

REBO Meeting Minutes
November 13, 2008
Robious Middle School

The following people were in attendance:

Robin Balsamo
Kris Branch
Carol Catron
Susan Cheatham
Leslie Hausser
Lesley Holbrook
Claudia Marlow
Samantha MARRS
Michele Mauney
Lisa O'Keefe
Michelle Payne
Teresa Petrov
Lori Phillips
Sara Somerville
Jean Zimmerman

The meeting was called to order at 2:05 p.m. by Samantha MARRS, REBO Chair. Samantha distributed copies of the meeting agenda, the 10/9/08 EBO meeting minutes, and William and Mary's "Evaluation Report: Chesterfield County Public Schools Gifted Education Program 2001." Samantha announced that the PTA is collecting candy for faculty and staff appreciation. Please send them any extra Halloween candy you might have. Samantha thanked Michele Mauney for handling the T-shirt orders for both teams, including distribution. Any corrections to the October minutes should be emailed to Carol Catron before these are posted on the REBO website.

Budget:

Susan Cheatham, REBO Treasurer, reported that the fall fundraiser raised \$4,750.00, exceeding the goal. In addition, \$1,986.00 was collected for T-shirts; however, the bill for the shirts has not yet been paid. REBO gave Mr. Siddiqi \$2,500.00 toward the costs of teacher training. Other expenses include the annual post office box rental of \$20.00. There is currently \$6,151.72 in the REBO's bank account.

The REBO members reviewed proposed budget allocations. The group approved the purchase of two cartridges for the Venturers' laser printer and two Flip Video Cameras, tripods, and rechargeable batteries (one per team). Additionally, the REBO gave \$150.00 to each teacher for curriculum support and

enhancement. In the future, the REBO will assist with field trip costs for students who need assistance, and it is up to the school to handle such requests to the REBO in an anonymous manner. New budget requests will be reviewed in 2009, upon submission by the teams.

Venturer Report:

Lori Phillips and Jean Zimmerman reported that the sixth-grade field trip to Falling Creek Elementary was a success. The Venturers read to second graders, who were "eager and interested." All of the children seemed to enjoy this experience. Planning for the sixth-grade Washington, DC field trip is underway. At this point, 95 students and 42 chaperones are going. The train leaves Richmond at 6:00 a.m.! Please send all photos of this field trip and other Venturer events (both in school and outside of school) to Michele Mauney, the REBO Documentarian: mauneys@yahoo.com. Photographs will be used to create a movie that will be shown at the end-of-the-year awards ceremony.

Navigator Report:

Michelle Payne reported that she is working on a bulletin board for the Navigators' field trip. The Future Problem Solvers space training is going well. Mrs. Arnold needs parent assistance for scrapbooking. Jean Zimmerman, CCPS Gifted Coordinator, said that the teachers would like to reward students who have turned in all their work on time, who have no zeros, and who have had no office referrals with a Friday movie night every nine weeks. The teachers would like REBO to help with the snacks and to provide a few chaperones.

County Gifted Education:

Samantha emphasized the need for parents to be informed and educated about gifted learning so that we can support our teachers, students, and the CBG program at Robious. Our School Board representative, Patti Carpenter, recently appointed Will Shewmake as our new representative on the Gifted Advisory Council. This Council advises the school board on issues related to gifted education. If you have questions or concerns you would like to bring to the Gifted Advisory Council, please contact Mr. Shewmake or Mrs. Zimmerman. The contact information is on the REBO website. On December 3rd, there will be a meeting for the four EBO chairpersons at the Matoaca CBG site, and Samantha Marrs will represent REBO. Kathy Glenn, Director of Gifted Education programs and Ed Walent, Director of Instruction for Chesterfield County Public Schools will also attend this meeting.

Robious Gifted Education:

Samantha asked whether the sixth-grade parents might want to plan a holiday project, as was done last year. There was no decision about a parent-directed project. If anyone has a suggestion about a volunteer project for either team, please contact Pam Benos. Additionally, the REBO will not take up a collection for teacher gifts for the holidays, but parents can volunteer to pool funds collectively for any teacher appreciation on their own.

Jean Zimmerman, our Gifted Education Coordinator, announced that Mrs. Stephanie Estes is the Gifted Teacher of the Year this year for the county! She emphasized the need we have for teachers and guidance counselors with gifted training and experience at Robious. In the coming months there will be more information on the REBO website about what we can do as parents to ensure that the eighth-grade team is another outstanding collection of teachers.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:05. **The meeting for December has been postponed until January** since the regular meeting date conflicted with the DC field trip. An electronic report will be circulated to the REBO for discussion purposes. Samantha stated that we will start REBO meetings at **1:45 p.m.** in the future. All parents are welcome to attend. The meetings are held in the school cafeteria on the second Tuesday of the month.

Submitted by

Carol Catron, Secretary