

Minutes of the Ridgeview Middle School Parent-Teacher-Student-Association Meeting

December 14, 2016

A called meeting of the RMS PTSA was convened on Wednesday, December 14, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. in the Media Center of Ridgeview Middle School in Gaithersburg, MD, pursuant to notice duly given.

Attendees: Ms. Sherri Wood-Powe, President; Ms. Jill Fleisher, Second Vice President; Ms. Laura Bookman, MCPTA Delegate; Ms. Mary Jane Kissel, Secretary; Mr. Daniel Garcia, Principal; Ms. Feri Jahanmir, RMS Office Assistant; Rich Powe, Student Representative; Latoya Bonner, Deanie Preston, Dee Tomasetti, Michael Watts, and Kyle Watts (10 adults/2 students).

- I. Welcome/call to order: The meeting was called to order by Sherri Wood-Powe at 7:09 pm.
 - The minutes from the November 9 meeting were reviewed and approved.

- II. Treasurer's Report
 - Ms. Enright sent in the treasurer's report via email.
 - The book fair was a success, but the Rock N Jump CNO and the Fall Fundraiser did not make as much money as projected.

- III. Principal's report
 - Mr. Garcia gave the principals report at 7:13 pm.
 - He shared that Ridgeview has been participating in an energy conservation program, where the staff have been turning off extra lights when they are not in use, as well as using energy saving lamps.
 - RMS was awarded \$1000 for reducing energy use. Mr. Garcia is able to use these funds any way that he wishes.
 - Mr. Garcia discussed the successful use of discussion circles in classes.
 - He discussed that an increase in the MCPS budget is being requested for next year, with a big emphasis on supporting low performing students, and lessening the achievement gap.
 - The scheduling process for next year has begun. There will be a few new electives, including a Spanish class for Spanish speaking students, as well as a class on computer coding.
 - The coding class will be a high school credit class and will only be available to 8th graders.

- IV. Students' Report
 - Mr. Rich Powe gave the students report
 - Mr. Powe asked Mr. Garcia about the possibility of study hall time during school. Mr. Garcia noted that a study hall period was not necessary at RMS.
 - He brought up the use of cell phones during lunch for all grades. Mr. Garcia responded by saying that cell phone use during lunch is likely to be curtailed going forward. Mr. Garcia cited a lack of socializing by students, and more trash left behind by students as reasons why he was considering not letting all students have phones at lunch.
 - Mr. Powe asked about prizes for honor roll students. Mr. Garcia said the prizes would resume beginning with the next set of report cards.

- V. RMS Announcements
 - Ms. Jahanmir reported on the RMS announcements.
 - Parents have reported calling the school, and having the calls go unanswered. The old number is listed on google maps, which is where some people are finding this number. RMS staff will try to get that number removed from google maps.
 - The Outdoor Ed parent meeting was held last week. Parents wishing to volunteer will need to take the online child protection training, available through MCPS. Parents wishing to stay as overnight chaperones will need to be fingerprinted. There is a possibility that MCPS would cover the cost of fingerprinting.

- Some important dates coming up include:
 - Band Concert, December 15
 - Referral Free Party, December 16
 - Edline Interims, December 19
 - Locker Cleaning, December 21
 - Principal's Coffee and Music Department Field Trip, and Staff/Student Basketball Game, December 23

VI. New Business/Upcoming Events

- The PTSA still has an opening for the Vice President of Volunteers.
- The board is wanting to increase meeting participation.
- The next CNO will be at Zoe's Kitchen on January 18.
- Possible dates for International Night include February 15th or March 2nd.
- Possible dates for the 3 on 3 basketball tournament include March 9th or 16th.
- The soccer tournament could be held on April 19th or 20th.
- There are no volunteer chairs yet for these events.

VII.. Committee Reports/Updates

- Ms. Fleisher reported that membership numbers are getting closer to goal. Mr. Garcia will be promoting membership at the RMS staff holiday celebration.
- Ms. Laura Bookman provided an MCPTA update via email.
 - The PTSA board needs to talk to Mr. Garcia about how to handle the Principal and President's dinner.
 - The upcoming BOE meeting with the QO cluster will be on April 20.
 - The BOE is looking for a school to host, and Mr. Garcia is interested in hosting.
 - We would need to provide refreshments and A/V support.
- Ms. Preston reported that spiritwear inventory is low, but is not sure that there are any big events coming up where large quantities of spiritwear would be sold.
- She is looking into online promotional companies to see how spiritwear sales could be handled in the future.
- Ms. Bonner announced that the next meeting of the Parent Diversity Council will be held on January 25, 2017 in the RMS media center.

IX. Adjournment

- Ms. Powe adjourned the meeting at 8:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Mary Jane Kissel, Secretary

Date: 2/8/17