

Ridgely Middle School
PTA Board Meeting Minutes
July 22, 2019

Call to Order.

No minutes to Approve.

President's Report: Kim Beard

Kim Beard read the PTA mission and outlined the 2019-20 PTA priorities which include:

- A. Achieve a robust membership of the PTA through:
- Advertising and completing a summer project. This worked well to drive up membership two years ago.
 - Updating members about where money is spent and the benefits of membership. From the floor, a comment was raised about how some items may open debates about how money is being spent. Kim Beard acknowledged and discussed the importance of transparency.
 - Engaging teachers to encourage their membership.
- B. Encourage community development. Plans are underway with Kim Parry's help and include:
- Scheduling bi-monthly free events/talks that cover educational, financial, and health topics.
 - Advocating for appropriate facilities and educational needs.
 - Providing new signs and updating current signs on campus including the marquee about upcoming events. Discussion followed about getting the front office's staff help and that the marquee greenery looks great.
 - Assisting Stuff-A-Bus and Turkey Trot events.
- C. Encourage student engagement through:
- Inviting the student government to attend 1 or 2 PTA meetings.
 - Having a parent involved in coordinating a student and teacher basketball game in the fall or spring. Discussion followed about a student/teacher game usually occurs in the fall.
 - Supporting students in volunteerism and passing on opportunities.
 - Supporting outside of school engagement for students, and encouraging attendance to the RAC.
- D. Fundraising:
- Actively locate sponsors to cover the costs of events, supplies, and support a more engaging email contact product. The sponsors can advertise on the PTA Facebook page.
 - Support the Craft Fair/Silent Auction.

- Coordinate another Brewery Event in the Spring.
- E. Communications: To actively communicate with PTA members through a monthly email, update the Facebook page regularly, possibly host Facebook Live board meetings, and provide one printed flyer per quarter to students.
- F. Update on open committee positions:
- The new Membership team consists of Denise Stringer and Katie McElwain.
 - Policy and Politics: Yara Chiekh. Yara will advocate for new locker rooms and an auditorium.
 - Hospitality: Nancy Loiacano
 - Silent Auction: vacant. This is a very important chair to fill. Kim Beard will assist. Yara Cheikh adds that if a chair is not found, PTA may need to rethink the budget due to the decrease in income from the silent auction/craft fair.
 - Fundraising: vacant
- G. Summer events will include:
- painting restrooms
 - Setting up a meeting date to update the silent auction contacts.

Treasurer's Report: Yingying Shao

- A. The audit will be happening this Wednesday 7/24/19 and the report will be available for viewing. The final report will be sent to the Maryland PTA. There was a surplus from the 2018-19 budget year.
- B. Budget:
- \$40,551.94-total income 2018/2019 fiscal year
 - \$38,737.80-total expense 2018/ 2019 fiscal year
 - The surplus and total balance at the bank: \$5880.29 currently.
- C. Cleaning up the budget:
- The various items within the Silent Auction and Craft Fair will be listed separately and logistically this year.
 - Under Programming Expense: The "Art Dept" line will change name to "Portfolio Club" under Ms Grace with \$250.00 available.
 - Under Curriculum: the "Art Dept." line will stay the same under Ms. Dress with \$500.00 available.
 - Keep "Math 24" which did spend \$75.00.
 - Under "Athletics-Intramural": to take off the "Intramurals" name and rename as "Athletics/Sports Club" with \$750.00 available.

- “Strive for 25” will be removed and its balance will be rolled into “Year Round Reading”.
- National Junior Honor Society-The bill just came in for the event and for the membership. Request for funds may be coming in soon from Mr. Reedy. Currently \$385.00 spent. Overall budget will be lowered to \$500.00 for this year.
- The Maryland PTA increased the membership fee. Discussion of how much to ask for our PTA membership ensued. It is decided to keep dues to \$15.00 per member with a suggested donation of \$65.00. This will decrease the overall PTA budget some but will hopefully not deter membership enrollment.
- After discussion brought up by Yara Chiekh regarding the parents’ disappointment with the 8th Grade Farewell Ceremony which was poorly organized and not parent friendly, the PTA will only support the 8th Grade Dance. Therefore, the line item “8th Grade Activities” will be changed to “8th Grade Dance” with an available budget of \$1500.00.
 - There will be further discussion of how the 8th Grade Farewell Ceremony can be improved, possibly seek a better venue, and to encourage the administration to implement better.
- Inkling overspent by \$50.00 due to printing costs. The Inkling budget will increase to \$1200.00

Principal’s Report: Kim Beard reporting for Principal Seth Barish –not present.

