

Ridgely Middle School  
PTA Board Meeting  
April 29, 2019

Welcome/Introductions: Yara Chiekh attending via FaceTime. She is at the Robotics Globals competition in Kentucky.

President's Report: Sachin Hebbar

- a. March minutes will be sent out by email and approved by email.
- b. 5th grade orientation occurred last Wednesday. Thank you Hospitality and Spirit Wear for creating a warm RMS PTA welcome. Spirit Wear reports good sales.
- c. Arts in Action was PTA sponsored. It was a great evening with high attendance. Thank you to Hospitality, and the wonderful RMS Arts and Music teachers.
- d. PTA Minutes section. Yara and Kim Beard will work to have all minutes from 2017-18 and 2018-19 online for review. Thank you Kim Beard for creating the space. Currently, these are drafts of the minutes. A survey will be sent out as a link as a Google form to the attendees of those meetings for approval.
- e. Baltimore County Budget Hearing FY 2020 occurs tomorrow at 6pm at the Baltimore County Council Chambers. Sachin will attend and testify to advocate money for a new Dulaney High School. Urging all that can attend to please do so to show support and ask that Dulaney and Towson High Schools be named for replacement.
- f. \$500.00 scholarship will be distributed next month to the three high schools, Dulaney, Towson, and Loch Raven. The recipients have been chosen for the scholarship.
- g. The 8th Grade Dance Sign Up genius is available for volunteers. Thank you, Ms. Ging and Kim Letke. The dance is on May 31, 7-9pm, in the cafeteria.
- h. The Robotics team, which is partially sponsored by the PTA, is at the international competition in Louisville, Kentucky.
- i. A huge thank you to the Green Club and Kim Letke on the Spring Clean Up.
- j. End of school wrap up: elections will occur at the PTA May meeting. The summer budget and planning meeting dates will be determined.
- k. The week of May 6-11 is Teacher Appreciation Week. Thank you, Meredith Millet and Kim Letke for your continued work.

Treasurer's Report:

- a. The budget is in a healthy position in the 4th quarter.
- b. PTA asks Mr. Sparenburg to remind the faculty to put in paperwork for funds.
- c. There will be a big budget need for the upcoming school agendas.
- d. A question was raised asking about the Silent Auction revenue amount—will check in with Ying Ying at the next meeting.

Principal's Report:

- a. RMS has been re-certified as a Maryland Green School. Only 27% of all schools of Maryland are certified. Ms. Valentine, Green School Coordinator, led this certification process which involves training, conferences, and professional development. Thank you Ms. Valentine.
- b. After the Chinese language program discussion that was brought up at last month's meeting, Mr. Barish checked in with the school counselors, language arts class, and scheduler. He also is working with HR to try and get at least 1- 2 sections and possibly to include a 6th grade offering. Currently, there are only 2 middle schools offering Chinese language courses (RMS and Arbutus). Yara expresses appreciation to Mr. Barish for taking the initiative to investigate and encourage the Chinese language option.
- c. Early Entry Day is August 29, 2019. The incoming 6th graders will attend for a 1/2 day with the Steel Drum Band welcoming them. The incoming 9th graders will have a similar day for high school.
- d. This Wednesday night will be an AVID parent information night primarily for 7th grade parents for the upcoming 8th grade year.
- e. The AVID site team members had a professional development day. The 25 students identified for the AVID elective will be prepared for college readiness. The application process will be discussed. Ms. Freeberger has been discussing with the 7th grade students.
- f. Third quarter honor roll: 63% of the students earned honor roll and 18% earned straight A's.
- g. PBIS incentives include an ice cream social for students who demonstrate exemplary behavior who can turn in Ridgley bucks to attend. A "Straight A's" ice cream social will occur on May 16th. Recognition are also given to the Student of the Month and students with perfect attendance. Yara expresses thanks to Mr. Barish for listening and following up on celebrating and distinguishing kids in a variety of ways.

- h. The incoming 6th grade parents' comments to Mr. Barish were very positive. Many of the elementary school incoming students have already visited. Mr. Barish and the Vice Principals all spoke with the students. The parents were urged to get involved.
- i. A question was raised from the floor: anything or any process that can help disseminate information to the parents or one place for parents to access information such as club offerings? Yara replied will work on this issue.
- j. There were 3 successful field trips: 6th grade went to Philadelphia, PA, 7th grade went to Washington DC, 8th graders went to Gettysburg, PA.
- k. 6th graders started PARCC/MCAP test.
- l. Week of May 6th is Mental Health Week. May 9th is wear green in support of mental health. Information will be shared on morning announcements and to parents.

Teacher's Report: Mr. Sparenburg

- a. Ms. Freeberger is discussing AVID with 7th graders.
- b. Concert season:
  - May 13th, 8th grade concert at Loch Raven High School,
  - May 14th, 7th grade concert at Loch Raven High School
  - May 15th, 6th grade concert at Loch Raven High School
  - May 17th, Steel Drums concert at 6pm at RMS at the flag court area.
  - Concert in the Park for Honors Chorus, Band, Orchestra-date to be determined.
- c. Device collection will be starting soon after July 3rd.
- d. PARCC/MCAP testing is starting. Make sure students and devices are prepared and charged.
- f. Ms. Cambic, Dress, Grace, and Valentine sent a kind email thanking the PTA for the Arts in Action contribution.

Committee Report:

Nominating committee: KIm Beard

- a. Will advertise open positions available for the PTA board (President, 1st Vice President, and Communications Secretary).
- b. The May 20th General PTA Meeting, attendees will be voting on the positions. A 10 current member quorum will be needed.

Hospitality: no new updates

Membership: no new updates.

Special Ed Liaison: No new updates.

Spirit Wear: No new updates.

Teacher Appreciation Festivities: No new updates.

Volunteer Coordinator: No new updates.

Policy and Politics: Kim Beard

- a. Senate bill 1030 Blueprint for MD Future passed with many amendments.
- b. Build to Learn Act (HB 727) passed in the house, but did not go through the Senate. This bill's Intent was to use lottery bonds for education and will come up again in 2020. Certain senators voiced strong support for the bill. Goal is to urge Bobby Zierkan and Senator West to join the committee and push stronger support for Baltimore County.
- c. House bill 449 passed allowing Baltimore Country to charge developers certain fees that can be used for public works setting.
- d. House bill 87 passed which adds 2 teachers to the state board of education appointed by the governor as well as a parent of an enrolled Baltimore County student.
- e. SB 165 Safe School Maryland Act passed with many amendments. Bill requires safety training as well as the train the trainer for personnel, educational and outreach material.
- f. School Calendar 2019-20 passed in March which is available on the BCPS website. Weeklong Spring Break will return. Schools start on September 3rd, close for 2 Jewish holidays, and will end June 15-22 depending on the number of emergency closures.
- g. Local school jurisdictions will start controlling their own calendar.
- h. Every school will be tested for lead paint.
- i. During the Superintendent search in March, community input meetings that ran for 2 wks were held as well as a BCPS survey. Now applications are being accepted and the interviewing process is

underway. There may be a new superintendent chosen by June 1st. Julie Henn is the contact person for the search. She keeps the superintendent facebook page updated.

- j. House bill 1169 and corresponding Senate bill 895 raised the legal age to buy tobacco products to age 21 beginning October 1st, 2019. This includes non-nicotine items like the jul pod, rolling papers, and vape juice.

Motion to adjourn.

DRAFT