

Ridgely Middle School  
PTA Board Meeting  
January 28, 2019

Welcome/Introductions:

President's Report:

- a. Reflections competition has finished. Thank you to committee chair, Erin O'Brien, for a fantastic job. The entries were judged at the school level and the winners went on to the county level competition.
- b. The new student directory displaying the wonderful student art work was distributed today. Many thanks to Christine Toohey.
- c. Yara Chiekh will write a letter to urge those of the RMS community that have not yet joined the PTA to join.
- d. Many events have occurred since the last meeting: a robotics competition held at RMS, Ski Snow Club has started, Geography Contest, 2nd Quarter Reading Incentive, Scholastic Book Fair, countless reimbursements, and holiday concerts.
- e. Any RMS alum that is a senior at Towson High, Loch Raven High, and Dulaney High school are encouraged to apply through their guidance counselors for a RMS scholarship.
- f. There will be a new fundraiser event for parents at the BC Brewery on March 1, 2019 with the goal of raising money to purchase new projectors and microphones for the school. Donations can be Venmoed to RMS night out. Information will be available on FaceBook. Feel free to share on Nextdoor.
- g. The 8th Grade Farewell will include parents and family members this year. It will occur during the school day with plans to bus students to the event. The event likely will occur at the fairgrounds.
- h. Topic raised from Ellie Ayd that hospitality for the 8th Grade Farewell can be provided by the 6th or 7th grade.
- i. The PTA is looking for a volunteer to take over all PTA online content (FaceBook, website, Google Calendar) for next year.
- j. There is a need to clean up the green space by the main sign. PTA will coordinate with the Green Committee to complete.
- k. Volunteer(s) are needed to chair the Nomination Committee. Kim Parry & Sachin Hebbar volunteered.

Treasurer's Report:

- a. The treasurer's report will be emailed to all in attendance.
- b. Jane from finance made a request asking if the cost of the 6th grade assembly, Subzero Liquid Nitrogen Ice Cream Assembly, could be paid for by the PTA. The cost is \$1524.00. Discussion ensued.
- c. **A motion was made to pay for the fee of the 6th grade assembly, Subzero Liquid Nitrogen Ice Cream Assembly, out of the cultural arts line item of the budget. Motion seconded and passed.**
- d. There will be a report on the cultural arts at the February PTA meeting.
- e. The state registration, sales, and tax filing have all been completed for the year.
- f. Net income - \$19,595.97. Remaining budget: \$31,837.73.

Principal's Report:

- a. RMS applied for and has been selected as an AVID (Advanced Via Individual Determination) secondary expansion site for the 2019-2020 year. The AVID program promotes college and career readiness skills to improve achievement for students at the secondary and college level, and beyond. For the pilot year, RMS will have 1-2 elective classes in eighth grade and there will be an application process for acceptance. These elective classes do not replace the college and readiness/tech class currently.
- b. An AVID Site Team of staff members of at least eight will be going to Philadelphia this summer for professional development and cross training to enhance their learning and teaching strategies. These strategies will eventually be taught school wide. Lutherville Lab Elementary will be piloting this program also. RMS goal aims to be an AVID certified school which requires 60% of the teaching staff to be AVID trained. The BCPS AVID Twitter group is a good source for more information.
- c. The 3rd marking period began today.
- d. The feeder elementary schools are selecting courses.
- e. The picnic table project made with Carver High School and under Ms. Strayer's guidance has arrived. There are 4 tables located by the flag pole.
- f. Ms. Michelle Dress, the art director chair, is the Teacher of the Year nominee.
- g. The RMS Robotics team has been selected to represent RMS at the State of the School Address.
- h. The straight A's students will be invited to an ice cream social and receive certificates.
- i. Mr. Sparenburg, grade 7 science teacher and technology liaison, received the December Staff Member of the Month award. He will be able to park in the principal's parking spot for a week. There is positive feedback from the staff for this new program. Mr. Barish opened it up to the PTA if the PTA would like to contribute towards the Staff Member of the Month award.

#### Teacher's Report:

- a. The 7th and 8th grade book club is going well. There will be a request if the PTA can sponsor the book club next year since it is not supported as an EDA through TABCO.
- b. From Jill Jahries: February 4-8th, 2019 is National School Counseling Week. The PTA will give gift bags, and the students can thank counselors through their social studies classes. The staff can share their thanks via a link seated in an email sent last week.
- c. From Caitlin Kambic: Clay Club has had a great start. Thanks to the PTA for funding. The club has made many projects such as pinch pots, annual sculptures, clay tiles, Sculpy projects, and soap sculptures. Currently, the members are creating a project of their own design using the slab construction technique.
- d. From Hilary Lutwyche: thank you to the PTA for sponsoring the tasting lesson for the 6th grade French students before winter break. The students had a really fun time expressing in French their experiences trying many different cheeses, chocolate, and baguettes from French speaking countries.
- e. From Ms. Strayer: RMS has received 4 very large picnic tables that were thoughtfully designed by three now 9th grade students as part of the outdoor learning space PBL that the 7th grade students completed 2.5 years ago. These well-built and sturdy tables each weighing 600 lbs were built by the carpentry class at George Washington Carver High School. The tables have benches all the way around and comfortably seat about 8-10 students each. Computers should be able to easily access the school's wi-fi while utilizing this outdoor learning space.

