

Minutes for the RCMS PTA General Membership Regular Meeting

Date:	Thursday, May 19, 2016	Time:	10:00a.m.
Meeting Chair:	Elaine Tilton, PTA President	Location:	RCMS Library
Attendees:	16 members, including Executive Committee members: Elaine Tilton, Barry Tilton and Monish Banga. Staff was represented by Stacy Kirkpatrick. A complete attendance list is appended to the written record copy of minutes. The quorum was met.		
Notice of Meeting:	Adequate notice was provided: It was advertised on the website, in the Courier newsletter and in weekly KIT emails.		

Description	Discussion
Welcome:	Meeting was called to order by Elaine Tilton at 10:10a.m.
Presentation: Jim LeMunyon, Member, VA House of Delegates, 67 th District	Mr. LeMunyon gave a general overview of the VA Legislative process, and the history of the organization. He had a son in the first RCMS class. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 811 Bills passed during the current session, which ended in March. • Record State funding for Fairfax and Loudon Schools, with no new taxes and the State pension plan is fully funded. • The official constraints from the State Constitution drives much of the funding decision processes down to the level of text book costs • This is related to the Local Composite Index (LCI) • One of the resolutions took the FCPS “Portrait of a Graduate” and make it a State-wide construct (Profile of a Graduate) • Mr. LeMunyon personally put 5 education related bills on the session agenda, including one to reduce paperwork/reporting requirements, one to review SOL process, and one to review class size limits (note: there are no legislative limits on class size after 6th Grade). • Bill to request school start dates before Labor Day defeated again this year • Board member Wilson and Mr LeMunyon together characterized the <u>overall</u> FCPS financial situation. The bottom line is that the overall funding from County and State are \$10M Below Superintendent Garza’s request (rather than the projected \$75M); resulting in the budget nearly closing for this year, with increased Teacher pay • In answer to a question on Charter Schools, Mr. LeMunyon clarified the distinction between “Governor’s Schools, such as TJ” and Charter Schools. BOTH would require legislative modifications to consider. School Board Member Wilson suggested that more dialog on a Western County equivalent to TJ is welcome, but a challenge in the budget environment
New Business Election (moved up the agenda by exception vote)	Election of 2016-17 Officer Slate: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ President – Malathi Garbham ○ 8th Grade VP – Kiran Pothapragada ○ 7th Grade VP – Lisa Fee ○ Treasurer – Raghu Rayan ○ Secretary – Alesia Suh Moved for approval by Floor and seconded by Barry Tilton. The slate of officers for 2016-17 was unanimously approved.

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<p>Presentation: Tom Wilson, School Board Member</p>	<p>Mr. Wilson gave a brief introduction to his role on the School Board. He credited RCMS as the best Middle School in the County:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He described himself as a “parent first” active participant in the FCPS programs and activities. He is a graduate of Lake Braddock, having lived here all his life. His children have attended MANY of the area schools so he truly tracks the issues and concerns on a personal level. • He received the Project Based Learning package from Ms. Poole’s 7th Grade English Class on improvements required within the County, which he characterized as so well written they could have come from advocacy groups • He is interested in hearing from any of our members with issues at any time. • He is concerned with school/life balance for the kids .
<p>Principal’s Report: Sybil Terry, Assistant Principal</p>	<p>Ms. Terry reported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overall a great year for the school • 7th Grade PBL effort on “Its My Education” resulted in presentations to the Assistant Superintendent, School Board Representative, and PTA President • The school has won MANY awards this year • Course requests are going out in June • Next year there will be a new bell schedule, including two 90 minute Block schedules a week. • The issue of NJHS service hours being done off campus instead of only at RCMS was raised again. No change is currently planned
<p>President’s Report: Elaine Tilton, President</p>	<p>Mrs. Tilton reported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Her impression of the aforementioned 7th Grade PBL on Education, and suggested that the student suggestions merit serious consideration for incorporation at the State level. • The Hospitality was formally recognized for an OUTSTANDING year providing special events for the various parts of the PTA and Staff
<p>Treasurer’s Report: Monish Banga, Treasurer</p>	<p>Mr. Banga Reported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From our Carry-Forward of \$13,000, and with fundraising we are currently meeting goals. • The plan is to ensure \$5,000 Carry-Forward for next year.
<p>8th Grade VP’s Report: Barry Tilton, 8th Grade VP</p>	<p>Mr. Tilton reported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No Report
<p>7th Grade VP’s Report: Barry Tilton for Kiran Pothapragada, 7th Grade VP</p>	<p>Mr. Tilton reported for Mr. Pothapragada:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Centiment online fundraising overview: Centiment Surveys are available to PTA members to complete (each takes on the order of a minute). They are a marketing tool from many major brand businesses. Completing each survey results in a donation to the PTA fund from \$0.40 to \$4.00, depending on length, which run from 3 to 20 minutes, and surveys by Centiment itself, which take about 1 minute and pay \$0.50 each.
<p>Old Business:</p>	<p>Approval of the minutes from March 15, 2016 meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moved for approval by Barry Tilton and seconded by Monish Banga. The minutes were unanimously approved and will be posted to the PTA website.

