

Ridgely Middle School
PTA Meeting
February 25, 2019

Welcome:

President's Report:

- a. Hundreds of dollars have been signed for programs such as the mobile cart for the library and chicken hearts for the science club.
- b. Laura Roche, the Beautification Chair will contact Ms. Valentine, mentor of the Green Club, and work on the greenery associated with the marquee.
- c. The PTA will present in April about the Cultural Arts spending.
- d. Plans are underway with reserving space at the the fairgrounds for the 8th grade ceremony.
- e. The Inkling, RMS's arts and literary publication, is looking for submissions.
- f. Arts in Action will occur in April and will be discussed in March.

Treasurer's Report:

- a. The budget is being spent appropriately.
- b. A membership check has been paid for the Baltimore County dues
- c. Venmo check is available for deposit.
- d. **A motion was made to amend the agenda to add the Principal's Report. The motion was seconded and passed.**

Principal's Report:

- a. During the 2nd quarter, 16% of the students earned straight A's. An ice cream social will occur this Friday, and certificates will be awarded to the straight A students.
- b. A question was raised from the floor: How do we recognize students who are not earning straight A's but are working as hard as they can to earn as high as they can? Mr. Barish says RMS celebrates student success in many ways. There is an honor roll banner. Within a classroom, students' works are posted in the classroom and in the hallways. There is a student of the month recognizing character traits.
- c. One of the assistant principals is asking for approval to take approximately 400 students to Camden Yards to reward their efforts during the weather project as part of the PBIS incentive. This is still in discussion.
- d. Topic raised from the floor: If students are notified of PBIS incentives earlier in the year, this may help students reach for these incentives. Ridgely bucks from PBIS are also a further incentive.
- e. MAP testing has concluded with the exception of some make ups.
- f. Interim time is March 6th.
- g. Interim report will be available March 13th and parents can sign up for interim conferences. School Messenger informs parents that a link will be available the following week to sign up for conferences. If a parent wants a conference, this can be set up anytime without waiting for interim conferences.
- h. Randomly selected 8th graders will take the NAEP assessment on 3/7/19.
- i. MISA testing for 8th graders coming up. Date to be finalized.
- j. Mr. Popowski have been taking the 7th and 8th graders out for recess during their lunch time and plays with them (basketball, etc). The kids love it. He will expand to the 6th grade.

Teacher's Report:

- a. The Art department spent every bit of funding already and are very appreciative.
- b. Sue Wilson shared that 50 students played at the Baltimore County Solo/Ensemble Festival. All RMS students received either a superior (96-100%) or an outstanding rating (90-95%). The students with the highest ratings of superior will continue on to the state festival at Towson University in May. This includes 98% of the musicians who performed.
- c. 8th grade music ensembles-band, chorus and orchestra- will be going to their music adjudication later in the month to receive a grade in musical proficiency. This is equivalent to a musical PARCC or MAP assessment and is the school system's way of rating the music programs in schools and the individual students' abilities.
- d. From Terri McShain: The Pulsera Project was implemented during Valentine's week. Mrs McShain (grade 6 counselor and the Service Learning Coordinator) partnered with Mrs. Pessaro and the Spanish Club to sell bracelets made by artisans from Nicaragua and Guatemala. Almost \$3000.00 was raised and 100% of the proceeds will be sent back to the Pulsera Project, which provides education, healthcare and clean water in rural areas of Guatemala and Nicaragua. The students who promoted and implemented this activity will receive service hours and a letter of recognition from RMS
- e. Ms. Cook, the librarian, reports RMS recently received a new library truck cart purchased with PTA funds. The Library Club will use the cart as a mobile library station. Yara asked if the PTA can purchase the cart directly rather than going through a vendor next time.
- f. From Ms. Strayer: The carpentry students from George Washington Carver Center for the Arts and Technology built 4 picnic tables. The tables are outside the music wing. The school is excited to use them in the warmer weather. The tables are made of weather-treated lumber and should live a long and happy life on RMS grounds. It was a great experience to be able to collaborate with another BCPS.
- g. Mr. Kallaur and Ms. O'Melia shared that 9 of the 10 RMS robotics teams qualified for the state competition. RMS won two awards (The Sportsmanship Award and the Excellence Award) at the middle school EDR (metal robots) competition on 2/9/19. The RMS robotics team will be going to the World Competition in Louisville, KY. Six teams will compete in the MD state IQ Championship on 3/2/19. Likely RMS will have a few teams qualify for the World IQ Competition. A question came from floor asking about how team plans to travel to Louisville. The team is still figuring out details but will likely take a bus down
- h. Joe Sparenberg from the science department expressed thanks to the PTA for buying supplies.

