Breakfast – 1<sup>st</sup> one today
- Pizza with the Principal

### **Cultural Arts**

*Flavio Gonzalez*

- Reflections
  - Goal to have more participation
  - Working with Mrs. Klauska to identify pictures from last year that can be submitted
  - May be contacted to let you know that your child's piece would fit the theme
- Halloween – Friday, October 31<sup>st</sup>
  - Extended lunch – 11:30-1:00
  - Parade – 1:00-1:30
  - Student assembly (Ben's Bubble Show) to follow
- Family Assembly
  - Friday, February 27, 2015 at 6:30 PM
  - Historical Perspectives

### **R.A.I.N. Report**

- Parent Resource Fair coming in February or March
- Volunteers are needed to help with the fair
- Contact Paige Fumo-Fox

### **Other Announcements**

- Upcoming Events
  - Board of Education Meeting – Tuesday, October 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:30 PM Hauser
  - R.A.I.N. Meeting – Wednesday, October 15 at 6:30 PM Riverside Library
  - Principal Breakfast – Friday, November 14 from 8:00-8:20 AM
  - PTA Meeting – Friday, November 14 at 8:45 AM

In attendance:

Lisa Swicionis, Elizabeth Kos, Lisa Carlson, Kirsten Bell, Liz Buoscio, Flavio Gonzalez, Lora Gardiner, Karen Nishimura, Leilani Navarro, Maritza Gutierrez, Diane LaMantia