

October 18, 2021 @ 7:00 pm
Via Zoom Videoconference

Our RMS PTO: Making a Difference in Our School Community

Attendees: Cindy Korenberg, Gina Visor, Kathy Sonier, Vee Marzullo, Jannie Lau, Gale Morrison, Jennifer Unterberger, Deb Mitra, Todd Shissler, Ela Friel, Colleen Durlofsky, Geeta Kapadia, Taral Vyas, Dr. David Wiedlich (RMS), Kathleen Rapino (RMS)

Regrets: Susi Bruhns, Loretta Bobb

Welcome by President

1. Hunger Day Grant Request by Kathleen Rapino (RMS 8th grade teacher)
 - A. "8th Grade vs. Hunger" was started 12 years ago to engage 8th graders in more service. It is scheduled for November 22nd and runs in conjunction with the RMS canned food drive in November.
***PTO grant of \$700 is requested because there are NO district funds available this year.
 - B. *Goals:*
 - Raise awareness about food insecurity.
 - Provide an opportunity for ALL 8th graders to participate.
 - To work as a team towards a common goal.
 - To make a positive impact on someone's life.
 - C. *Service Activities:*
 - "Quick fix" food bags for senior citizens.
 - Make casseroles for the homeless
 - Assemble on-the-go bags
 - Make cheese sandwiches
 - Thanksgiving baskets for families
 - Prepare individual meals for homebound persons
 - Breakfast bags for children in a family shelter
 - D. *Other Activities in past years:*
 - 8th graders travel to elementary schools and help kindergarteners decorate emergency food boxes for Chester County Food Bank.
 - Speakers from Philabundance
 - Watch movie "Hunger Hits Home" to raise awareness

- Participate in an online simulation about dealing with food insecurity.
- Online game – “Free Rice: World Food Program” in which rice is donated around the world for correct answers.

***The PTO BOD unanimously voted via email after the meeting to approve the grant request of \$700 to support the 8th Grade Hunger Day.

2. Principal's Report by Dr. David Wiedlich

- A. Clubs & Sports – well underway with maximum participation for most.
- B. Student Council elections were held two weeks ago.
- C. School Counselors held a new student breakfast with students that are new to RTSD.
- D. Advisory – 16 Habits of Mind – students have focused on Persistence and Managing Impulsivity, and will be moving onto Listening to Others with Understanding & Empathy.
- E. Radnor Spirit Week will be held November 1-5.
- F. Flu Clinic was held last week with 275 students receiving their flu shots.
- G. Dr. Wiedlich sat on a panel of principals in PA discussing the social and emotional impact of the pandemic. RTSD is going above and beyond most other school districts in PA. Some examples include:
 - Our counselors meet with every student on their caseload individually.
 - RTSD has active threat assessment teams specifically focused on mental health.
 - W.E.B. 8th grade leadership program
 - Speak Up! Program
- H. Tutoring Club – after school tutoring is available Monday – Thursday and is open to all students. Approximately 4-10 students at each session with the math sessions having more attendance.
 - *Bus transportation home is provided. Buses depart RMS at 4:15pm. Parents just need to send a note/email to Dr. Wiedlich that their child will be attending and is taking the bus home.
- I. Academic Monitoring – A question was raised by Gale Morrison at to how the school is determining learning gaps given that PSSA scores are not expected until February 2022.
 - Teachers are continually looking at students' classwork and assessments to identify learning gaps for students. Other data points include common assessments, MAPs, CDTs. Also the implementation of MTSS is helping with this.

3. PTO President's Report by Gina Visor

- A. *see attached President's Slide Presentation for full details.
- B. Welcome to New Board of Directors and Treasurer
- C. Fundraising Updates –
 - \$2,200 of new Raptor spirit gear purchased in one week. PTO will receive \$220
 - \$700 from September New Wayne Pizza nights
 - 3 additional restaurant nights scheduled in November – “Taste of Wayne”

4. Committees Update by Jannie Lau

- A. RMS Stem Night – scheduled for December 15th. Open to RMS students only.
 - Will follow the model from Elementary Stem night with 20-30 minutes programs running in 3 sessions.
 - Currently have 7 presenters confirmed. Hoping for approximately 20 presenters, so spread the word!
 - Hoping to be able to accommodate 100+ students and is expected to be oversubscribed.
 - Dr. Wiedlich said he can provide contacts for the Gateways Future Cities Program corporate sponsors.
- B. Veteran's Day Tributes – the PTO is seeking submissions for the Tribute Wall that will be posted in the RMS lobby the week of November 8-12. Interested students can read their tribute live at the Veteran's Day Ceremony on November 11th.
- C. Art Goes to School Program – a non-profit art appreciation program. This will be the first time it will run at RMS. The committee is still considering the best approach for this program at RMS. Two parent volunteers are scheduled to meet with the Art Club as a pilot for this program this year and get feedback for future years.

5. Nominating Committee Update prepared by Susi Bruhns (read by Gina Visor)

- A. Following the close of the nominating window, the Nominating Committee met and decided all self-nominations were appropriate and would be good candidates for the open positions. As this was business that was taking place between meetings, per by-laws, votes were collected by Google Form from sitting officers and Board of Directors. All candidates received a majority of “yes” votes to be added to the Board of Directors and as Treasurer.

- B. Loretta Bobb has accepted the role of Treasurer. Thank you to Austin for filling the role these past months while we found a replacement.
- C. New Board of Directors members are: Ela Friel, Geeta Kapadia Palshikar, Morgan Roselle, Todd Shissler, and Taral Vyas.
- D. As the Board is required to have a minimum of 10 members, the addition of these individuals brings the Board to 12.
- E. For future business the Nominating Committee encourages the collection of a small bio about each existing member of the Board to be included on the website. It is also encouraged that future Nominating Committees consider specific needs of the RMS PTO Board of Directors and candidates that fill these recognizing self-nominations may not always appropriately fill the needs of the Board and PTO

Announcements

Next General PTO meeting will be Monday, November 8th at 7 pm via Zoom.

Adjourn