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

**November 14, 2017**

A called meeting of the RMS PTSA was convened on Tuesday, September 12, 2017 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. Dee Tomasetti, Treasurer; Ms. Mary Jane Kissel, Secretary; Mr. Paul Morrison, QO Cluster Representative; Mr. Daniel Garcia, Principal; Dr. Matt Paushter, Assistant Principal; Ms. Feri Jahanmir, RMS Office Assistant; LaToya Bonner, Nicki Brickey, Rosemary DeRose, Latoya Edwards, Renee Enright, Tara Kavadias, Carrie Lagas, Amy Pomrink, Sumbal Sheldon, Gina Simone, Pamela Taylor, Root Teklemeriam; Student Representatives, Phillip Bonner, Lataija Bonner, Rich Powe, Nico Simone

1. Welcome/call to order: The meeting was called to order by Sherri Wood-Powe at 7:00 pm.
   * The PTSA minutes from the September meeting were approved in an Executive Session in order to expedite their distribution,
   * Ms. Wood-Powe reminded attendees about picking up the meeting handouts and information.
2. Treasurer’s Report

* Ms. Tomasetti gave the treasurer’s report.
* Ms. Tomasetti reported that there was no Fall fundraiser this year, and that the PTSA is working to fill the fundraising position on the board.
* There is a new person helping with spirit wear, so we should see more funds come in soon from the sale of spirit wear.
* While the tailgate was a fun and successful event, the PTSA did incur a small loss this year.

III. Membership Report

* Ms. Fleisher gave the membership report.
* Membership is going well. Currently there are 193/621 RMS households with PTSA memberships.
* The staff membership rate stands at 58 staff members out of a possible 98.
* Membership rates are running even with last year.
* Directories will arrive soon for distribution.

IV. QO Cluster Report

* Mr. Paul Morrison gave the QO Cluster report.
* The calendar for the 2018-2019 school year was distributed.
* He reviewed the process for publishing the MCPS calendar for the 2018-2019 school year.
* The governor’s mandate requires that school must start after Labor Day, and end by June 13.
* MCPS has to fit 180 instructional days within that time frame, while allowing for holidays, and other non-instructional days.
* This will result in short spring break period, which could be further curtailed by possible snow days, if MCPS uses more than their allowed snow days.
* It is unclear which days will get used first as make up days.
* Mr. Morrison will get further clarification on make up days.
* Teachers’ last day of school will be the same as the students’ last day of school.
* He also talked about the CIP season, and the process by which the budget is managed to implement improvements and repairs for school buildings.
* Potential issues in this regard include overcrowding at Thurgood Marshall ES and Quince Orchard HS, as well as the possible use of the Crown property to build a new high school.
* In regards to the CIP, basketball hoops and boards replaced by school funds after MCPS backed out; MCPS performed work and painted track lanes and tennis courts.
* There was a grade level vs. advance class discussion
* Water Fountains and lead pipes were also discussed. RMS fountains have been tested and are safe.
* A discussion of the Kirwan Commission was held.
* A concern was raised regarding language translators. The issue was that funding has been cut and translators are no longer available for PTSA meetings and other "non"-school sponsored events.
* The MCCPTA embezzlement of $40,000 was discussed.  New procedures are in place for MCCPTA and local PTSAs.

V. Student Representatives

* Students representatives reported that things were going well in 6. 7th and 8th grades.
* Nico Simone shared that morale and issues from the beginning of the year were improving and that things have gotten better.
* He mentioned that the band is down to three tuners, and that it would really be helpful to be able to use cell phones in band as tuners.
* Mr. Garcia promised to look into getting additional tuners for the band classes.

VI. Principal’s Report

* Mr. Garcia reported that class sizes have remained steady, with about 10 new students joining since the beginning of the year.
* Homework clubs have started, along with an extended day program, run by Ms. Satchell to support students academically.
* Teachers are still using Google Classroom and have not switched over completely to MyMCPS, due to some bugs that are being worked out.
* Discipline issues are down by 60%, which has allowed for more educational hours. Tardy rates are also down.
* Mr. Garcia stated that issues regarding bisexual and transgendered students should be brought to the attention of the grade level administrator.
* The MCPS dress code, which is gender neutral, has been adopted at Ridgeview, and the bathroom policy that limited restroom visits has been eliminated. Students are also allowed to move around at lunch.
* Mr. Garcia also mentioned that he is looking into a science and engineering festival, which may be a whole grade field trip.
* Dr. Paushter talked about the scheduling process for next year.
* Mr. Garcia and Dr. Paushter explained the process for Parent/Teacher conferences and explained the reason for the teacher and time slot limit.
* Both Mr. Garcia and Dr. Paushter encouraged parents to contact teachers to set up meetings if they needed additional conference time.

VII.. Front Office Report /Announcements

* Ms. Jahanmir gave the front office report.
* She asked that volunteers submit their volunteer hours to her.
* Ms. Hogan is organizing a dinner dance to benefit the drama department. Tickets will be made available to the 8th grade, then the 7th grade, and after that to the 6th grade.
* The following events are coming up:
  + November 19, Movie Night in the Kentlands
  + December 6, CNO at Potbelly in Rio
  + December 16, Book Fair at Barnes and Noble
  + January 24, Advocacy Workshop
  + February 9, Mardi Gras Dance
  + February 13, next PTSA meeting
* Rosemary DeRose talked about how the Beautification Committee planted some native plants in the courtyard. The group will resume activities in the Spring.

IX. Comments/Updates

Jill Davis is working on the book fair and Nickey Brickey is working on the PTSA bulletin board.

The Key Newsletter will be published and sent out this week.

X. Adjournment

Ms. Wood-Powe adjourned the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Mary Jane Kissel, Secretary Date: 11/15/17