- A. Thanks to the RMS community for its support of Mrs. Freeburger and Ms. Bucchi. There is a fundraiser at the BC Brewery tomorrow from 5-8pm where 15% of the proceeds will be donated to help them rebuild.
- B. Students are beginning their 3rd week of summer school at the math academy. They are working hard and having a positive experience.
- C. The master schedule is almost complete and a notice will be sent via school messenger notifying when it will be available for viewing on BCPS One/Schoology likely after August 19th.
- D. The school is 70-75% cleaned, waxed, and readying for students and staff.
- E. The school is transitioning to a new phone system beginning August 1st. There will be new phone numbers for the school: 443-809-7650 and 443-809-7651. All teachers will have their own voice mail number. Information regarding this will be sent out next week.
- F. On Friday, abatement work on the floors in the music area was completed where the asbestos flooring has been removed and replaced with 12x12 tiles.
- G. Twelve staff members including teachers, administrators, and a school counselor attended AVID training in Philadelphia last week.

- H. The new staff members that will be joining the RMS team will be announced in the Welcome Back Newsletter. They include a full time Chinese teacher, new music chair, new guidance counselor, and a new math chair,
- I. Discussion followed regarding the Chinese language course is now offered all 3 years. Special permission can be sought to attend RMS to access this opportunity.
- J. Students are invited to participate in an Early Entry Day program. This will be a half day “Orientation Day”, on Friday, August 30, 2019 for students entering grade 6 for the 2019-20 school year.
- K. RMS will not be receiving any additional learning cottages.
- L. Discussion followed about a state application request for 2023-24 for a new Pine Grove Middle School which if approved and completed may lead to a redistricting of RMS students.

Teacher’s Report: Ms. O’Melia:

- A. Ms. O’Melia can make vinyl stencils for the bathroom painting project. The plan is to repaint one girl’s bathroom, one boy’s bathroom, and the two faculty bathrooms by the gym.
- B. When supporting student volunteers, the PTA can coordinate with Terry McShain, the guidance counselor who logs service learning hours.
- C. Teacher Wendy Libby is leaving for Garrison Forest.
- D. The AVID strategies learned by the faculty and staff members will be shared and taught to the rest of the teaching staff so it can be brought into each classroom. The new AVID class will start this year.

Committee Reports:

- A. **Beautification:** Laura Roche-Not present. No new updates.
- B. **Craft Fair Vendor:** Debbie Gill. The craft fair date is Saturday November 9, 2019.
- C. **Silent Auction Chair:** Position filled today by Erin O’Brien, Adrienne Hammel, and Yara Chiekh.
- D. **Cultural Arts Chair** filled today by Adrienne Hammel
- E. **8th Grade Dance Chair** filled today by Kim Letke.
 - A possible second chair position is open.
- F. **Student Directory:** Christine Toohey- Not present. No new updates.
- G. **Hospitality Chair** filled today by Nancy Loiacono.
- H. **Fundraising Chair** is vacant, and it is decided to leave the position open and available especially since Sue Wilson retired and is no longer involved with fundraising.
- I. **Membership:** Denise Stringer and Katie McElwain
 - will plan on meeting during the 1st week of August. Discussion followed regarding the drop in teacher membership from close to 100% in 2017-18 to 50% in 2018-19.

J. Policy & Politics: Yara Chiekh

- An announcement regarding Towson and Dulaney High Schools from the County will be expected next month.
- Yara will be meeting with Delegate Steve Lafferty on Wednesday and will contact Senator West's team too. Please pass on any ideas or policies that would like to see presented.
- Will ask County school for much need locker rooms and auditorium.

K. Reflections: Erin O'Brien

- Will plan on more advertising such as through morning announcements.
- Will plan on more communication at the county level.

L. Special Education Liaison: Kim Parry

- Plans are underway for general parent education and special education alternating events to encourage parent education.
- The school counseling committee which focuses on school climate and an organization named "THRIVE" would like to work with RMS about topics such as depression.
- For new incoming 7th and 8th grade students, there will be an orientation and breakfast served on August 30th. The PTA will serve food and there will be 1 hour of networking available to answer questions and provide community information. There is more work to be done such as a coffee event for the parents and providing student ambassadors for the students.
- Request if the PTA could help with the Student Support Network. There is interest for a drive for needed supplies to be held in the fall and spring. Discussion about possibly a drive during the Craft Fair. Any interest in helping, please contact Kim Parry, Yara Chiekh, and Jill Jahries.
- There is a RMS PTA wish list on Amazon for Christmas concert attire. The wish list can be expanded to include supplies for the student support network. The contact person is Michelle Damareck.
- There is a back pack program where identified students are sent home with bags of weekend supplies and food.

M. Spirit Wear: Jessica Voorheis

- There is an opening for a 2nd chair. More advertising will be done to try and fill.
- The fall order is underway.

N. Teacher Appreciation: Meredith Millet-Not present. No new updates.

O. Volunteer Coordinator: Kim Letke

- The volunteer form will be in the summer mailing.
- The State Fair discount given to volunteers will include last year's 8th grade parents. The discount will be sent to parents by August 5th.

Upcoming Events:

- Informal PTA meeting: August 2nd at the Poulet Restaurant on York Road at 5pm.
- Next General PTA meeting: Back to School Night.
- Next PTA Board Meeting: September 23rd.
- 6th grade orientation: August 30th
- 1st Day of School: September 3rd.
- Upcoming BCPS Board Meetings: August 6th and 20th, September 10th and 24th.

Meeting Adjourned.

DRAFT