

Ridgely Middle School  
PTA Board Meeting  
September 24, 2018

Welcome/Introductions:

August Minutes and Back to School Night Minutes will be approved at the October PTA meeting.

President's Report: Yara Chiekh

- a. Thank you to everyone involved with Back to School Night.
- b. The LTRC Snow Club contributed \$1000.00 to the PTA.
- c. Many thanks to Justin Eyler for setting up the new PTA website and Kim Beard for updating the website.
- d. A thank you card was received from Jill Jahries on behalf of the more than 30 people that attended the 7th and 8th grade new parent orientation.
- e. The RMS community is encouraged to attend the high school feasibility study at Loch Raven at 7pm on October 2, 2018 and to complete the online survey.
- f. A fundraising planning meeting will follow immediately after today's PTA mtg.
- g. A vote was called to accept Jennifer Papastephanou as the 2nd PTA Vice President. An oral vote was taken, and affirmative oral vote obtained.**
- h. The RAC has currently been dissolved because it lacks the needed 5-6 parent leader volunteers. The money has returned to the fundraising committee. Any interested parent volunteers able to take the role of leadership to continue the RAC, please contact Yara Chiekh or Jennifer Papastephanou, and/or attend the fundraising meeting with Ms. Wilson. This meeting will occur this Wednesday, September 26, 2018 at 4pm in the band room, Rm 100.

Treasurer's Report: Ying Ying Shao

- a. The formal budget report is not yet available as many activities are starting these past two weeks.
- b. In November, the tax spending report will be due.
- c. Motion made to increase the 2018-19 school year budget for the website server from \$200.00 to \$250.00. Motion was seconded, and motion was passed.**
- d. An audit has been completed and sent in.

Principal's Report: Mr. Seth Barish

- a. The 6th Grade Orientation Day and the first day of the school year was kicked off with a steel drum band performing for the students as they entered the building under the direction of Ms. Freeburger.
- b. The first fire drill was conducted during the first week of school, and it ran efficiently and well. Revisions had been made due to feedback taken from the previous school year and the end of summer.
- c. All students have received their devices. Mr. Sparenberg, Ms. Cook, and Ms. Matthews and the parent volunteers made distribution very efficient. More devices were ordered.
- d. All students received the BCPS Student Handbook and information regarding the new ALICE enhanced lockdown procedures.

- e. The first Active Scenario Drill will occur this week and the RMS families and teachers will receive communication regarding the drill.
- f. Mr. Barish has visited almost every single class room during these first weeks of school. He is impressed and energized by the hard working staff and students. He is challenging the students to be kind, friendly, and to engage.
- g. MAP testing will occur in October. The testing will be implemented by NWEA, and students and families will be notified of the testing dates.
- h. Mr. Barish looks forward to his continued partnership with the PTA and parents as we all strive toward academic excellence.
- i. A request for the PTA to consider sponsoring a Straight A's breakfast for the students and their families to recognize students who demonstrated academic excellence was made.
- j. Yara Chiekh discussed advocacy for new locker rooms.
- k. Brief mention about trying to bring back 8th grade farewell to the RMS site.

Teacher's Report: Ms. Kathy O'Melia

- a. 7th/8th grade orientation and back to school night was a huge success in making families feel welcome in to the school and community.
- b. Devices are being incorporated in lessons. Teachers' and students' learning curve about trouble shooting devices are good role models for the students to see that everyone is learning.
- c. Many thanks to Ms. O'Melia for organizing the Schoology tutorial which was well attended.
- d. Teachers are asking for more PTA membership envelopes. Discussion ensued about how to encourage teacher membership. Ms. O'Melia recommends doing something for all the teachers that brings unity and demonstrates appreciation.
- e. Question from attendee about whether another Schoology tutorial would be available and will address trouble shooting. Mr. Sparenberg shared that the Schoology website and support staff are very helpful. Information will be made available on FaceBook and via email.
- f. Students love the new agendas. Its larger size fits well into binders and helps students focus on executive functioning.

