

Ridgely Middle School  
PTA Board Meeting  
October 29, 2018

Welcome/Introductions:

- a. August and September Minutes will be approved online. Minutes will be available on the PTA website

President's Report: Yara Chiekh

- a. The PTA sponsored dessert for the social club.,
- b. 8th Grade Career day is this Friday. The PTA will be supplying gift bags, name tags, and thank you cards for the parent volunteer presenters.
- c. Spirit Wear sales were a great success. Sales will also occur during AEW and The Craft Fair.
- d. Thank you, Kim Letke, for organizing volunteers. Thank you to all volunteers working on the Craft Fair and Silent Auction.
- e. The Craft Fair sign will be displayed.
- f. The PTA FaceBook page and amount of activity was discussed.
- g. The audit was submitted.
- h. Requests from teachers to pay for small projects have been submitted. The PTA will continue to support as many as possible.
- i. On October 23, 2018 the Loch Raven High School Open House occurred.
- j. Proposals have been put forth to change the current 7 periods system to a 5 period system in middle school, to change the high school 4a, 4b schedule, and to increase the school day by 15 minutes. Dates will be set to discuss these proposals.
- k. The RAC will start up in January.

Treasurer's Report: Yingying Shao

- a. The budget is off to a good start. See the budget report. Net income: \$19,361.52.
- b. Taxes due mid-November.
- c. Question raised from the floor regarding possible funds for the chess club. The chess club was referred to the submittal process for funds.

Principal's Report: Mr. Popielski

- a. American Education Week will be occurring November 12-16, 2018.
- b. RMS is working on rewarding straight A students with a special food party or event such as an Orioles game.
- c. The 7th grade zoo trip needs more chaperones.
- d. The state survey and the MAP testing is currently on hold until the computer tech support is working.
- e. The tobacco survey will be completed on time.
- f. Incidences regarding school safety should be reported.
- g. Process underway to establish speed cameras and a blinking crosswalk on Charmuth St. and Ridgely Rd. Yara Chiekh will write a letter to support endeavor.

Teacher's Report: Ms. O'Melia

- a. Schoology still has some glitches. John Eyres and Mr. Sperenburg are still working with parents. An app called "RAVEN" created by a high school student can be logged on with Schoology to help with access
- b. The surrounding shrubs near the marquis sign have a lot of insects that are bothering people when updating the sign. Yara Chiekh will contact Green team about managing the insects.
- c. The teachers are asking for more Keurig capsules which the PTA will provide.

Committee Reports:

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Craft Fair: Jen Hano

- a. The Craft Fair will be on November 10, 2018. The signs are almost up.
- b. Some of the donated items include:
  - Principal for the Day,
  - Assistant Principal Popielski donated to shave his head,
  - Wine tour for 10 people
  - Pro skating package
  - Summer camps at Gilman School, Camp Puhtok—The Y Adventure Cam
- c. The items will be placed on FaceBook and parents can share on Nextdoor site.
- d. Still trying to obtain musical performances by the Silent Auction.
- e. Pets on Wheels will have pets by the Silent Auction.
- f. Will ask Spirit Wear if they could donate a basket.
- g. The book club will have a table to collect gently used books for donation.
- h. Improvements such as providing a map at every entrance are planned.
- i. Student volunteers will be helping on Saturday.
- j. Looking for volunteers to help on Friday-5-7pm to help vendors set up.

Student Directory: Christine Tooey

- a. Awaiting data from Dawn.
- b. Directory likely available by the end of December.
- c. The art work for the front and back cover has been selected.

Hospitality: Andrea Schutzman

- a. Charcoal Deli will be contributing donations.
- b. The food table at the Craft Fair will have updated prices which will help it to be more profitable.
- c. The AEW Signup Genius will go out for parents to provide food donations.

PTA Membership: Ellie Ayd & Cassie Hersh

- a. Total members: 458. Total amount: \$18,615.
- b. Membership contribution increased by over \$1000.00
- c. Low teacher membership so far.

- d. An email will remind people about membership.

Policy and Politics: Kim Beard

- a. The general election will be held on November 6, 2018. Early voting is available through November 1st, 2018.
- b. The Women's League of Baltimore County has a non-partisan website where you can view each candidate ([www.vote411.org](http://www.vote411.org).)
- c. On October 1st, the state bills were implemented. HB 1094/SB 900: makes it a criminal misdemeanor to distribute e-cigarettes and juling devices to minors and establishes civil penalties for minors possessing e-cigarettes.
- d. The State Board of Education signed off on a new 5 star school rating system where stars will now be assigned based on a school's overall academic progress. This reporting is Maryland's answer to the Federal Law: Every Student Succeeds Act.
- e. Lieutenant Governor Rutherford would like to tour Ridgely to look at our lack of auditorium and locker rooms and the asbestos floor. The exact date is TBD. We are trying to get state funding for the above.

Reflections: Erin O.

- a. The theme is "Heroes around Me". Due date is December 7th, 2018. More information can be found at the national Reflections website.
- b. A suggestion was made to put up signs within the school to encourage more student participation.

8th Grade Activities: No new updates.

Special Education Liaison: Kim Parry

- a. There is a new director for the special education center. More workshops will be coming.
- b. The SECAC (Special Education Citizens Advisory Committee) is for families with special education students, with special education students in GT, and to evaluate school climate. Really urging parents to attend and interact and speak with the Board of Education about what services are needed.
- c. There is a SEACAC meeting about transitions and considering magnet programs.
- d. Verletta White will attend the December meeting.

Spirit Wear: Jessica Voorheis and Stacey Frank:

- a. Items will be on sale at AEW and the Craft Fair.

Volunteer Coordinator: Kim Letke

- a. The committee would like to do a special event in Jan/Feb, "Souper Bowl," for the teachers as a means of showing appreciation.

New Business:

- a. Castanea Estates Redistricting issue: a decision to be made about how bus lines will be redrawn which will dictate whether the new families will be districted to RMS/Dulaney High School vs Pikesville Middle/High School.

- b. Question brought up from the floor that the 7th grade zoo field trip fell on difficult week for working parents to get another day off to volunteer. Mr. Popielski explained the selected date was also to congratulate the students for a well done 1st quarter.
- c. Payment options to the PTA will be discussed.

Meeting Adjourned.

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