

**Minutes of the
Ridgeview Middle School Parent-Teacher-Student Association Meeting
October 13, 2009**

A called meeting of the RMS PTSA was convened on October 13, 2009 at 7:01 pm in the Media Center of Ridgeview Middle School in Gaithersburg, MD, pursuant to notice duly given.

Attendees: Holly Parker (President), Elana Hoopes (1st Vice President), Donna Joe (2nd Vice President), Lisa Torvik (Secretary), Carol Levine (School Principal), Feri Jahanmir, Janine Rauscher, Linda Pett, Barbara Textoris, Rebecca Hallam, Sue Wingate, Heather Jordan, Miriam Mokuena, Caroline Blackwell, Padmini Taskar, Susan Daugherty, Karen Chen, Lisa Konecke, Tara Murayama, Robin Sizdahkhani, Diane Schmid, Camille Law, Candace Niesen, Ken Kasapetyan, Carol Childs, Wendy Shokkai, Jim Keenan, Susan Morrison, Randi Poli, Eric Minkoff, Valerie Fuster, Tracy Husted, Christine Mauck

- I. **Welcome/Call to Order** – Holly Parker called the meeting to order, welcomed all and reminded everyone to sign in.
- II. **Approval of Minutes** – Minutes from the May 12, 2009 PTSA meeting were distributed. When a quorum was attained during the meeting, Lisa Torvik asked for a motion to waive the reading of and to approve these minutes. The motion was made by Robin Sizdahkhani and seconded by Sue Wingate and unanimously approved.
- III. **Treasurer's Report** – Holly summarized the budget for the treasurer, Dohi Shin, who was unable to attend the meeting. Holly gave a quick explanation on how to read the budget and discussed the fact that the PTSA will be running at a deficit this year. The hope, however, is that the deficit will be small after all the fundraising and activities throughout the year. The PTSA members discussed the budget and a motion to approve the 2009-2010 budget was made by Diane Schmid and seconded by Robin Sizdahkhani. A unanimous vote approved the 2009-2010 operating budget.
- IV. **Principal's Report** – Dr. Levine explained that this year's students were taking advantage of the science grant from the National Science Foundation that was received last year. As part of the grant, several sixth graders have been able to participate in a trip to the Chesapeake Bay. Also, as part of the grant, the seventh graders had a speaker on "light" during the Light Fantastic Assembly which was very well received. Dr. Levine also mentioned that 80 eighth graders in honors geometry would be taking the PSAT's at the high school tomorrow. Dr. Levine also announced that the first marking period ends at the end of the month. Finally, Dr. Levine discussed the several intervention programs that were available at the school to help all students achieve at a higher level.
- V. **President's Report** – Holly Parker thanked all the committee chairs and volunteers who helped get everything ready back in August for the start of the school year. Holly especially thanked Susan Morrison, who completed the directory by back to school night, Robyn Gault who got the first newsletter out in the summer mailer and Kim Gleason who made the courtyard and grounds look terrific. Holly also recognized the father's group and several new or returning committees that will be at Ridgeview this year thanks to volunteers who offered to lead these activities. The new committees include Spelling Bee, Reflections, and Math Olympiad. In addition, Holly

introduced the new 3 on 3-basketball tournament. Holly then communicated the goals of the PTSA for the 2009-2010 school year. See attached goals.

VI. Committee Reports

MCCPTA - Elana Hoopes reported for Nancy Ketterer the MCCPTA representative. Nancy is looking for feedback about the current math curriculum for MCPS and asked individuals to contact her about the pros and cons of the curriculum. This information will be shared with MCCPTA and MCPS.

Gardening - Elana reported for Kim Gleason from the gardening committee on the many activities the committee has been working on to keep the grounds of Ridgeview looking good. The committee has been working hard on the courtyard and has worked with several families to make the front of the building look good for the return of school. In addition, a sign in sheet for helping with gardening was sent around.

Membership - Lisa Konecke discussed membership and announced that there have been a total of 329 PTSA members to date. Parents who did not receive their membership cards and directories at Back to School night should expect to receive them from their oldest student's 1st period teacher. Lisa reminded everyone that it was not too late to become a PTSA member and that forms were available this evening.

Staff Appreciation - Elana reported for Becky Wolfe and Kerri Moyer for the Staff Appreciation Committee and thanked everyone who had contributed bake goods for the teachers for back to school. The teachers also received back to school goody bags with water and snacks, etc. In addition, a breakfast is given once a month and Elana mentioned that volunteers will be needed for this.

