

Ridgely Middle School
PTA Board Meeting
March 25, 2019

Welcome/Introductions:

President's Report:

- a. It has been a busy March. The end of the quarter is next week.
- b. RMS is having a Clean for 15 event. Participants that clean up for 15 minutes can log in for credit. More information is on the FaceBook page.
- c. RMS's Swing into Spring event on March 27, 2019, 3-5pm will help with the pollinator garden and clean up the green space by the marquee. There will be a presentation to the children. This event is occurring as part of the Green Club and the times can be logged towards the the Green Clean competition.
- d. The Student Support Network will be providing a "Room of Support". RMS will work on collecting items and donations which will be given to the counselors. The counselors will identify students who are in need and distribute accordingly. Visit www.StudentSupportNetwork.org for more information. The PTA will need volunteers for the collection dates, April 5-6, and will sign off on community service hours.
- e. There will be a Concert Attire Drive where donations of new and gently used pants, shirts, tops, belts appropriate for RMS concerts will be sought. An Amazon wish list will also be available. These clothes will be kept within the music department and be made available to students that may need them for concerts. The goal is to have this ready for the May concerts.
- f. Arts in Action will take place on April, 17th from 6-8pm. The PTA will provide supplies.
- g. The 6th grade orientation will be on April 24th. Hospitality will be provided and Spirit Wear sales will be available.
- h. On March 28th, 7:30 pm, the General PTA of Baltimore County will convene at Loch Raven High. Yara will attend. Issues to be covered include issues of poverty and homelessness in Baltimore County. More information is available on the FaceBook page.
- i. The BC Brewery Fundraiser was an amazing event. Many great comments came from parents. It was very fun hanging out with the teachers and great connections were made on the personal level. Many thanks to Kim Beard. Thank you to the many volunteers! The PTA will be able to purchase the projectors.
- j. The scholarships of 500.00 have been sent to Dulaney High School, Towson High School, and Loch Raven High School.
- k. The Baltimore County Executive is waiting on the bill to be passed by the Senate that would grant \$100 million per year to complete the building projects for Landsdowne High School, Dulaney High School, and Towson High School.
- l. The Baltimore County PTA will be going to Annapolis on April 1st, 5:30-7p to ask for money.
- m. At the interim superintendent meeting, the topic of the Chromebook as a possible device for grades Kindergarten through 5th grade was introduced. Eventually the middle and high schools will be included. With the Chromebook, a teacher can have access to every student's screen and control it or

comment on it as needed. The Chromebook also allows a savings of \$700.00 per device. It's use is already implemented at Hagerstown, MD. Hardcore tech classes should still have desktops to run their necessary programs.

- n. Ray Consulting contacted Yara for her thoughts regarding the search for the new superintendent. It appears to be a good company to run the search.

Treasurer's Report:

- a. The BC Brewery Fundraiser raised \$3156.00 in revenue. There were \$1975.42 in costs and fees. The net profit was \$1181.00.
- b. The budget looks financially healthy per the budget report.
- c. May will likely bring in more teacher's requests for funds.
- d. Ms. Koch asked for \$600.00 for the English cultural arts. The budget has enough for this.

Principal's Report:

- a. Every classroom will get new doors that are fire proof with safety and security features which includes a latched lock that will automatically lock the door when closed. This will include 66 doors, the nurse's suite, and the library.
- b. RMS stairwells will have magnetic strips installed to keep the doors open until an alarm sounds which will close the doors. This will be safer for students. Injuries have been sustained by doors slamming into them.
- c. The 6th graders are going to the Franklin Institute on April 10th.
- d. On April 1st, incoming 5th grade students from our elementary feeder schools will be visiting RMS.
- e. This week is music adjudication week.
- f. This week from Wednesday to Friday, the students will take the Maryland Climate Survey in their social studies classes.
- g. Last week, the 8th graders took the MISA test. The last and this week will be the make up for the MISA test.
- h. On April 11th, 4-5 students from RMS will be attending the student town hall meeting with Verletta White at Dundalk High School.
- i. Two weeks ago, the executive director and the Dulaney professional learning community were hosted at RMS, and we received positive feedback about RMS teaching.
- j. Yara asked about an update about language choices. Currently, Spanish and French are available choices in 6th grade. Latin and Chinese are 2 additional language choices along with Spanish and French in 7th grade. The Chinese sections will be decreasing from 2 to 1 and is basically being phased out. Chinese language classes have already been eliminated at Towson High School.
- k. Mr. Barish responded that the staffing from last year had been cut and RMS lost 1.7 instructional and 0.5 paraeducator staffing because the projected enrollment for this year was not met. These cuts were decisions made by Mr. Barish in the area of languages and also based partly because of not having teachers to teach these languages.

- l. A question was raised from the floor about the PBIS incentive. Mr. Barish responded that the Campden Yards trip as the PBIS incentive for Weather Day is still in discussion. A suggestion was made that a picnic could be a possible PBIS incentive.
- m. The 8th grade celebration will likely be a picnic. The Timonium Fair Grounds site was secured as a possible site but logistically couldn't be pursued for the 8th grade graduation.

Teacher Appreciation Festivities:

- a. Teacher appreciation Week is from May 5th to 11th
- b. May 9th, 2019 was the chosen date for the Teacher Appreciation Luncheon which will be held in the library. The location will be confirmed with Ms. Cook.
- c. Meredith Millet will coordinate donations and Kim Letke will set up a Signup Genius to coordinate volunteers.

Teacher's Report:

- a. The music department reported the students had a great time during adjudication.
- b. The honors band members attended the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra's live music performance of the movie "Harry Potter: Order of the Phoenix" yesterday.
- c. Thanks extended to the PTA for hosting the Night for Technology.
- d. Yara asked the teachers to put in for their reimbursements.

Craft Fair: no new updates

Student Directory: no new updates

Hospitality: Andrea Schutzman will coordinate the two events in April.

Membership: no new updates

Policy Politics: Committee urges members to call legislators in support of the House bill budget and HB 153 where school construction will be funded from casino revenue.

Reflections: On Sunday, 2 students received awards at the county level.

Special Ed Liasion: No new updates. See the SEACAC website for up to date information.

Spirit Wear: Sales will be available at the 6th grade Orientation Night, April 24th.

Volunteer Coordinator: Thank you, Lim Letke, for coordinating the Sign Up Genius.

New Business:

- a. Question raised from the floor about whether there is a program available for 8th graders to visit Dulaney High School. Yes, that event happened in Nov./Dec. There is also a night at Dulaney about coursework. The guidance department can be visited at Dulaney.
- b. Over the summer through September, more volunteers will be needed for the Craft Fair. Please spread the word.

Motion to adjourn.

DRAFT