

Richard Montgomery PTSA  
March 18, 2008  
Minutes

**Kate Savage** brought the meeting to order at 7:40 PM. Kate asked that the January and February meeting minutes be approved. The minutes were approved.

**Mr. Carrasco gave the Principal report.** Mr. Carrasco discussed the following topics:

- 1) Three RM sophomores won first place in a media competition. There were 36 entries and the subject of their entry was prevention of drunk driving.
- 2) Brain Bee – Another RM student won the Maryland and National Brain Bee competition.
- 3) Mr. RM – The Mr. RM competition was another success. Contestants must be male seniors and have a talent to present. This year there were 26 entries of which 15 were selected from auditions to compete. There were 4 rounds of competition.
- 4) Rocket talk – The recent Rocket talk session discussed the new building. The students discussed the painting of murals on some of the indoor walls. Tomorrow's Rocket talk topic is race relations. Mr. Carrasco wants to be proactive in addressing this area.
- 5) Artificial turf field – The County Council has approved the artificial turf field. Mr. Carrasco hopes that the field will be ready by the fall. They are looking into a large screen to be installed above the score board.
- 6) Staff cuts – Mr. Carrasco announced that 6 teaching positions must be cut. Some classes may be eliminated. The MYP coordinator position has been cut to 6/10's. Michael Hall inquired about lobbying the Board of Education and the Superintendent. The MYP program has been very successful at getting students to take higher level courses. Several of the MYP students have entered the IB program in 11<sup>th</sup> grade. Forty-six students entered the IB program this year from the MYP program which is an increase from 25 last year. Reducing the MYP coordinator position will jeopardize the program. The RM cluster is the only cluster with MYP programs in Elementary and Middle schools. The MCCPTA has 2 nights, April 7<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>, with scheduled testimony on the staffing cuts. RM is scheduled to testify on April 9<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Reed indicated that 6 or 7 upper level classes will be cut and 4 support classes for Geometry will be cut. While the school projections have RM with a drop in student population by 8 students, the actual registrations for next year reflect a 22 student increase. A committee will be formed to collect facts to facilitate the campaign to promote the full-time MYP coordinator position. Mr. Scott noted that the purpose of the PTSA is to advocate for resources.
- 7) Peterson program – Mr. Sunshine announced that the 90-day trial with the Peterson program has changed. The program is now being provided for free. The program has free on-line preparation for SAT, PSAT, ACT, and AP exams. It also provides assistance on Financial Aid and a college match search engine.

**Kate Savage gave the President's report** and discussed the following items:

- 1) Nominating Committee – Five volunteers are needed for the Nominating Committee to prepare a slate for next year's PTSA officers. Gail Rothberg, Stephanie Fein, Lisa Newman, Ann Marie Bocus, and Aubrey Banks volunteered to be on the committee. The elected positions include President, four Vice Presidents, Treasurer and Secretary.
- 2) By-laws review committee – The recommended changes were posted and no comments were received. Among the recommended changes was a reduction in the number of PTSA members needed for a quorum. The Nominating Committee minimum size was reduced to 3 from 5. The new by-laws were approved.

- 3) Parent Panel – The next parent panel will be prior to the next PTSA meeting on April 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM. The subject will be about stress on students.
- 4) Safeway, Giant, & Target receipts – Kate announced that the RM PTSA has earned approximately \$16,000 in receipts from Safeway, Giant, & Target. Kate would like to get feedback and ideas on how to use the funds.

**Gail Rothberg gave the Treasurer's report.** Gail discussed the following funding items:

- 1) Donation to families – Gail announced that the PTSA gave the 3 families with students involved in the fatal car accident \$750.
- 2) Practice SAT/ACT – The PTSA sponsored the recent practice SAT and ACT having funded it and collected registration fees.
- 3) Post Prom – The PTSA earned \$551 from the RM nights at Austin Grill and Z Pizza. Originally, these funds were to have been split with the Booster Club, however, the Booster Club decided to give its half to Post Prom. Usually, the PTSA donates \$2000 to Post Prom. There is no line item in the current PTSA budget for this donation. The new line item for \$2000 was approved for inclusion in the current budget. Typically, the PTSA spends \$12,000 - \$13,000 on Post Prom with \$3000 from ticket sales, \$5000 from donations, \$2000 from PTSA, \$500 from the city of Rockville, and the balance from miscellaneous fundraising.
- 4) Graduation DVD's – The PTSA has made some money from selling graduation DVD's in prior years. However, it requires someone to organize taking orders and mailing out the completed DVD's. About \$500 - \$1000 has been earned previously.

**Rosa Greenberg gave the SGA report.** Rosa reported on the following events:

- 1) Mr. RM – The SGA sponsored the recent Mr. RM event which was another huge success.
- 2) Powder Puff football game – The consensus seems to be to schedule it closer to homecoming.
- 3) Senior Banquet – The next event is the Senior Banquet which will be a dinner cruise on the Potomac on April 15<sup>th</sup>. Tickets go on sale this week for \$35. Ms. McCall said there will be a bus to take all the seniors to the Spirit of Washington.
- 4) Prom and Post Prom will be the last big events of the year.

**Kate continued with the Committee and Liaison reports.**

1. Membership – no report.
2. Boosters – The RM athletic boosters have 2 major events planned. First, on April 5<sup>th</sup> is the mulch sale. Volunteers are needed to assist with several different functions for this major fundraiser. May 5<sup>th</sup> is the 1<sup>st</sup> annual Mike Curtis celebrity golf tournament at Hampshire Greens golf course. There will be a Silent Auction and dinner with Johnny Holiday as the Master of Ceremonies. Participants may elect to attend the dinner and auction only for \$25. Both of these fundraising events will contribute to the new Sports Academy at RM. The previously planned Casino night will be in the fall.
3. Pedestrian Safety – The city of Rockville has agreed to narrow Fleet Street in front of the new school to allow for the construction of wider sidewalks. They will also put a median in the middle of Fleet Street. Additionally, they agreed to install new traffic control devices to stop traffic for pedestrians in front of the new building.
4. MCCPTA – Chris Kelly reported that the following items were covered in the recent MCCPTA meeting:
  - PSAT – next year all 11<sup>th</sup> graders in Montgomery County high schools will have the cost of the PSAT funded by the school.

- President's and Principal's dinner
  - Training opportunities for PTSA positions – some of the upcoming sessions include President training @ QO
  - School climate survey – the \$100,000 cost of the survey is too much
  - Delegate Assembly
  - School Improvement plan
  - County elections are April 22<sup>nd</sup>
  - State level summer training – training will be at Anne Arundel Community College on 7/26/2008
  - Maryland PTA convention will be in Frederick this fall
- 5) Post Prom – Kate noted the need for many volunteers for the Post Prom event. Some of the volunteer opportunities include decorating committee, chaperones, activities, food, and clean-up. The theme for this year's prom is "A Dream Come True."

**Kate Savage made announcements.** Kate made 2 announcements.

- 1) Teen Drinking – On April 1<sup>st</sup> will be a teen drinking seminar at Carver from 7-9 PM.
- 2) Teen Decisions in Community – event at Magruder

The meeting adjourned at 9:11 PM. The next meeting will be on April 15, 2008.