

RCV PTA

03/05/2019

APPROVED

Rachel (President) called to order at 7:01

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

Trisha (Treasurer) gave her report. This past month was a slower month financially. There were a few disbursements for cultural arts and some money coming in from yearbook sales and one new membership. Next month will include the book fair and the spring Family Fun Night. There will also be a check coming in from the Ledo's fundraiser.

A motion was made to approve \$40 extra to a previously approved grant the PTA made for an art project. The motion was seconded, voted on and approved.

Crystal (Social) gave an update. Family Fun Night will be on March 15th. This will be a late night at the book fair as well. Flyers (paper and digital) went out for the upcoming Science Fair and STEM Night on April 26th. Adding more STEM activities will allow kids to come and learn and participate even if they do not want to do a project for the fair.

Michelle (Fundraising) thanked those who were able to attend the Ledo's fundraiser. The book fair is coming up and volunteers are needed. There will be a Silver Diner night on April 4th. There may be a Villa Maya restaurant night in May. May will also have the carnival and help will be needed for that.

Note that the book fair especially needs volunteers for Tuesday. It will be open two evenings this spring as well.

The yearbook committee needs photos. Please send in any photos you might have. See Facebook for the contact information (**Edited to add:** photos can be emailed to RCVYearBook@gmail.com. Please be sure to select/send the largest size photo to email. Compressed photos cannot be used in the yearbook as they show up as grainy and do not render well.)

Ms. Carr gave an update. A few teachers are either on leave or going out on leave soon. Administration and staff are getting the long-term substitutes set up for smooth transitions. Fortunately, all the substitutes have been teachers previously. Ms. Carr also gave an overview of the staffing plans for next school year. RCV has not lost any professional staffing allocations this year and the current plan continues to have three classes at each grade level. There have been some changes in support staffing allocations and these are being planned out now.

Ms. Carr gave an overview of testing. There is not a great deal of testing in March except for some upcoming 5th grade MISA (Maryland Integrated Science Assessment) testing. The next big round of testing is PARCC in April. The schedule will be sent out to parents. Note that state testing will be called MCAP (Maryland Comprehensive Assessment Program) in the future. The administration and teachers are trying to help with students' anxiety around testing and to deescalate any testing stress. Parents can help by making sure kids get a good night sleep and a good breakfast on the morning of the test. There's nothing children can do to study for these tests, so just encourage them to do their best.

The peace program continues even with no assigned counselor. Staff has been keeping this program going. Parent tours for incoming kindergarteners will be taking place prior to the April orientation dates.

Rachel noted that the PTA will have a table at the kindergarten orientations and will be planning the summer kindergarten play dates. There will probably be three held throughout the summer.

Mr. Burns noted that there will be no programs using the RCV building this summer. All the bathrooms are being renovated.

The MCPS Health & Wellness representative who had been slated to speak about food services (snacks, lunches, menu) was unable to attend the meeting. Mr. Burns and Ms. Carr answered some questions from the group regarding practices in the cafeteria, especially in regard to snacks. There was a general group discussion about accessibility of snacks and the options available to students. Many parents wanted to know if snack options could include fewer desserts. The group also discussed ways to both manage and communicate about students' purchases. Suggestions included: check the [online MCPS menu](#) for the most up-to-date menu on regular school days, call the RCV main office to confirm menu options on the mornings of delayed openings, talk with your kids about how to budget the money in their myschoolbucks account, and you can even write a note to Mrs. T mentioning that you're trying to restrict your child's snack purchases to (for example) 1 snack per week. Mr. Burns is planning to follow up with MCPS on a few outstanding questions related to menu offerings.

Meeting adjourned at 7:55.