

Redland Middle School

PTA Meeting Minutes

November 8, 2011

Attendees: Rob Sharp, Sally Mills, Michelle Butler, Jackie Melton, Bob Sinclair, John Moriarty, Margie Parrott, Jacques Croom, Cindy Fullerton, Susan Thompson, Ellen Motley, Beatrice Hanson

The President called the meeting to order at 7:47 pm.

President's Report – Jacques Croom

- Welcome and introductions
- Minutes from the September 13, 2011 were reviewed. A motion was made by Cindy Fullerton to approve the minutes, seconded by Rob Sharp, and approved.
- Career Day is Friday November 11. At least two more parent volunteers are needed. Breakfast is provided, then talks given to class followed by lunch. Contact Jay Megary if interested in participating.
- Be sure to record hours spent volunteering for PTA activities and provide to Tam Miller.
- Fundraising – we are somewhat behind the \$8000 goal for the 5 minute fundraiser. A discussion followed regarding the positive balance currently in the PTA account (due to carryover from previous years) since the PTA's nonprofit status means that money raised during the school year should be spent that year. The possibility of not having another fundraiser even if the 5 minute fundraiser does not meet the \$8000 goal was raised and will be discussed further at later PTA meetings.
- It was noted that 14% of RMS parents have contributed to the 5 minute fundraiser thus far, as have most parents on the Yahoo group. Other possibilities for fundraising include mailings and school announcements. A PTA table will be set up at the school play to include fundraising material.
- Mr. Croom expressed appreciation for Mr. Sinclair's responsiveness thus far this school year to the PTA and the PTA President.

Principal's Report – Mr. Sinclair

- The Peer Mediation program is up and running. A group of children have been trained to run this program to help children settle disputes. The types of misbehavior noted so far this year involve verbal disputes and bullying, rather than physical altercations. This may be attributable to visible presence of teachers/administration as well as policy of encouraging students to tell adults about potential problems.
- Dates of note:
 - November 10, 2011 - Mr. Asbacher will appear at Bob's Discount Furniture in Rockville to accept a \$1000 donation to RMS.
 - November 17, 2011 – SIP update, open to all.

- November 18, 2011 – ABC Party during school hours to celebrate the success of students who received A's, B's, and C's during the first marking period. There will be tiered rewards depending on grades (all A's, all B's, etc.). The PTA will help sponsor.
- November 4, 2011 was the Medieval Times trip for 7th grade, a success.
- End of year trip for 8th graders – Plan is for Spirit of Washington Cruise. Enrollment has been light so far (24), need at least 125 students. Problem may be cost or length of time till trip.
- PBIS is going fantastic (Tuesday and Thursday morning and one Friday monthly).
- Construction – Black top is almost done (\$200,000 extra due to damage from construction process). Gym floors have been redone. Gym backboards are a problem in that they don't go up all the way (or at all) to allow use for other sports. Solution is to replace versus alter existing backboards.
- There will be a new visitor system which is being piloted in the county. Visitor provides ID, which will be scanned and compared with existing databases, including those of child offenders.
- Plan next year is for 14 period schedule. Current schedule system is problematic in that children encountering academic difficulties will often have electives omitted to provide extra academic time. The new plan will have Periods 1-7 on Day 1 and Periods 8-14 on day 2, etc. This will allow longer blocks for subjects such as Science and PE, which may have two contiguous periods three times weekly (for example). The parent representative for this planning committee is Laura Hieronymous, and the first meeting will be Monday, November 14, 2011. School leadership voted unanimously in favor of this scheduling plan. There will first be development of a full schedule, and if the outcome is favorable, it will be implemented next school year. Most children will not have significant changes in their schedule, and it will be discontinued if it doesn't work.
- Brief discussion of institution of Common Core Standards 2.0 for Grades 1 and 2. Focus of the program is fewer topics with emphasis on student mastery of each topic before proceeding. Discussions for middle school curriculum would identify important skills for that level and how to ensure student mastery. Ideally, this concept would involve an interdisciplinary stem, such that related subjects were combined – e.g., engineering. Note that RMS is 2nd smallest middle school in MCPS, with one consequence being teachers shared with other schools. This complicates scheduling.
- Attendance – There are some RMS students (approximately 8-10) who have attended school infrequently (10-50 days) this past quarter, more than usual. The problem is often homelessness, and the cases are being followed up by Truancy/Social Services. One consequence for RMS could be in the AYP, since attendance is factored in the scores.

Treasurer's Report – Cindy Fullerton

- The 990 is completed.
- The Cash Summary Report was discussed. There are currently 188 RMS PTA members, with a goal of 225. The largest expenses so far have been in the Curriculum/Student Support/Culture Art (\$1573) and Dividers/Handbooks (\$1925) areas. The RMS PTA cash in the bank is currently \$15,892. Since \$575 was not spent as planned on the student dividers, the money remains in the General Fund, and the Budget can be amended as needed should the need arise. Next year, the

PTA plans to purchase the agenda book from the previous supplier and approximately \$2 per book, and the size will be larger at about 8 x 10 ½ inches.

Vice President of Events Report – Jacques Croom for Tam Miller

- There are still a few pasta dishes need for the Teacher Appreciation Luncheon on November 11, 2011. Contact Jenni Hasemann.
- The 1st student social is scheduled for Friday, November 18. Parent volunteers for chaperone, set up, and clean up are needed. Contact Lauren Manella.
- Volunteers are needed for the Dog Pound, office coverage, copying, helping teachers.

Vice President of Fundraising Report – Margie Parrott

- The 5 minute fundraiser has raised \$5518 so far.
- The 1st restaurant night will be at Ledo's Pizza on Muncaster Mill on November 10 for both lunch and dinner. Two more restaurant nights are planned. Subway at Redmill Plaza will also donate 5% to RMS if Redland is mentioned.

Beatrice Hanson asked for volunteers for the PBIS store on Tuesday and Thursday mornings.

No old business to follow-up.

No new business.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Drawing was held for winners of the 5 Minute Fundraiser Raffle:

- Chipotle Gift Certificate - Troutner family
- Chipotle Gift Certificate - Schweitzer family
- California Tortilla Gift Certificate - Hernandez family
- California Tortilla Gift Certificate - Moriarty family
- Ski Liberty Gift Certificate - Butler family
- Ski Liberty Gift Certificate - Lebedinsky family
- Nike Gift Certificate - Crandall family
- Target Gift Certificate- Dacey family

Minutes finalized November 18, 2011

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