

RCV minutes

12/4/18

APPROVED

Rachel (President) called the meeting to order at 7:00.

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

Mr. Burns gave the Principal's Update. He talked to the group about the newly issued Maryland State Report Card. This new state measure looks at PARCC performance and the progress of ESOL students. Every school gets a "star" rating in this new system. RCV got a "4-star" rating and the score for the school was a 71. He noted that schools and administrators are still learning how to look at it and how to read it. He reminded the group of Dr. Smith's letter last week which explained that MCPS will be looking at other measures in its new "Equity Accountability Model". This model will take into account other data points such as classroom performance, district assessments, MAP and PARCC. Another difference of note between the state rating and the new MCPS model is that the state is looking at all students and that MCPS will look at students in 2nd and 5th grade and will concentrate on certain subgroups of students. Mr. Burns will include some further information in his Sunday message. There was a brief discussion of the Rockville cluster in which all school got a 4-star rating.

As a follow up, Mr. Burns mentioned that he and the other principals in the cluster are trying to do more branding of the cluster. They are developing cluster mission and vision statements in an effort to celebrate the community we have in the Rockville cluster.

He and Ms. Carr reported that the illnesses sweeping the school last week have begun to decline.

Ms. McNiece and Mr. Burns responded to a question about the indoor recess collection. The new carts to hold the new indoor recess games and equipment have been assembled and should be ready to go next week. Mr. Burns indicated that if it is at all possible he sends the kids outside for recess.

Mrs. Bergman, RCV's new school counselor, spoke to the group to introduce herself and talk about the counseling program (also referred to as the Social Emotional Learning (SEL) program). She reviewed the MCPS guidelines for counseling and the goal of supporting social and emotional growth. Such support breaks down barriers to academic success. Social and emotional needs of the students drive the program. It is data driven, but that data can be anecdotal as well as quantitative. This is a tiered program: tier 1 is school-wide and preventative in nature; tier 2 is more based on short-term issues and responses (often small groups); and tier3 is individual student support.

Teachers and parents can refer children to Mrs. Bergman and students can self-refer as well. A new element this year is a "calming room". How exactly the room is going to be integrated into the school and used is still being developed, but it will provide a calming space outside of a given classroom.

Peace awards will be a little different this year in that an academic component will be brought into the awards. The "peaceful 5" are still the basis of the program, but the goal is to recognize the good work being done by students as well. There will not be specific criteria and the awards will focus on effort and development. Teachers will focus on the "why" of the award. At assemblies, there will be peacemaker

and academic awards. The first assembly will take place the week before winter break. There will be assemblies for grades Pre-K-2 and 3-5. A final decision on the date will be made and communicated soon.

Mr. Burns will also work on the best times for the PTA to do their events for students like the popcorn party and book distribution.

Rachel reported the recommendation of the grant review committee to approve all the grant proposals that were submitted by staff. The school recently purchased two items on the list (PebbleGo subscription and a classroom weight) so the total was less than anticipated. A motion to approve the expenditures outlined in the grant proposals was made, seconded, voted on and approved.

Rachel noted that this line item still has money in budget and the PTA will be taking some parent suggestions and working with the teachers to see what else we might do in the way of support.

Trisha (Treasurer) gave her report. The book fair and the yearbook payout were the main financial transactions of the last month.

Kara (Fundraising) thanked everyone who helped with the book fair. There were \$7700 in sales and that resulted in about \$4000 in Scholastic Dollars that will be used to buy books for distribution to the students.

Michelle (Fundraising) updated the group that the Silver Diner fundraiser made \$400 and that the Buy Nothing Sell Nothing fundraiser took in \$4900. There will be another restaurant fundraiser at the Ledo Pizza in Leisure World on January 29th.

Mr. Burns thanked the PTA for arranging the Thanksgiving pies for staff.

Ms McNiece reminded the group that it is not too late to sign your kids up for the date night babysitting 5th grade fundraiser on Friday. There will be another one near Valentine's Day.

Elaine (Reflections coordinator) gave an overview of the Reflections art contest this year. The artwork is on display in the Media Center. Winners will move on to the county level. Awards will be given at the peace assembly. Elaine reminded the group that this is her last year and that she needs a volunteer to coordinate this next year.

Rachel reminded the group that the PTA is looking for a spring bingo night coordinator. The date is TBD.

The PTA will be coordinating a distribution of desserts for the staff right before the break.

Rachel is also working on getting a science fair planning committee together. Contact her if interested. The spelling bee will be at the end of January as an in-school event.

She also reminded to the group of fundraising storefronts that the school has on Shutterfly and AmazonSmile. Online shopping can generate revenue for the school.

Meeting adjourned 8:05