

RCV minutes

10/2/18

APPROVED

Rachel (President) called the meeting to order at 7:00 and welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the year.

Mr. Burns began the meeting with the Principal's report. He thanked the PTA on behalf of the staff for helping to start the year off so well. He mentioned that RCV is continuing to grow. There have been 21 new students registered since the first day of school.

He gave an update on the integration of elementary school student information into the MCPS parent portal. In grades K-2, parents will basically be able to see report cards and interims. For grades 3-5, starting in the 2nd marking period, parents will be able to access grades weekly. If anyone has questions, feel free to ask. He will do a quick overview of the portal at the next PTA meeting.

MAP testing is going on right now. Parents should be able to see MAP results in the portal as well.

He reminded the group of the new parent communication folder that has been instituted to try to address parents asking for more information on what the students are actually doing in class. This folder should help demonstrate the correlation between learning outcomes and the work being done. In addition this should assist parents in supporting their children's learning

He reminded the group that parent visitation day is Monday, October 8th. Parents are welcome to visit all day. Parents should also feel welcome to come to the school at any time

On the issue of safety, Mr. Burns asked parents to please be careful during drop off and to not pull around any cars or get out to drop off children. Also regarding school safety, MCPS is working to install more cameras at elementary schools. Cameras should eventually be out near the portables.

If parents would like to help with field trips, they should take the online child abuse prevention module if they have not done so in the last three years.

Mr. Burns thanked the PTA for their efforts this year in the area of after-school programming. This is the largest set of opportunities we have ever had.

There was question about how these after-school activities are vetted. The PTA has an approved vendor list from Montgomery County so any organization coming in has been vetted. There was also a question relating to safety and the portables especially during lock downs. Mr. Burns answered that the county is actually putting in some new procedures that will take into account the location of the actual threat and may utilize safe zones outside of the school. A lock down drill will probably take place in the next two weeks or so and he will mention it in the Sunday message

The group discussed some of the strategies being used to help kindergartners make friends, such as community circles in the classrooms where issues (both negative and positive) can be addressed. Rachel mentioned that the new counselor, Ms. Bergman, will come to speak to the PTA as well.

Kate (Secretary) introduced the minutes from last June. A motion to approve the minutes was made, seconded, voted on and approved.

Rachel went over a few details for the school year. The original slate for co-vice presidents is not allowed under our current by-laws so Crystal will be the VP for Social and Michelle will be the VP for Fundraising, assisted by Erika and Kara respectively. A motion to confirm this was made, seconded, voted on and approved.

Trisha (Treasurer) presented the current budget and proposed some changes, lowering some expected incomes and adjusting projected expenses. A motion to approve the new budget was made, seconded, voted on and approved. Trisha also presented the monthly treasurer's report. Vivian reminded the group that if anyone wants to get involved to chair an event, they should work with the VP and Trisha in order to plan.

Rachel introduced and outlined the topic of a new grant request form for teachers to present to the PTA. Three forms have been submitted already. Ms. Cullather made a presentation to the group about a request she put together for improving the play resources available to students during indoor recess. Wish list items focus on games that can be used if pieces are lost and on large manipulatives. The group discussed ways to achieve these goals that might not necessarily be a straight PTA grant such as donation jars or a directed fundraising event.

The group also discussed two other grant proposals. One was from Ms. Lawrence for a PebbleGoNext subscription. A discussion followed about the price and the possible availability of similar resources in other venues. The group decided not to vote but will consult with Ms. Lawrence more and discuss at the next meeting. Mr. Burns will plan on extending the current in-school subscription in the meantime.

The last proposal was for a 4th and 5th grade art project. It will be revisited next meeting as well. The PTA will be working on establishing a deadline for submissions and defining some criteria.

Kara (Fundraising) told the group that fall book fair planning is underway. We are making sure that some of our Scholastic funds are going to teachers to purchase books

Michelle (Fundraising) stated that spirit wear sales have just finished. The first restaurant night will be at Chipotle in Aspen Hill on October 23rd. A flyer will go home and will need to be shown at the restaurant. The next restaurant night will be November 29th at Silver Diner. The Buy Nothing Sell Nothing fundraising campaign will begin at the end of the month.

Mr. Burns added that if any parents would like to work at lunch recess, they would be employed by MCPS. Email him if interested.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday (not Tuesday) November 7th.

Meeting adjourned at 8:14