

RCV PTA meeting minutes 04Feb2020

APPROVED

Rachel (President) called the meeting to order at 7:04PM and welcomed everyone. A motion to accept the minutes from January was made, seconded, voted on and approved.

Mr. Burns announced a kindness assembly on Friday (Feb 7th). Invites have been sent home to parents whose children will be recognized, but everyone is welcome to attend.

Mr. Burns mentioned that the traffic outside the school in the morning has gotten better, and he appreciates the change. Always wants to keep our kids safe. Also noticed less students are around in the morning too early. Thank you parents!

Kindergarten registration is now open! Contact the front office to sign up. Kindergarten orientation will be April 2 and 3rd. No school for current kindergarteners those days. Meeting next week to discuss how to get it out to the community regarding Kindergarten enrollment. Aspen Hill NextDoor was suggested. The county counts the enrollment numbers on June 1st.

COSA (Change of School Assignment) applications are also open now for anyone who wants to request being assigned to RCV (or any other school) instead of their home school. FARM applications will come out later in the year.

Thank you to those who came out to the spaghetti dinner. Helps reduce the cost of the 5th grade Philadelphia trip.

RCV staff raffles (“Staffles”) are going on now to raise money for 5th grade Philadelphia trip. Mr. Burns noted that RCV can’t run this on their own because it’s been a problem in past audits, so to keep these fun activities open to the kids, the PTA will collect the money and cut the school a check for the amount raised.

Report cards went home today. Math and district assessment results will go home on Friday. Just waiting on 4th grade Map M and R testing.

Rachel has exciting news. Mrs. Davies (school counselor) was contacted by Women Who Care Ministries – RCV has been selected to participate in a program called “Helping Kids Eat Backpack Weekend Food Program” for families in need. Each Friday, FARM students who sign up will have food placed in their backpack and sent home for the weekend. Forms have gone home and Ms. Carr is making phone calls to ensure everyone who qualifies is aware of the opportunity.

The PTA can help by distributing the bags of food to classrooms. This is only the 2nd week RCV has been in the program, but as we get more experience with the best way to distribute, we’ll post a signup genius with weekly slots. The bags arrive pre-packaged, and we’ll have a roster showing the number of bags to leave in each classroom. Teachers will take care of discretely distributing the bags to the appropriate backpacks. The program will certainly run through the end of this school year, but Mr. Burns is hopeful it’ll continue long into the future.

It’s counselor appreciation week – try to stop by to say thank you to Mrs. Davies for this and all the other amazing things she’s doing at RCV!

Rachel mentioned the PTA has partnered with Points of Light, which is a nonprofit that gives out a certain number of free Disney tickets based on the number of people who show up to help at a family service event (for example, Community Service Night). 75 people showing up would get us 20 free tickets. Discussion was had about how we should utilize them. We agreed to start by giving out 4 free tickets (noting some restrictions apply & must be present to win) as a door prize at Community Service Night.

To document how many people attend, we'll need to have people sign in and note at least one email address per family. We'll also have to take a few pictures and type up a brief summary as evidence that the event happened.

Trisha (Treasurer) gave the treasury report through January. Villa Maya night raised \$420.

Following up on the last meeting – Rachel gave an update on items purchased so far: 6 bean bag chairs for library, a youth couch, pre-k storage box, small table and chairs for Ms. Carr's office, science themed books for 1st grade. Mrs. Branch is waiting for an end of the year sale for violins.

After the last meeting, Rachel measured soccer goals at elementary schools in the neighborhood (Barnsley, Brookhaven) and found they're 8' x 24' (bigger than what she had originally priced). Barnsley's exact model was found online (2 goals, nets, weights all included) as a package priced at just under \$4k total. Other 8' x 24' soccer goals (not seen in person) were priced at just over \$2k per goal (1 goal, nets, weights). Either way, an 8' x 24' goal would cost more than the annual \$1500 health & fitness budget. What does everyone think?

Discussion occurred. Summary of main points:

- RCV had soccer goals at one point (18 years ago, as part of a playground renovation) but they were damaged quickly at that time. The current model at Barnsley appears to be durable. Spending the money would allow access for families visiting RCV on weekends, as well as soccer teams and others in the community.
- Portable soccer goals are a cheaper option, but downside is they wouldn't be available on nights or weekends, and would need to be pulled in / out (or at least locked up) by playground staff every day.
- Building a Gaga pit might cost about the same, but parents expressed safety concerns.
- This year's budget has the PTA (intentionally) set to spend about \$3,000 more than the projected funds brought in. Even so, we're going to be left with a healthy bank account (currently \$21,000 in the bank), so would have enough money to cover the costs of any of the purchases we're talking about.
- Central question is – do we want to buy something that the whole community can access, or something for school-only use? Also, how much over-budget are we willing to go this year vs. spreading the cost over 2 years?

Other notes: Mulch levels are checked by MCPS each spring and refilled when needed. A past drainage issue on the playground was fixed a few years ago. The PTA re-stocked balls for the playground last year, and Mr. Burns couldn't think of any other P.E. needs.

Michelle (Fundraising) thanked parents for coming out to MOD pizza. Another Villa Maya night will be scheduled in May. February 27th is Urban BBQ night. Panera is March 23rd. Silver Diner in April.

Carnival planning has begun, but help is needed. At this point, the silent auction might not happen because of the amount of work involved in coordinating it.

Crystal (Social Activities) reminded everyone that classroom Valentine's parties will be February 14th, 2:30-3:30PM – a signup genius has been posted and several classrooms still need parents to help run the party.

Community Service Night is February 20th (5:30-7:30PM), and we're currently collecting plastic grocery bags in a bin in the main atrium to be used at one of the activity stations. A total of 5 activity stations will be set up, some same as last year, others new – all to reinforce RCV's 3rd quarter focus of being "Kind to Our Community". Flyers with details will be sent home this week.

Spelling Bee (4th & 5th grades) will also be February 20th (9:45-10:45AM).

Wood MS is hosting an internet safety event Tuesday, February 11th. They were the only school in MD chosen for the National PTA grant to host this event – congratulations! RCV parents are welcome to attend. Attendance is limited to 150 people.

Meeting adjourned at 7:47pm.