

RVES PTA December 2023 Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, December 5, 2023 at 7pm via Zoom
Attendance: 22

December Agenda:

- Welcome & Introductions
 - Meeting began @ 7:03 PM w/ 22 Participants.
 - Mimi Aledo-Sandoval (MAS) welcomed everyone and asked parents to introduce themselves in the chatbox and include their child's/children's name(s) and grade(s).
- Approval of Meeting Minutes from November
 - <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1EwZgNYQ8rKwynLqNO3cZZP8vJSxN3Y6B/view?usp=sharing>
 - Approval of Nov Mtg Minutes tabled to end of the meeting.
- Treasurer's Report
 - Presented by Treasurer, AJ Mora, Total income ~9K, expenses ~600, Cash on Hand ~\$25K.
- Budget Adjustment Discussion
 - Due to fundraising a shortfall of nearly \$5k from the Read-a-Thon, MAS let the membership know that there will likely need to be a budget adjustment to the FY23-24 PTA Budget. No action will be taken at this point. Online fundraising via "Giving Tuesday" remains open until the end of the year. The Exec Board has met and identified budget categories to be adjusted. The PTA Board is committed to prioritizing and preserving the budget categories of "Community Building" & "Grade-Level Enrichment" as passed by the membership and in alignment with the PTA stated goals for FY23-24.. PTA members made the following suggestions and comments.
 - Increased fundraising push for the end of year and fundraising, set a short-term goal was proposed by Michelle Whittaker.
 - Fundraising after January is also an option.
 - Khanh Nguyen proposed "contingency" planning based on fundraising goals
 - Jeff Merrill – Holiday Shopping at Spirit Store, should not make budget adjustments by "nickle & dime" but rather based on priorities.
 - Lydia Miranda – possible written budget categories to review (also shared via zoom"
 - MAS mentioned that she will work with the PTA treasurer to bring a budget adjustment recommendation forward at the next PTA general membership meeting.
- Learning Opportunity Topic - The Learning Center (Ms. Gonzalez)
 - Ms, Gonzalez presented on the Learning Center at RVES. 100 students in 9 classes. The purpose is for students who require smaller class sizes and student:teacher ratios. Still working on grade level curriculum since most students are 2-3 years behind grade level. The goal is to mainstream students to the general ed classroom.
 - Staff consists of 9 teachers w/ 9 paraprofessionals with augmented support as needed. All class sizes are under 16, but target is 10-12 students/class
 - Most RVES Learning Ctr students are not at their home school, students come from all across the Einstein Cluster.

- o Learning Center students are included in “specials” (art, music, media, PE) provided at RVES.
- o 10 of 100 last year were mainstreamed back into their home schools, which is a notable success.
- o Learning Centers stop after 5th grade then these students go to home middle schools. There is no follow on program once students move on to middle school. This is an issue to be addressed by the MCPS Board.
- Words from RVES Administration
 - o Ms. Bailey shared announcements and activities
 - 12/12 – Student Chorus at EHS
 - Working w/ PTA for Community Events in the Spring Semester
 - Ice Skating at Wheaton Ice Rink (TBD)
 - There is active work being done on many of the issues raised during last spring’s Community Conversations hosted last Spring and working to plan a follow-up event to check on progress and provide updates progress.
 - Ms. Bailey has an open-door policy – please reach out.
- Upcoming Events and Announcements (MAS):
 - o Helping Hands Volunteer Opportunity (12/15) 1:30 – 3 PM – Changed name from “Elves” to “Helping Hands” – parents come in and help teachers with prep work for classrooms.
 - o Family Game Nights in January - Committee includes: Meredith Williams, Doug Remer, Betsy Lavender, and Mimi Aledo-Sandoval. This is a free event with pizza. Please fill out SUG to volunteer.
 - Friday, January 19th (Prek-2nd grades)
 - Friday, January 26th (3rd-5th grades)
 - o Holiday Staff Appreciation Opportunity - on December 15th
 - Aime Keith & Eshe Shaw are leading this event, SUG will be provided for snacks and coffee. Need 5 parent volunteers.
 - o Community Partnership
 - Aime Keith worked with a local church to sponsor 30 families for an angel tree with clothing and toys. The community partnership is not just for the holidays, but will provide year-round support to our community. Ms. Bailey and Amie or working with the church community liaison.
- Grade-Level Committee Updates
 - o **K Cmte** – Had playdate in Nov, planning another activity for January. Reaching out teachers to coordinate gifts amongst the families. Want ideas from other grades. Want to use K funds for enrichment opportunity currently coordinating with K teachers.
 - o **1st Grade** – want to do a field trip, want to do a donation drive (currently being planned).
 - o **2nd Grade** – No report
 - o **3rd Grade** – Will be using PTA grade-level funds to secure a trip to Imagination Stage for all 3rd graders.
 - o **4th Grade** – Planning field trips and recruiting parents to volunteer and looking for outside school activity.
 - o **5th Grade** – Held initial mtg for 5th promotion.
- RVES Speaks - Community Comments and Q&A
 - o Questions for Principal Appointment – Process kicks-off in Feb for Principal hiring process. Communication will go out from Dr. Rubins and there will be a survey of parents, staff, and community members. Interview panel questions will be

derived from the identified characteristics from the parent, staff, and community surveys. Will ask for community volunteers to sit on the community interview panel. Multi-round interview process □ community, MCPS management □ Superintendent. If no selection - the process repeats.

- o What are you curious about at RVES? What do you want to learn more about?
 - Enrichment Opportunities
- o Maria Romero - Girl scouts will be available 3-5th grade after the Winter Break – details to follow
- Approval of November Minutes
 - o Jeff Merrill moved to approve November Minutes, Seconded by Ms. Fay
 - Minutes approved by Acclamation.
- Moved to Adjourn @ 8:17 PM by Jeff, Seconded by Michelle.
 - o Approved by Acclamation