NAACP - Miriam Mokuena shared that the NAACP committee is gaining information from members about community needs and that the committee is continuing to recruit. Miriam also discussed the Heritage Café (held in February), which is one of the biggest events for the NAACP committee. In addition, Miriam informed us that the first Ridgeview PTSA parent council meeting is this next Wednesday.

Quince Orchard - Sue Wingate reported on Quince Orchard High School activities. The homecoming parade will be held this Friday at 4:00 p.m. and the homecoming football game is at 6:30 p.m. Saturday night is homecoming. In addition, the QO marching band is hosting a golf tournament. Sue also shared an issue that has come up for Ridgeview 8th graders. Sue explained that fall sports and activities for QO begin in August and that many parents are unaware of this and often plan vacations for this time period. The students are then not able to participate in the fall activities. Sue noted that everyone is welcome to check the QO website for information. In addition, a suggestion was made to sign up for the QO yahoo group when your child is an eighth grader.

Jones Lane Liaison - Val Fuster reported that the Jones Lane book fair is going on now.

Thurgood Marshall Liaison - Randy Poli mentioned that the Thurgood Marshall School fair is going on this Sunday from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Volunteers are still welcome for this event.

Fields Road Liaison - Tara Murayama reported that Field's Road has had record PTA membership this year.

Quince Orchard Cluster - Tracy Husted and Jim Keenan discussed the Quince Orchard cluster meeting and reviewed the goals of MCCPTA for this coming fiscal year.

Staff Liaison - Feri Jahamnir reported that October 30th is picture day and October 23rd is a talent show for Ridgeview students. Feri also shared that 1746 volunteer hours have been reported for September.

Sally Foster - Diane Schmid reported on Sally Foster and announced that as of today we had \$8,285 which is very close to what was budgeted. In addition, the deadline has been extended until October 23rd. Sally Foster pick-up is November 11th from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Diane also mentioned that you could buy online throughout the year and purchases get credited for Ridgeview.

Book Fair - Donna Joe reported for Kris Brott and Rhonda Plante on the Book Fair, which is open from 7:30 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. each day this week.

Business Promotions - Linda Pett and Karen Chen reported on business promotions and announced that Mr. Senuta's class is leading the collection of box tops with about 152. October 27th is the deadline for box tops, but you can continue to collect box tops all year. In addition, Linda thanked everyone for collecting cartridges and asked for families to keep collecting. Linda mentioned that she and Karen went to Giant and Safeway to sign people up for the Escript and Bonus Bucks programs. Linda and Karen will be going to Harris Teeter to try and get people to sign up with their VIC cards and designate Ridgeview on November 14th. Linda and Karen asked for volunteers to help that day. Finally, Karen Chen discussed a new contest to collect bags to win \$1,000 from Harris Teeter. The box for bags is located in the cafeteria for collection. The bag contest ends November 10th.

Reflections - Tara Murayama reported on the Reflections Program. This is an annual arts contest which offers students an opportunity to create works of art in six areas from dance to art. This year's theme is "Beauty Is" and entries must be submitted to Ridgeview by December 2nd. Information will be available in the next Key. Tara also has flyers available this evening.

Spirit Wear - Rebecca Hallam and Barbara Textoris reported on spirit wear. Barbara discussed that they were hoping to turn spirit wear into a web based selling program. Barbara also showed two new designs for spirit wear. Spirit wear would like to start the web program in November.

Spelling Bee - Janine Rauscher reported on the Spelling Bee. Eight students are registered and the Ridgeview Bee will be on Friday, January 29th and the regional bee is March 19th. They meet every other Thursday and she is still accepting new spellers.

Math Olympiad - Ken Karapetyan discussed the Math Olympiad program that currently has 7 students registered and meets on Tuesdays after school.

Father's Group - Eric Minkoff discussed the Father's Group that is beginning at Ridgeview. The primary purpose of the Father's Group is to be role models for the boys and get fathers more engaged in the schools. The group would like to hold one event in the Fall and another in the Spring.

Restaurant Nights - Wendy Shokrai discussed the restaurant nights that have been taking place throughout the past few months. Five Guys brought in over \$200 while Baja Fresh generated \$270. On November 18th Potomac Pizza will be holding their restaurant night.

VII. New Business – No new business was reported at this time.

VIII. Adjournment and Next Meeting There being no further business to be brought before the PTSA, Holly adjourned the PTSA meeting at 8:11 pm. The next PTSA meeting will be held on November 10, 2009 at 7 pm in the RMS Media Center.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa Torvik, RMS PTSA Secretary

Date