

Ridgely Middle School
PTA Board Meeting
November 26, 2018

Welcome/Introductions:

President's Report: Yara Chiekh

- a. American Education Week had a reception room for the parents. Spirit wear sales were available.
- b. The Castanea boundary study discussion was attended by Yara and Mr. Barish. Mr. Barish was a moderator. The boundary delineation to include Mays Chapel Elementary School, Ridgely Middle School, & Dulaney High School was voted for by 93%. This will likely result in approximately 4-7 students attending RMS.
- c. The Silent Auction and Craft Fair is the biggest fundraiser of the year. 256 adults and 100 vendors attended. Thank you to Kim Beard, Jen Hano., Debbie Gill, and Ms. O'Melia for helping with supervising, and to Ellie Ayd for the taping donations. Student volunteers were complimented for helping vendors set up and break down.

Treasurer's Report: Ying Ying Shao

- a. Total Craft Fair revenue: \$8981.45.
- b. Total Membership dues: \$ 20,561.00.
- c. Spirit Wear revenue-\$1112.95
- d. Many clubs have not spent any money yet. Ms. O'Melia reminded clubs started 1 month ago.

Principal's Report: Mr. Seth Barish

- a. American Education Week, which included one snow day and a 2 hr delay, had 481 family members who attended.
- b. Thank you to the PTA for supporting AEW, inviting parents, and feeding both parents and staff.
- c. For the first time feedback forms were available to parents and feedback was positive. Forms have been reviewed and made available to teachers.
- d. RMS received an \$8000.00 Innovative Learning Grant fund which will be under Mr. Barish's direction. The fund will be used for programs such as starting a connections group for students dealing with trauma and students flying under the radar and other after school programs.
- e. The Turkey Trot was a success with special thanks to Ms. Wilson for organizing. Many thanks to the volunteers that spent many hours before and after school to make the event successful. RMS will continue to build upon this first year.
- f. Report cards: 222 students received straight A's, 17% of students.
- g. The update from the executive director is that the PTA cannot sponsor a Straight A's breakfast. The new plan will be to have an ice cream social for straight A students. These students will likely receive also a Chik-Fil-A coupon.
- h. Mr. Barish has started a Student and Principal Advisory Board. Four students from each grade level were selected by the grade level teachers and counselors. The students selected represent a diverse mix and will meet with Mr. Barish quarterly for the year. This

board will allow students to have a voice in all areas (climate, education, etc.). The 1st introduction meeting occurred on the Tuesday before Thanksgiving.

- i. The winter concert series will begin in December.
- j. Two middle school Baltimore County students were selected for the All State Band, one of which was a RMS student.

Teacher's Report: Ms. Kathy O'Melia

- a. Thank you for letting the students volunteer and be supportive of the Craft Fair.
- b. The teachers thank the PTA for all the support during AEW.
- c. There will be basketball teams this year.
- d. The Craft fair and Turkey Trot are community events that the teachers are appreciative of the families that turn out and support them.
- e. A question was put forth about how parents are notified of events such as SGA's Stuff-A-Bus. Discussion ensued explaining many events were clustered due partially also to the snow day making advertising more difficult. A recommendation was made for possibly a 2nd Stuff-a-Bus event.
- f. The school nurse can always use donations such as feminine products, underwear, and granola bars. Teachers can use tissue box donations.

Committee Reports:

Craft Fair: Yara Chiekh reporting for Debbie Gill: vendors were very happy with the Craft Fair and spaces have already been reserved next year.

Silent Auction: Kim Beard reporting for Jen Hano

- a. \$5080.00 made approximately which was doubled from last year's \$1700.00.
- b. Looking for new recommendations about how to close the auction for next year.
- c. A new silent auction chair needed for next year. Kim Beard & Jen Hano will assist the new chair.
- d. Many thanks to Pets on Wheels whose pets added interest and helped the event.

Student Directory: Christine Toohey

- a. The data has been received from the school. A different layout is being worked on and now awaiting for a quote.
- b. The goal is for the directory to be available by the end of December.

Hospitality: many thanks to Andrea Schutzman for coordinating hospitality to all the events.

Membership: Cassie Hersh and Ellie Ayd: Members still joining and membership cards will be going out via email.

Policy and Politics: Kim Beard

- a. The governor announced the Board of Education members: 4 appointed, 7 elected members. Kathleen Causey was elected for our district. She would like to join a RMS PTA meeting.
- b. On November 20, 2018: review of new Maryland public school report cards based on a 5 star review began. RMS's review will come out in December.
- c. Tomorrow night, there is a task force meeting at Patapsco High School to allow public input regarding changing from 7 periods a day (traditional schedule) to 5 periods a day (block schedule) for middle school. Mr. Barish comments that under block schedules, periods would be 70 minutes. Much discussion ensued about research behind traditional scheduling vs block scheduling. In the past, RMS has pushed back against the block schedule.
- d. PARCC testing results demonstrated that of 27 Baltimore County schools, 7 schools (including Ridgely Middle School) are above state average.

Reflections: Erin O. Brien: Teachers have the Reflections application which are due Dec. 7th, 2018. Information has been disseminated and judges have been organized.

Special Education Liaison: Yara Chiekh reporting for Kim Parry

- a. Ellen Galvez is the new Special Education Resource Center director. She is available to provide support to families whose children have disabilities.
- b. Several free parent workshops are being planned and hope to be available in the winter and spring.
- c. SECAC is focusing on transitions and there are many BCPS opportunities available to students with disabilities to help them prepare for life after high school.
- d. Transition planning is incorporated into student IEPs at 14yrs of age. Families are encouraged to explore transition options starting in 6th and 7th grade.
- e. Next SECAC meeting is December 3rd, 2018 at 7pm at the Greenwood campus. Superintendent Verletta White will be present to share BCPS initiatives.

Spirit Wear: Jessica Voorheis and Stacey Frank: Sales did well. There will be no further sales before winter break but contact Yara Chiekh if an item is needed.

Volunteer Coordinator: Kim Letke. No new updates. Thanks to Kim for coordinating all the volunteers

New Business:

- a. **Motion made, seconded, and passed to cancel December PTA meeting.**
- b. Kim Beard is seeking volunteers to meet for a possible fundraising meeting.
- c. Next PTA meeting: January 28, 2019.

Meeting Adjourned