Committee Reports:

Silent Auction: Need a volunteer to run this upcoming event.

Student Directory- Christine Toohey confirmed she is staying in position.

Hospitality: Committee will be coordinating the upcoming Arts in Action.

Membership: No new changes in numbers.

Reflections: No new updates. Committee does not have the names of students that will go on to the County competition.

Spirit Wear: Committee is awaiting the date for the incoming 6th grade parent night.

Teacher Appreciation Festivities: Meredith Millet is working on date.

Volunteer Committee: Sign Up Genius for the BC Brewery event already distributed.

Policy and politics:

- a. Student misconduct bill will not make it.
- b. HB 87 was previously vetoed by the Governor. This bill asks the state board of education to appoint 2 teacher members and 1 parent member to the school board. The Bill has been reintroduced and may make it through with changes. The parent member would be chosen by the state board.
- c. There is a bill for elementary students to be taught cursive writing by the end of 5th grade and print by the end of 3rd grade by the public schools. This bill may not make it through.
- d. HB 1131 sponsored by delegate Pat Young: issue bonds for funding building public schools. Senate bill 758 as a cross bill. Baltimore County executive is asking for another 50 million on top of the 50 million we already have for the construction of Maryland public schools. Stadium Authority oversees the building of public buildings. The ACLU is against this bill. Yara will go to testify in support of these construction dollars on February 27th.
- e. HB 449: This bill authorizes Baltimore County to instigate an impact fee for developers. It is waiting for the senate to pass. The sponsor is Senator West and it is very likely and close to passing. Could generate 8-25 million dollars/year for Baltimore County.
- f. Discussion on the floor about the affordability spending report. Landsdowne High School is first in line for a new building followed by Dulaney High School, then Towson High School. Sparrowsdown High School and one other school may get funding depending on how the budget unfolds. Our community has done well to voice Dulaney High School's needs. Ultimate decision rests with the Baltimore County Executive. Friends of Dulaney FaceBook has more information.
- g. The BC superintendant brought up that the budget was less than 11% of maintenance effort. The BC executive is working with the school board president to cut at the administrative level costs.
- h. Ray Consulting is conducting a nationwide search which includes community forums, online surveys, stakeholders focus groups, and public meetings to provide input to look for the next superintendent. Vice chair, Julie Henn, is the contact person for any questions.
- i. The middle school schedule change has been put on hold.
- j. At the school board meeting on Tuesday, Ms. Kathleen Causey passed amendment that the high schools have autonomy to determine their own schedule.
- k. The Maryland PTA sent out information regarding "March for Our Schools" on May 11th. Parents and children can witness advocacy first hand at Annapolis. Link to RSVP to the event will be available on the calendar. The information will also be posted onto the website.

SEACAC Liason:

- a. Free parent workshops are coming up: Anxiety seminar by Kennedy Krieger presenter Tana Hope. Kennedy Krieger is interested in doing outreach at RMS regarding topics such as behaviour management, ADHD, anxiety, etc.
- b. Understanding your Child's EHP workshop is available. It encourages parents to be equal members on their child's EHP.
- c. The next two SEACAC meetings are on literacy and social emotional learning.
- d. There is a transition workshop for post secondary school transition. Magnet schools and technical programs are possible tracks for special education students. Ms. O'Melia informed that the teachers and counselors do provide guidance to consider these programs at the beginning of the 8th grade and provide pamphlets to parents.

New Business:

- a. The BC Brewery Fundraiser had an overwhelming RMS community response. Many teachers have purchased tickets. There will be a bake sale table, a raffle, Paint the Pints activity. The event is for adults only. Cash and credit cards will be accepted. People can come without tickets and buy from the bake sale and to donate. Information regarding the cost of one projector, \$765.97, will be shared with the attendants. Schultz Legal is a Silver Level Sponsor for this fundraiser.

Motion to adjourn.

DRAFT