

Ridgely Middle School
PTA Board Minutes
May 20, 2019

Welcome/Introductions:

Board members were asked to approve the draft of the minutes online. Many thanks to Kim Beard for uploading the minutes to the website.

President's Report:

- a. The Teacher Appreciation Week Lunch was catered by Wegman's with the help of parent volunteers. The teachers received gift cards and a little swag. The Dunkin Donuts and bagels cards will be used for a breakfast for the teachers at the end of the year.
- b. A recent post on FaceBook about the Spring Concert and Ms. Wilson was the most popular post.
- c. Ms. Ging and Ms Jahries sent thank you notes for the Teacher's Appreciation.
- d. In the summer, the PTA will give presents to retiring teachers.
- e. May 24th is the last day for teachers to ask for money from the PTA.
- f. The three scholarships to the high schools will be distributed.
- g. The end of school wrap up will be sent out.
- h. Thanks to the nominating committee for your efforts.
- i. The 8th Grade Ceremony will be the same as last year. Efforts to try to do something new were made but were unable to be executed. Efforts will be attempted next year. It will be a thoughtful and great day for the 8th graders.
- j. Three volunteers will be needed for the audit which will take place over the summer. Kim Parry, Helen Hu, and Diana Williams volunteered. The audit will be submitted to Ying Ying Shao who will submit to Baltimore County.
- k. PTA will work on filling the open committee positions before the school year starts. Kim Parry, the Special Education Liaison, is speaking with Sarah Neff about potential names for a successor from the upcoming 6th grade class. Kim Parry will stay on until a successor is found.
- l. Laura Roche worked with Ms. Valentine to clean up the 2 areas which look really great. Flowers from the garden will be given to the teachers.
- m. PTA Summer meetings will occur on:
 - Wednesday June 19th at 7pm, Yara's house. No minutes needed.
 - Monday July 29th at 7pm, Yara's house. This is a budget meeting and minutes are needed.
- N. Yara Chiekh expresses gratitude for the last two years as president and is especially grateful for the committee heads. She is leaving the PTA in very good hands with the new board.
- O. The floor expresses thanks back to Yara.

Treasurer's Report:

- a. Revisiting the silent auction line of the budget report: the revenue \$1,491.00 was the deposit for the checks received that day. There was also a small amount of cash. Hence, the total deposit was \$3676.45.
- b. The Tech Night Out event: is under the Contributions and Support. Next year, a new budget line will be made to reflect a new fundraiser line.
- c. Mr. Sanz will be in charge of all sports teams. This will be discussed at the budget meeting where a line item will be created to support the sport teams for next year.
- d. Ms. O'Melia will spread the word to the teachers regarding the May 24th deadline to request money from the PTA budget.
- e. The spending from the Strive for 25 will be shifted to the Year Round Reading.
- f. The budget lines will be adjusted where Ms. Grace's allotted \$250.00 will be under the Art Dept. line and Ms. Dress's funds will be under the Art Curriculum line.
- g. Ms. O'Melia recommended removing Blankets of Hope, Strive for 25, Best Buddies, and Photography club lines. These will be cleaned up at the July budget meeting.
- h. Money may be added to a contingency fund for contingency requests.
- i. Mr. Popeleski reports 7th grade had two field trips and may request a portion to be covered by the PTA. PTA will check to be sure all assemblies are paid for and may be able to run the request through Cultural Arts.
- j. Kim Beard asked about a planned meeting with Mr. Barish about going over the assemblies budget.
- k. National PTA dues are rising.

Principal's Report: Mr. Popelski

- a. Thank you for the Teacher's Appreciation Lunch.
- b. National Honor Society induction occurred.
- c. Spring concerts were a success.
- d. AVID application is underway.
- e. PBIS activities for 6th and 7th grade end of the year activities are being examined.
- f. June 14th is a half day with Capturing the Kids' Hearts Field Day occurring.
- g. RMS has been re-certified as a Maryland Green School. Thank you to Ms. Valentine, the Green School Coordinator.
- h. PARCC and MISA test is finishing up with just a few students needing to make up tests. A smaller test window was decided on this year which seemed to benefit the students. Some students are being withheld from testing by their parents.
- i. Discussion ensued regarding anticipated testing scores particularly in math.
- j. The PTA appreciated the partnership with Mr. Barish including his support regarding the schedule change and keeping the Chinese language choice in the curriculum.
- k. Thanks to Ms. Popelski for the "Recess with Mr. Popelski". The boys love being outside during lunch time with Mr. Popelski.

Teacher's Report:

- a. Many teachers express thank you for the Teacher's Appreciation Lunch.
- b. Ms. Dudek, Ms. Sue Wilson, and Ms. Stacy are retiring.
- c. Ms. Tina Wilson is transferring to Catonsville. Mr. Durham is transferring to Arbutus. The Chinese teacher will split time between 2 schools.
- d. The teacher's breakfast will be coming.
- e. Thank you to the 7th grade ELA team. Diana Williams received thank you notes from the students.

Elections:

Sachin Hebbar presenting PTA slate of candidates:

- Kim Beard-President.
- Ammanual Moore-1st Vice President
- Jennifer Papastephano-2nd Vice President
- Ying Ying Shao-Treasurer
- Helen Hu-Recording Secretary

All 10 candidates verbally motioned, seconded, and approved.

Committee Reports:

Membership:

- a. Membership totals: 465 parents, 31 teachers, 3 staff members.
- b. There was a drop in teacher membership compared to the previous year. More brainstorming to follow about how to get 100% teacher membership.
- c. The drop in parent membership seen mostly because dual parents from the same household are not holding individual memberships.
- d. Dues decreased by \$600.00 but contributions increased by \$2,882.00.

Policy and Politics:

- a. Kim Beard has the list of current legislators.
- b. The Superintendent search has narrowed down to 6 applicants. A decision will be made by June.
- c. May 20-24 is Maryland Pedestrian and Transportation week. #Look up, Look out campaign. Four pedestrians under the age of 20 in Baltimore County have died.
- d. The Federal REAL ID Act was adopted after 9/11. Maryland residents need a REAL ID issued by Oct. 20th.

- e. The County Executive budget will be approved on May 23rd. Towson and Dulaney High School do not have plan/design money. Landsdowne High School does.
- f. There will be one device per five students for K-5th grade. The device will be chrome books which will allow teachers to control and comment on the students' device. There is concern some of the apps won't run on Google. This device will potentially be considered for middle and high schools.
- g. On May 22, the 2021 Capital Budget Hearing meeting will be held at 7pm at Greenwood Campus, Bldg. E. Sachin Hebbar will attend to advocate for Towson and Dulaney High Schools receiving new schools and new locker rooms and an auditorium for RMS. Please reach out to your councilman regarding Towson and Dulaney High Schools.
- h. The Kerwin Commission funding passed. There is hope the money will be available in FY 2022.

Special Ed Liaison:

- a. Incoming parents were invited to learn about special education opportunities. There was not a very successful attendance. Committee will work on more timely communication to the parents for next year.
- b. On June 3rd at 7pm at the Towson High Library, Dr. Tana Hope will present on anxiety. See FaceBook for details.

Volunteer Coordinator: 8th Grade Dance volunteer sign up genius is available.

New Business: Discussion ensued regarding school start date has not been decided. The final vote will be on June 11th.

Meeting Adjourned