- f. Michelle Dress is the Teacher of the Year Nominee as mentioned also under Principal's Report.

#### Committee Reports:

Fundraising: Volunteers will be needed for the BC Brewery fundraiser. Sachin and Micah will work on finding sponsors for this event.

Craft Fair: No new updates.

Student Directory: Directories were distributed today as mentioned under President's Report. Thanks to Dawn Parker and staff for working so hard to help get directory out.

#### Policy and Politics:

- a. The Maryland General Assembly is in session. Kim Beard has a list of the elected officials and their contact information.
- b. The Safe Schools Maryland Act (HB 148) adds a program within the Maryland Center for School Safety to:
  - Provide school safety training to personnel in local school systems, 21 individual schools, law enforcement, and public safety answering point personal, and other entities.
  - Provide program awareness and education materials for local school systems to distribute to student groups, parents, and community organizations.
  - Develop training curriculum and teaching materials for the Train-The-Trainer Program.
  - Conduct training in all geographic regions of the state.
- c. The Capital Project Scoring System (SB 250): Will require the Baltimore County Board of Education by January 1, 2020 to develop and implement a scoring system to prioritize school buildings that are more than 50 yrs old and have not been improved by major renovation in the last 15 years. This scoring system will be applied to 75% of the public school facilities by January 1, 2022, and published on the school system's website and reported to the Baltimore County delegation to the General Assembly.
- d. Governor Hogan proposed a 1.2 million dollar construction loan.
- e. The Kirwan Commission Final Report was presented to the MD general assembly on January 18, 2019. The report presented data that showed the following:
  - Maryland schools are underperforming. National Assessments in the most recent cycle for 4th & 8th graders in math and reading placed Maryland near of below the middle in both grades. Maryland was the only state to see scores drop on all the tests between 2013-2015.
  - Maryland schools performed at a mediocre level in a country that performs at a mediocre level internationally.
  - Fewer than 40% of our high school graduates are truly "college and career ready."
  - There is a state teacher shortage especially in science and mathematics, and 60% of new teachers each year must be recruited from outside the state.
  - Several national studies show Maryland to be regressive in school funding with Maryland schools being underfunded on average by \$2 million per school.

- The Commission presented a robust funding structure: a ten year phase-in plan, that when fully implemented in 2030, will cost an additional \$3.8 billion (combined state and local) annually.
- f. A partial amount of the lock box money will go towards the Kirwan Commission. Also, a portion will go towards paying interest on the \$1.2 million loan.
  - g. The County Executive is seeking \$100 million dollars per year for the next 5 years to pay for the 3 high schools' (Landsdowne, Towson, & Dulaney) replacement, and the building of seven elementary schools and one middle school project.
  - h. Provision of Feminine Hygiene (HB 133) would provide feminine hygiene products in all grades 6-12 restrooms at no charge.
  - i. Superintendent Verletta White presented budget which was 12% over budget for additional staff support.
  - j. Final budget: the County Executive is asking for cuts to the central administrative office costs and to evaluate cuts of devices at elementary schools thereby reducing the number of devices.
  - k. There is a new facebook page organizing teachers and parents to garner support for schools and the possible impact for a fee for developers in Baltimore County to contribute to schools and parks.

Reflections: See under President's Report

Teacher Appreciation Day: The PTA will host a lunch for teachers in the library. Dates will be finalized with Mr. Barish.

Hospitality-Upcoming events include Arts in Action and Teacher Appreciation Day.

Membership:

- a. PTA cards were distributed electronically.
- b. The Maryland PTA will increase membership dues to \$1.50 for next year.
- c. Membership funds total: \$20,045.00. (\$7395.00-dues; \$12,620-Contributions)
- d. Total Members: 493

Special Ed Liaison:

- a. Refer to the SEACAC website and Facebook for all dates regarding meetings, parent workshops, and events.
- b. Urging parents to come to the SEACAC meetings. More staff than parents are attending currently.
- c. At the December meeting with Verletta White, there was discussion about possibly having IEP chairs at schools.
- d. Honestly Autism Day is on April 6, 2019.
- e. The Post Secondary Transition Expo will be on March 30, 2019.
- f. The GTCAC meeting will be on February 6, 2019.
- g. At the school climate committee meeting with Jill Jahries, the counselors are committed to improving the school climate. Efforts are underway to make a pantry for personal hygiene products. Mental health providers are available at RMS. There may be opportunities to provide parent education.

Spirit Wear: Sales will occur at the incoming 6th grade night.

Volunteer Coordinator: Volunteering opportunities are coming up on February 4, 17th, and March 1st.

No new business.

Meeting adjourned.

DRAFT