

Ridgely Middle School
PTA Board Meeting
February 24, 2020

Welcome/introductions: This PTA meeting is Facebook Live.

- Via Facebook Live, the PTA is holding a raffle to select a parent and teacher PTA member winners for tickets (cost \$20.00/ticket) for the Night out with Ridgely occurring on March 6, 2020 at the BC Brewery.
 - Parent number randomly chosen is 310. The winner is Stacey Patterson.
 - Teacher number randomly chosen is 17. The winner is Terri McShane.
- The January 27, 2020 minutes have been reviewed. **A motion was made, seconded, and approved to pass the January 27, 2020 minutes.**

President's Report: Kim Beard

- Open positions for the 2020/2021 school year include recording secretary, volunteer coordinator chair, special education liaison chair, directory chair, possibly one of the Vice President's position.
- We need 3 volunteers to be on the nominating committee. These volunteers will actively advertise and recruit for open positions and present them at the general meeting in May. Simone Volikas, Tim Reuter, and Chris Gordon volunteered. Thank you!
- Kim Beard with Yara Cheikh's help has contacted Dulaney High School, Loch Raven High School, and Towson High School to share information about the \$500.00 scholarship that is available at each school to a senior that is a RMS alumna/alumnus. Interested seniors can reach out to their guidance counselors to apply for the scholarship. The PTA will present the scholarship at their awards ceremonies.
- The RMS school directory was delivered last week to the students. Thank you Christine Toohey for all the hard work over the past few years. We will need a Directory Chair next year. Christine will walk her successor through the process.
- Upcoming events are on the agenda. Check out the local events such as Loch Raven High School Community Day, A Carver Celebration, and the Reflections Awards Ceremony.
- The next PTA meeting will be Monday, March 30, 2020 at 7pm.

Treasurer's Report: YingYing Shao

- All tax filing has been completed.
- All Maryland PTA paperwork has been completed.
- The RMS Robotics Team dominated the state championship and is ranked 50th in the world. 52 students are on the team. 30 students will advance to the World Competition.
- In order to compete in the World Competition in Louisville, KY, the team would need funds which the school is unable to provide. The PTA is asked if we could pay for the registration fees.
- **Motion was made to fund \$3000.00 for the Robotics Team to advance to the World Competition. Motion was seconded, approved and passed.**
- From the floor, a parent that is part of the engineering community lauded RMS for its excellence in its robotics team, encouragement in STEM, and promotion of girls in STEM. Applause for Ms. O'Melia and Mr. Calore for their passion for the Robotics Team.
- From the floor, All State occurred this past weekend as well. There is a great community pipeline seen from the RMS high school alumni supporting RMS middle schoolers at the robotics competition and at All State.

Principal's Report: Mr. Seth Barish

- The staffing for RMS has been received. We did not reach the projected goal of 1181 students. We will have to cut 3.5 positions based on the estimates from the Office of Strategic Planning.
- In moving forward:
 - Mr. Barish will request additional positions back that have been lost.
 - Positions that were lost last year will not be cut back.
 - Due to staff changes (staff that may be retiring, relocating, being promoted etc), there may be open positions open that will need hiring.
- Update regarding Project Lead the Way:

- Project Lead the Way is a concentrated engineering program. If a student completes 5 projects through the program and a capstone project, they can have 9 credits to apply toward college.
- Currently, The Project Lead the Way Program at RMS is called Tech Ed with Mr. Calore as the teacher. It is taught for one quarter every other day for all students. It is a strong program but can be made stronger. Mr. Barish feels that the students are not able to go into great depth with just one quarter's work of classes.
- Working with the office of CTE, Mr. Barish is exploring how the program can be expanded to 2 quarters which would require 2 teachers and may involve internal shifts of staff. The title of the class would change from Tech Ed to Project Lead the Way.
- At the end of the 2nd quarter, 17% of the students received straight A's. 65% of the students earned honor roll. We are very proud of our students.
- MAP testing has been completed. Mr. Popielski is the school testing coordinator and is finishing MAP make-ups. The MAP is meant to demonstrate achievement and growth and is a predictor of success for the MCAP assessment. The MCAP is a predictor of success for the PSAT, and then the PSAT is a predictor of success for the SAT.
- The goal of every teacher is to have every student learn more than when they entered the school. We see the gaps closing, and the students are growing and achieving. We would like to see how this translates in the MCAP and the MISA.
- Special education had a huge growth from 43-56%.
- The PBIS incentives for MAP testing success appear to help motivate the students.
- A question raised from the floor: How is the bottom quarter doing? Mr. Barish says last year, we didn't see growth from fall to winter. Over the last 4 years, 3 out of the 4 years, we've seen growth.
- From the floor, a shout out for Ms. Ging. She reports the student's baseline score and the new MAP score in their Schoology record which is helpful to the student to see their personal growth, have conversations, take ownership, and put forth their best effort.
- Students completed the BCPS stakeholder survey at their STAG meeting. Parents are encouraged to complete the survey if they have not yet done so. We want to hear everyone's voice which helps drive the school progress plan.
- The next survey for the students and teachers is the Maryland School Survey on March 6th 2020. This school survey is recorded within RMS's Star Rating. Mr. Barish is having

conversations with the staff and students discussing the survey, how it is reflected, and what it will mean.

