

Richard Montgomery High School PTSA Meeting Minutes
October 16, 2007

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

Gail Rothberg gave the Treasurer's report. Gail reported that there is \$21,500 in the general PTSA account. Gail requested an increase in the budgeted amount for the Friends helping Friends line item. The original budget was for \$250 and \$300 has already been spent. She proposed a new level of \$500 and it was approved.

Mr. Carrasco gave the Principal report. Mr. Carrasco discussed the following items:

1. Homecoming – Mr. Carrasco reported that Homecoming is Saturday, November 3rd and tickets will be on sales next week.
2. Teacher office hours – Some question was raised regarding availability of teacher office hours. Mr. Carrasco said that lunch was the best time to meet with teachers.
3. Student assembly – Mr. Carrasco said that an assembly was scheduled for later in the month with guest speakers. He said that students would be doing skits on substance abuse. Students are also working on a mock trial that will be presented. The Rockville Police Chief will also attend.
4. Every 15 minutes program – Mr. Carrasco announced that there would be a kick off event in front of the new school. In April, they have planned the program during which a death will be simulated which is coordinated with the fire department and emergency responders. A reflection of the event will be provided through written obituaries.
5. New building and the move – Mr. Carrasco reported that there has been a slight change to the previously announced early dismissal for the holiday break. Instead of closing the school on the 20th, the students will have a modified schedule during which they will be divided into groups for tours of the new school building and they will be given a chance to walk through their schedules so they know where they are going when school resumes after the holidays. School will still be closed to students on the 21st. After the holidays, there will be a second Back to School night so parents will have an opportunity to see the new school and their children's classrooms. Mr. Carrasco noted that they are addressing the technology in the classrooms. The LCD projectors have been ordered, however, funding is still an issue since the cost of installing the projectors was not included in the building budget. They are also looking at artificial turf for the new stadium. He anticipates the ability to host more events with artificial turf in the new stadium.
6. PSAT – Mr. Sunshine reported that all 9th and 10th graders would be taking a practice PSAT at the same time that 11th graders are taking the PSAT. Seniors are required to attend a meeting at 9:30 on the same day.
7. Homecoming (yes, again) – Mr. Reed reported that tickets would go on sale next week. All students with any financial obligations must clear these obligations by October 18th in order to purchase a ticket. Only seniors will be allowed to invite outside guests. The tickets sales will be held in the auditorium and students will be given a number when they arrive and then must wait to have their number called to purchase a ticket. Each class have a designated day, namely, the senior can purchase tickets on the 22nd, the juniors on the 23rd, the sophomores

on the 24th, the freshman on the 25th, and waiting list students on the 26th. They are considering selling tickets in advance for the homecoming football game, as well.

Kate Savage gave the President's report. Kate discussed the follow items:

1. Staff Mega event – Kate suggested that the prior gift wrapping, cookie containers, and reception be replaced by a sit down lunch on the day when no students are in school. She suggested Jan. 2 since the time before the holidays is usually so busy. She still would do the door prizes that everyone seems to enjoy.
2. Teen Education Assembly – The education assembly will be held the end of the month with guest speakers, as mentioned by Mr. Carrasco.
3. Health room staff – Kate announced the need for a liaison with the health room staff. Candace Haaga will fill the position.
4. PTSA going green – As part of the “going green” effort, Kate would like to put the PTSA newsletter on the web instead of generating so much paper. At a minimum, she would like to provide the option to not receive a paper version. The first issue of the school year will still be distributed in the usual manner.

Kate continued with the Committee and Liaison reports.

1. Membership – Bonnie reported that the PTSA currently has 450 members, 40 of whom are staff, 97 are students, and 306 are parent members. They have received \$1205 in donations.
2. SGA – Rosa Greenberg announced that the SGA has worked with the administration to develop a fair and controlled sale of Homecoming tickets. Entry to the sale will be from the outside only. Seniors wishing to invite a guest from the outside must pick up a permission form that is signed by a parent. Tickets will cost \$25 with a can of food for the food drive or \$30 without a can. Rosa also mentioned the assembly at the end of the month as promoting alcohol prevention. The week of Homecoming is spirit week. There will be a carnival, a student-staff basketball game, pep rally and more. The football game is at 12:00 noon on Saturday, Nov. 3rd. The Homecoming Court will be presented and the King and Queen will be announced during half time. The Homecoming dance will be that evening at 8:00 pm. The theme is “Night on the Town” and the dress code is semi-formal. Rosa noted that they still need parent volunteers for dance set up, clean up and chaperones. They need 8 parents per hour for the duration of the dance and parents can sign-up for 1-hour shifts.
3. Boosters – Kevin Brooks reported that the Booster Club has been focusing a lot of effort on raising more money than has ever been raised before. Several events have been planned including a golf tournament in May, a Booster Bash party with a Casino night theme and a silent auction. The athletic teams are also continuing to sell the Rocket cards.
4. Driver's Education – A question was raised about the school offering Driver's Ed. It was explained that Driver's education in the schools was abolished a good 20 years ago because it became a liability issue for the school system.
5. Pedestrian Safety – Improvements for pedestrian safety are still being worked on. Traffic engineers have been involved in the process and suggestions have been offered. Trudi noted that there is still a need for student education. Apparently the school has requested a crossing guard every year and it has always been turned down. The only high schools with crossing guards seem to be those that have had an accident, such as Wootton. The need for guards is assessed and provided by the County Police department. Matthew Greene is in charge of pedestrian safety for the Montgomery county government.

6. Directory – School directories are still on sale and only a few remain. Please contact Margaret Chao if you are interested. The directories are selling for \$7 each.
7. MCCPTA – Liz Wheeler reported that RM still has a vacant delegate position. The MCCPTA meets the 4th Tuesday of every month. The MCCPTA has several programs planned including one on gangs on October 23rd, on transportation on November 27th, on inclusion on January 29th, on counseling on February 26th, on school improvement on March 19th, and nutrition on April 22nd. Anyone can sign up for “Quick Notes” from the MCPS and it is available in several different languages. On October 29th, the capital improvement plan will be released.
8. Post Prom – Kate announced that she has heard from several people that are interested in helping with Post Prom, but she is still in need of a Chairperson. The Prom is on May 16th and the Potomac Community Center has been reserved for the Post Prom event that is from 12 midnight to 5 AM. There is a countywide meeting for Post Prom representatives on October 18th.
9. Events – Several school organizations are coordinating their fundraising events and several events focus on the opening of the new school building. Sometime in April, there will be a black tie event possibly coordinated with the dedication of the new school building. The Stroll Down Memory Lane event has been scheduled for Friday December 7th from 6 to 10 PM for parents and alumni. It will include tours of the old building, media presentation in the auditorium, silent auction in the cafeteria, a sock hop in the gym featuring music from every decade since the old RM was opened, and an alumni concert in the auditorium. The first \$50,000 raised has been ear marked for the foreign language lab.

Kate solicited new business. Kate reported that the 3rd Vice President position in the PTSA is still vacant and Ann-Marie Bocus has expressed an interest in the position. Kate solicited any additional nominations from the floor. The PTSA approved Ann-Marie Bocus as the new 3rd Vice President.

It was suggested that student artwork be used to decorate the new building. The school has a mural club that has asked the PTSA for \$500 to cover the cost of materials to paint murals.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM. The next meeting will be on November 20th at 7:30 PM.