Committee Reports:

Craft Fair: Jen Hano

- a. Local businesses will be approached for donations by this week. A vacation package and local hotel reservations are being sought for the Silent Auction.
- b. A request was made for a new sign for the Craft Fair.
- c. Asking for more parent volunteers this year to garner donations and contributions by the end of October. A donation link will be made available to the RMS community. Volunteers are also welcome to help put gift baskets together.
- d. Taping and demarcating the individual vendor sites were discussed.
- e. Would like to encourage more craft fair attendees to visit the silent auction. Ideas such as having students performing music near the silent auction were discussed.
- f.

Student Directory: Christine Toohey

- a. Committee is awaiting on administration to provide certain student information which will be available by December.
- b. An 8th grade cover artwork art contest is under way.

Hospitality: Andrea Schutzman has the Craft Fair and American Education Week events covered.

Membership: Cassie Hersh and Ellie Ayd

Data is still being compiled with \$17,480 deposited already. The goal is \$20,600. Raising the suggested donation amount has helped, and membership is still rolling.

Policy and Politics: Kim Beard

- a. Kim Beard will update the PTA and RMS community on local, county, and state policies and politics. She will share information on the upcoming mid-term election, the Kirwan Commission, school overcrowding, and updates on school safety policies.
- b. The high school capacity survey calendar is on the PTA website and is live updated by Kim Beard. Yara Chiekh will break down the options for the high school capacity survey and send out to the RMS community.
- c. The Central Advisory Pre-budget Meeting will be on October 10, 2018 at 7-9pm at Dumbarton Middle School. Parents are encouraged to attend to ask for a RMS auditorium.
- d. Funds for a new locker room money may come from a state fund: The Aging School Fund.

Reflections: Open Chair

There are potential Chair candidates. Program will start in October and the chair will coordinate with Ms. Coke and Ms. Dress for submissions. The contest will be finished by December.

Special Ed Liaison: Kim Parry

- a. The CAEAC (Central Area Education Advisory Council) was created by BCPS to provide resources for parents.
- b. The Resource Center director retired. Currently, there are not any free parent workshops for the fall.
- c. The SECAC (Special Education Citizens' Advisory Committee) is a resource where parents can advocate for any concerns of special education parents or students.
- d. The GT Citizens Advisory Committee is a resource for twice exceptional students and how to support teachers with students that have disabilities in a GT classroom.
- e. All event dates will be on the PTA website calendar as well as placed in the lobby.
- f. Jill Jahries is asking to circulate information about the "Mood and Anxiety Disorders in Adolescents" seminar on October 17, 2018, 7-8pm, at Dulaney High School.
- g. A request was made about hosting another seminar on joulung and vaping.

Spirit wear: Jessica Voorheis & Stacey Frank

- a. Over \$900.00 in sales was made at Back to School Night.
- b. Currently, there are 136 online orders.
- c. Options regarding online payment options, such as Square or Venmo, will be examined for AED week and next year's Back to School Night.

Volunteer coordinator: Kim Letke

- a. There are 247 active volunteers.

- b. The grade level coordinators are asking for volunteers that can help photocopy. An email blast will be sent to recruit volunteers.
- c. Mr. Calbreresi keeps track of volunteer training completion. Volunteers that have completed their volunteer training application and training certificate are asked to download them and email to Mr. Calbreresi, or print them out and send to him. An email blast will be sent to the community regarding this.

Upcoming events:

September 28: SGA Fall Activity, 3-4pm

October 1: 6th Grade School Pictures

October 2: 7th Grade School Pictures

October 3: 8th Grade School Pictures

    Navigating Grade 8 - What Parents Need to know - 7pm @ RMS

October 17: STEM Fair 6-8pm

    Mood and Anxiety Disorders in Adolescents-7-8pm @ Dulaney HS

October 19: Professional Development Day-School Closed

October 22: Next RMS PTA meeting - 7pm @ RMS library

Upcoming Board of Education Meetings:

September 25, October 9, October 23

Meeting adjourned.