**Ritchie Park Elementary PTA**

**Meeting Minutes - November 1, 2011**

Attendees: No Sign in Sheet

Meeting called to order at 7:38 PM

October 4, 2011 PTA meeting minutes approved.

**Treasurer’s report:**

Steve Shuck provided paper copies of the PTA’s financial statements and stated that anyone interested in receiving an electronic copy can e-mail him. He also noted that the revenues from the Innsbruck fundraiser (~$12K) were gross values that included approximately $7-8K in materials fees that have yet to be paid out.

**Membership report:**

RPES PTA currently has 210 members. New members (registered as of midnight on November 1, 2011) will be entered into a $50 gift card raffle. The winner will be announced in the November 18th newsletter.

**Programs and Events:**

Cultural Arts:

Brain Benders science sessions will take place on December 6th and 13th with curriculums geared towards grades K-2 and 3-5. A Discovery Theater presentation, “How Old Is a Hero,” (MLK Jr themed) will held in January. A narrative titled, “History Alive,” is scheduled for February.

Community Service:

Pennies for Patience collected $1,489.85 to support the Leukemia Society. On November 11, RPES will host “Walk for Heroes” to honor Veteran’s Day. Whole Foods is sponsoring a breakfast for the event. Students will also be making cards for soldiers and RPES will be soliciting donations for “Welcome Home Maryland,” which provides gift packages to deployed soldiers returning stateside.

Skate Night:

To be held at the Cabin John Ice Rink on November 5th from 6:30 until 8 PM. The fifth graders will be selling pizza. Attendees must register by November 2nd. Registration information can be found on the e-news letter.

International Night:

To be held at RPES on November 17th. So far, approximately 7 countries will be represented, but more are needed. Please contact Rodney Peele if you are interested in representing a country or volunteering.

Scholastic Book Fair

To be held in the RPES Media Center from November 28nd until December 2nd. Volunteers are needed. On December 1st, RPES will host Storytelling Night from 6 until 8 PM. Pajamas are encouraged. The fifth graders will be selling milk and cookies.

Grocery loyalty programs:

So far 64 RPES parents are registered with Giant and 64 are registered with Harris Teeter. So far, RPES has accumulated $159 in rewards from Harris Teeter and $232 from Safeway.

Staff Appreciation:

The Rockville California Tortilla will be sponsoring lunch for RPES teachers on November 10th. The Rockville California Tortilla is also offering a free lunch to RPES students who present their report card to the restaurant within 2 weeks of receiving it. Also, Safeway has donated 10 turkeys for the RPES staff, which will be awarded via a raffle and other fun activities.

**Principal’s report:**

On November 8th, the RPES gym will be used as a polling station for a Rockville special election. MCPS is providing for security. Grades K-3 will enter through the main door and line up in the halls. Ms. Long is developing plans to ensure the rest of the school routine is as normal as possible.

RPES is receiving a new visitor management system. This new system will scan IDs (or have the ability to input personal information), conduct a basic “background check”, and issue a temporary photo visitor’s badge. More information to follow as it becomes available to Ms. Long.

Ms. Long has scheduled an information session on Curriculum 2.0, to be held on November 8th at 7 PM. Her focus will be on the grades 1 and 2 math curriculum, but she is open to all questions.

Due to Diana and Claudia’s outstanding care of the copying machines, MCPS has given RPES a $225 credit that would normally have been used for copier maintenance.

**Advocacy Report:**

The MCCPTA passed several resolutions that were discussed during the October 4th PTA meeting. These resolutions included the Capital Investment Plan (CIP) Priorities and Operational Budget Priorities. The MCCPTA also voted against a resolution to endorse the proposed Montgomery County curfew and voted for a resolution to oppose the curfew.

On October 28th, the Superintendant proposed building the new Hungerford site elementary school and adding an addition to JWMS as part of the CIP. The new elementary school would open in 2015, with construction on the addition starting in 2014 and ending in 2016. Additionally, MCPS announced that they are against co-locating other government services with the new elementary school construction.

Two important public meetings will take place prior to MCPS making a final decision later this month. On November 7th, from 7:30 until 9:00 PM in the RMHS cafeteria, members of the MCPS Long Range Planning Staff will present details on the new elementary school and JWMS addition decision to PTA members of the RMHS cluster. Parents are encouraged to e-mail questions ahead of time to Cheryl Pierce (cbpeirce@gmail.com) so that the staff can be prepared to answer them. On November 14th, from 7:00 until 9:30 PM in the Carver Auditorium, the MCBOE will be holding boundary and facility hearings which will include the new elementary school and JWMS addition. Cheryl will speak on behalf of the RMHS cluster. Parents are encouraged to attending wearing their RPES gear.

**New Business:**

This holiday season, RPES teachers will participate in the “Give a Gift” program. This charitable program provides gifts and books for RPES children in need. They will be soliciting donations from parents, as well as the PTA.

In order to reduce the cost of yearbooks, the RPES yearbook committee plans to save money by taking orders and distributing yearbooks themselves, instead of using the publishing company. This will also provide flexibility in ordering extra yearbooks. In the past the publishing company only printed copies for individuals who pre-ordered. Volunteers are needed to support this effort. Pictures of student activities are also needed.

Meeting adjourned at 9:03 PM

**Announcements:**

Parent/Teacher Conferences – November 10 and 11

Restaurant Night – Elevation Burger – November 9

PTA Meeting – December 6