

11/7/2018

APPROVED

Rachel (President) called the meeting to order at 7:01.

The minutes from the October meeting were introduced. A motion to approve the minutes was made, seconded, voted on and approved.

The PTA welcomed guest speaker Maren Hill from the Montgomery County Planning Department. She came to introduce a new initiative titled Vision Zero aimed at the elimination of deaths from traffic related incidents by the year 2030. It is an approach and a commitment and a view of traffic that says that these deaths are preventable. The idea is to reduce “conflicts” of all kinds in the areas of traffic that will in turn decrease the frequency and severity of crashes. The idea is that saving lives is not expensive. The Aspen Hill Vision Zero Study will collect and analyze data and use what is learned in other areas as well. There is an interactive map MReactMap.com where you can drop a pin and write comments as part of the study effort. The Planning Department is also available to help with getting communities involved and active around these issues. You can see this link for more information: <http://montgomeryplanning.org/planning/communities/area-2/aspen-hill/aspen-hill-vision-zero-study/>

Mr. Burns gave the Principal’s report. He outlined the types of emergency drills required by the county and followed up on the references he had made in the most recent Sunday message. This past week the school held the first public shelter drill. This is a drill in which they practice continuing instruction while there is something happening out in the community. The lockdown drills are a little more intense so they try to make it as kid-friendly as possible in the explanations. The kids do a great job but he wanted the parents to know about these drills in case families want to follow up with children in any way. The county is looking at changing some procedures but these changes have not been implemented yet. He will inform us all when anything new is rolled out. This week, grades K-1 will be practicing a drill where they are outside and then have to all leave the playground and line up outside (in the event of an actual evacuation, Drake Ct. is the safe off-site destination).

Mr. Burns talked to the group about the bi-weekly communication folders. Input was provided that the inclusion of more work examples would be appreciated. Several parents complimented the overall responsiveness of staff at RCV. There was brief discussion of the use of Google Classroom.

He also discussed the MCPS Parent Portal. Soon, parents should be able to see grades for students in grades 3-5 and MAP scores should be available as well. There will be some more information coming home this week about viewing and understanding the MAP scores. He urged the group to remember that this is just one data point. Some new district assessments will also be going on as a way of assembling another set of data. The group briefly discussed the timeline for 3rd grade testing for admission to the center at Barnsley.

He also told the group that RCV is not in the phase one roll out for the new MCPS curriculum which will begin next school year.

Rachel did a demonstration of the new A-Z Directory online and showed some of its features, particularly the “digital backpack”. She reminded parents to log in and verify their information. She is loading all flyers into the system. They are searchable and the PTA will be testing an email

reminder from the system as well. Once people verify information, print copies of the directory will also be output for those who would prefer them.

Trisha (Treasurer) presented her report. She gave a thank you to those who had helped with the financial audit over the summer and explained an issue raised by that review related to "cost of goods sold". She will be redoing the representations of some of the "in and out" expenses to more accurately reflect them in the budget.

Trisha explained the overall financial status of the PTA and the best practice of not keeping too much in the bank. We do want to spend down some of the current balance. This led to a discussion of the Buy Nothing Sell Nothing (BNSN) fundraiser and the difficulty in staffing a spring book fair. As a follow on, the group discussed how successful the special request for indoor recess support had been but that there remained a need for carts on which to house all the new games and activities. Ultimately a motion was made for the PTA to purchase up to \$1200 worth of indoor recess carts. It was seconded, voted on, and approved.

There was a brief discussion of the grant review process. Grant proposals from teachers will be due soon and then a separate committee will review them and bring them to a vote.

Rachel reminded the group that Multicultural Night will be held on the 15th. There is still time to sign up if you would like to participate or volunteer. The Book Fair will be open that evening as well.

The spelling bee this year will be an in-school Scripps bee in January. An interest form will be coming home soon.

Rachel is covering the Cultural Arts position. Author Mary Amato is coming again this year as is a reptile assembly and a storyteller for the younger students.

A parent asked Mr. Burns about the Peace Assemblies. He said that they will happen this year with a few changes to focus more on the entirety of the students' experiences. They may be split by grades this year as well. The timeline for the first of these assemblies is early December.

Michelle (Fundraising) thanked everyone for the spirit wear orders. The Chipotle restaurant night brought in about \$600 and a Silver Diner night is scheduled for November 29th. The BNSN fundraiser is underway right now. You can return the hard copy form or donate via PayPal (no fee) directly from the PTA website.

Kara (Fundraising) reminded everyone that the Book Fair launches on Friday. She is still looking for volunteers if anyone is available.

Any entries for the Reflections art content are due on November 16th. This year's theme is "Heroes Around Me".

The meeting adjourned at 8:25.