

Richard Montgomery High School PTSA Meeting Minutes  
February 19, 2008

**Kate Savage** brought the meeting to order at 7:35 PM. Kate indicated that approval of the January minutes would have to be postponed since there was not a quorum.

**Gail Rothberg gave the Treasurer's report.** Gail reported that the PTSA's most recent expenses included items for the staff appreciation lunch, parent education sessions, and the newsletter. Gail also indicated that they want to add a line item for the PTSA donations to the post prom.

**Tori Shaffer reported on the Every 15 minutes program.** Tori's children graduated in 2004 and 2007 and she has been working with the Every 15 minutes program for 7 years. This year they want to incorporate a broader focus to include all aspects of safe driving and not limit the program to its usual focus on drunk driving. The program is scheduled for April 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>. They need someone to head the committee for the retreat portion of the program. They also need funds to cover the rent for the retreat facility. Last year's budget was \$5000 and the donations are down from last year. Potomac Pizza will be contributing. They will be giving out seat belts, T-shirts and key chains. The keynote speaker is a 45-year-old person that was hit by a drunk driver at age 15. Since that time, he/she has had over 100 surgeries as a result of his/her injuries.

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

1. New building – Mr. Carrasco noted that RMBC ran for the first time in the new building today. The auditorium is finished and the recent Chorale concert took place in the new facility.
2. Rocket talk – planned for this Thursday to get feedback from students.
3. Open House – has been rescheduled for March 18<sup>th</sup>, the evening of the next PTSA meeting. The open house will be held prior to the meeting with performances in the auditorium followed by tours of the building. Kevin Brooks asked whether alumni would be able to participate in the tours
4. Registration – AP exam registration continues through February 29<sup>th</sup> in room 200. Registration for next school year is in process. The 21<sup>st</sup> will be a make-up day to register.
5. Teacher allocation – will be released on March 5<sup>th</sup>.
6. Mr. RM – scheduled for March 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM. The auditorium holds a maximum of 950. They may do advance sales of tickets on-line. Students must not have any obligations to purchase a ticket; someone noted that this should be publicized to enable students an opportunity to check whether they have an obligation and clear it.
7. Young Black Leaders – talent show scheduled for March 15<sup>th</sup>.
8. Common Grounds Assembly – intended to represent the heritage of students and is scheduled for March 20<sup>th</sup>.
9. Senior Banquet – is scheduled for April 15<sup>th</sup> on the Spirit of Washington. All students attending the banquet must ride the bus to and from the location for embarkment.
10. Senior graduation – is at DAR Constitution Hall on June 6<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 AM. There is a mandatory rehearsal for seniors at 7:30 AM on June 5<sup>th</sup>. After the rehearsal is the senior picnic at Smokey Glen Farm

11. Sports Academy – Several people have been working very hard at making the Sports Academy a success. There was a recent set back on the previous approval of the artificial turf field. Parents from other school communities have complained. The entity responsible for derailing the field is [parent\\_coalition@yahoo.com](mailto:parent_coalition@yahoo.com). There is some misinformation regarding issues with artificial turf. Apparently there is a potential legal issue, which the County Council will have to investigate. The relevant County Council members that will make the final recommendation are Mike Knapp, Bill Andrews, and Valerie Irving. It was noted that RM has the second smallest physical site for all of its facilities in the county.
12. Practice SAT – Mr. Sunshine reported that the practice SAT and ACT is scheduled for March 8<sup>th</sup>. He said that the College Board offers a free on-line prep course. Mr. Sunshine said that they are looking at other vendors that offer additional services for students. RM has agreed to a 90-day free trial with the Peterson service, which offers additional features such as a study plan, career and college matches, and interactive AP exams. The new service has a larger database with financial aid tools. All counselors will get free training and the cost is minimal to keep. Administrators will be able to track usage of the tools and the website. Mr. Sunshine announced that MCPS is paying the registration fee for all 11<sup>th</sup> graders to take the PSAT next year.

**Kate Savage gave the President’s report and the Committee and Liaison reports.**

Kate discussed the follow items:

1. Nominating Committee – Kate said that they still need people for the committee, as well as nominations.
2. Staff Appreciation luncheon – On January 22<sup>nd</sup> the PTSA sponsored a lunch for all of the staff. They received great donations of food and gift cards.
3. Open House – has been rescheduled to March 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM for anyone interested in a tour of the new building.
4. Membership Committee – Membership is lower this year than in the past. This is also true across the county and state.
5. By-Laws Committee – The By Laws Committee gave their report. Audrey Banks, Lisa Newman, and Ester Thurber are the members of this Committee. A copy of their report on the potential changes is attached. The most notable changes include a distinction between the Executive Committee and the Board of Directors of the PTSA. Also discussed was the need for 2 Secretaries, namely, the Corresponding Secretary and the Recording Secretary.
6. SGA – Ian Muir gave the SGA report for Rosa Greenberg. Ian reported on all the planning for the Mr. RM event, which is scheduled for March 7<sup>th</sup> in the new auditorium. Ian also reported on the “loose change” fundraising and the Powder Puff football game planned for March 17<sup>th</sup> at Welsh Park.
7. Boosters Club – Kevin Brooks gave the Booster Club report – Kevin said that this Thursday is a Booster Club fundraiser at Armbands pizza. Twenty percent of the profits will go to the school. Tuesday is a Black and Gold night for the Ice Hockey team. April 5<sup>th</sup> is the Mulch Sale. The first annual Mike Curtis celebrity golf open is May 5<sup>th</sup> and will offer several sponsorship opportunities. Johnny Holiday will MC the event. Mike Curtis will be on New Channel 8 to promote the event on March 3<sup>rd</sup>. The Booster Club is collecting applications for 4 \$750 scholarships to be given to 4 student athletes. The previously planned Casino Night has been postponed. The Booster Club recently sent out a mailing to 1400 alumni to sell

Booster Club memberships and advertise the Mike Curtis golf tournament. The next Booster Club meeting is on March 5<sup>th</sup>.

8. Pedestrian Safety – The most recent concern was safety in the parking lot with parents dropping off students.
9. MCCPTA – RM’s newest delegate, Chris Kelly, was introduced. Liz Wheeler reported on the January meeting during which the resolution to fund the registration of all 11<sup>th</sup> graders for the PSAT was passed. Several training sessions for PTSA positions have been scheduled including one for Treasurers on 2/20/2008 at RMHS, one for Secretaries at Paint Branch, and 2 for Presidents on 2/28/2008 at QO and 3/12/2008 at a location down county.
10. Post Prom –Kate noted they are still recruiting assistance for the Post Prom. There will be a volunteer sign-up in the next newsletter.

**Kate solicited old business.** There were no reports.

**Kate solicited new business.**

1. Practice SAT and ACT – A practice SAT and ACT has been scheduled for March 8<sup>th</sup>. On March 22<sup>nd</sup>, the results will be available and explained at a meeting. Each test will cost \$15.
2. Internet Safety Program – On February 28<sup>th</sup> there will be an Internet safety program at Ritchie Park Elementary School. There will another one geared to older children at Julius West on March 11<sup>th</sup>.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM. The next meeting will be on March 18th at 7:30 PM following the Open House.