- Mr. Barish has been meeting with the SGA and is very happy with the SGA student leaders. The SGA were prepared with PowerPoint presentations on how to improve school spirit.
- The SGA wanted to have an event for the 7th graders. (6th grade has the Welcome Dance. 8th grade has the Farewell Dance.) Therefore, this past Friday, the first 7th grade dance occurred. It was reported as a great day, and it went well.
- Spirit week is next week and every day will be a meaningful dress day. The week will end with the first pep rally. There will be a pep rally for each grade and an inter-school basketball game. From the floor came ideas such as introducing the Robotics Team prior to the basketball game.
- Interims will be updated on March 6, 2020.
- MISA (Maryland Integrated Science Assessment) testing will occur on March 25-26 during modules 1-3.
- Question from the floor: When will students be applying for the National Junior Honor Society? The date will be coming up soon in March.
- Question from the floor: What PBIS activity is going on? The RMS school store is open and students pay with Ridgely bucks. The school store is staffed by students and is very popular with the students. The Ridgely bucks can also be used to attend the Buck Bash which will occur on the last day of the 3rd quarter.
- Question from the floor: How will kids apply for the AVID program at RMS? Mr. Sparenburg replied that Ms. Freeburger will be visiting classes this Thursday and Friday and passing out paper applications. There will also be a parent meeting for AVID. A parent asked if the AVID and NJHS information can be sent to parents in another way? Mr. Barish will disseminate via the school messenger.

Teacher's Report: Ms. Kathy O'Melia

- The Robotics Team did great at finals. Three of the four winning teams were from RMS. All four teams made it to Globals.
- Thank you for the Valentine's treat.

- RMS is sending a delegation to the Spring Student Government Convention in Ocean City in March. The cost of the delegation will be \$3300.00. The SGA is requesting \$500.00 from the PTA to assist with the cost.
- **Motion made to approve \$500.00 for the SGA to attend the Spring Student Government Convention in Ocean City. Motion was seconded, approved, and passed.**
- Concert dates:
 - Steel Drum Outdoor Concert: April 17th, 6pm at RMS.
 - Spring Concert Band #1: 7th grade and Honors and Jazz Band: May 14th, 6:30pm at Loch Raven High School.
 - Honors Concert on the Hill: May 15th, 6pm at RMS.
 - Spring Concert Band #2: 6th and 8th grade: May 20th, 6:30p at Loch Raven High School.
 - Spring Concert: 6th,7th, and 8th grade Honors Orchestra: May 27th, 6:30p at Loch Raven High School.
 - RMS Spring Concert: Chorus Night: May 28th, 6:30p at Loch Raven High School.

Committee Reports:

Policy and Politics: Yara Cheikh.

- SB/HB 1- Built to Learn Act -School Construction Bill passed in the House and is now on the senate floor for voting. Senator West and Senator Hellerman are in favor of the bill. Email them to voice your support.
- Kirwan Recommendation: 60% of Marylanders do not know what this is. BCPS has put information on their website regarding this and why it is meaningful.
- Concerning the incident at Loch Raven High School involving a teacher, there is a proper avenue of how to voice about the incident. Voices, concerns, and letters can be sent to Christine Byers, and ultimately Kathleen Causey.
- Yara Cheikh will be interviewed by WYPR. There may be legislation that will stop development if the school reaches or is greater than 115% capacity. RMS and Dumbarton are overcapacity.

- At the 3rd district meeting on February 25, 2020 from 7-9p, Hereford High School and Cockeysville High School will be advocating for lots. RMS, Dulaney High School, and Towson High School advocates, please show up to advocate for our needs.
- Baltimore County passed impact fees legislation last year but watered it down with amendments. Would like to advocate for Community Kind gift (pave new sidewalks, school parking lots, etc).

Fundraising: Simone Volikas

- Keep selling Cards for a Cause. The goal is for every family to sell at least one. Due date is March 27th.
- Volunteers needed for Night Out for Ridgely at the BC Brewery.
- Shout out to our silver sponsors and corporate sponsors (Floors, Etc. THB Lutherville, and Schultz Legal).

Special Education: Kim Parry

- The parent/teacher speaker series "Anxiety in Middle School" presented by Dr. Karen Swartz from Johns Hopkins had the biggest parent turnout.
- On Tuesday, March 24, 2020, at the RMS library, Dr Tana Hope from Kennedy Krueger will present "ADHD in Middle School".
- The SECAC report is available. If you need resources, see Kim Parry.
- The SECAC Meeting on autism will be on March 2, 2020 at the BCPS Greenwood campus.
- The GT Advisory Committee published its first newsletter. Kim Parry asked if Mr. Barish could make available to the RMS GT students' parents.

Reflections:

- The Reflections Awards Ceremony is on March 22, 2020 at Cockeysville Middle School.
- RMS students will have work displayed.

Student Directory was delivered 3rd week of February.

Membership: Total PTA membership: 384

No New Business.

Meeting adjourned.