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New Business:	<p>8th Grade Celebration – Sara Olsen:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online ticket sales are ongoing, and 185 tickets have already been sold. Must have signed waiver online. • Spirit Gift Card donations were approved, and the box is in the office for collection • Committee is looking for additional volunteers for in school ticket sales and party cleanup • Theme: Neon Nights. Festivities include: DJ/Dance/Inflatables/Karaoke/Photo Booth/Quiet Room. Food will be pre-packaged snacks donated by parents. • Held all over school: Cafeteria, gym, hallways, clinic. • Party held on Wednesday, June 22nd. • An additional SUG will be going out for party food soon • Sara Riccardi will be making cupcakes as part of the food • Physical Tickets will NOT be issued so as to avoid their being lost • If more than the minimum number of students sign up, an Italian Ice treat will be added to the party • Several parents did comment negatively on the overall cost of the party, in spite of it being self-funded. It was observed that most other schools do not have an event of this scale or cost for Middle School commencement. <p>Financial way forward discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members Eileen Harrington, Sandy Vigen and a Senior Staff person (non-member) raised a discussion topic on the disposition of remaining funds collected in the form of Gift Cards donated for the Teacher Appreciation Week event. Ms. Vigen queried Mrs. Tilton on exactly how many teachers actually joined the PTA, and was disappointed to hear the number was only 40. • Mrs. Tilton informed the assembly that the PTA received many complaints from Parents and RCMS staff about the Gift Card process, multiple requests and distribution for last year. • Mrs. Tilton explained that due to IRS rules clarified during the school year that Gift Cards may only be used as cash equivalent donations for the use of benefiting all teachers. Any individual distribution is formally considered payment for services, and would have to come with the money being declared as income, and the PTA issuing 1099 forms to the receiving teachers. Member Harrington and the Staff Person then suggested that the cards be used to purchase “prizes” for award and distribution at the Teacher’s End of Year Party. As was made clear both beforehand and after, this is a direct violation of IRS rules, and was rejected. • The question was raised as to whether the funds need to be expended in the same fiscal year they are collected, and the answer is that PTA is authorized and expected to carry over funds to begin succeeding year operations, so the cards and funds can be used by next year’s PTA Board, and Treasurer Monish Banga confirmed this fact. • An additional question was raised as to support for the School sponsored End of Year Party for the teachers. The fact was established that efforts to support this party by last year’s Hospitality Committee were done without the approval or authorization of that year’s Board, and there is no plan or budget to support this particular function. <p>Member Harrington and the aforementioned Staff person attempted to continue the conversation that the Party should be partially PTA sponsored, but the decision in this matter was made early in the year, and based upon balance between support to teachers and students. This event has not been formally supported by the PTA in the past, and will not be in the future. The president stated the principal was advised the PTA will not support the event. Hospitality Co-Chair Sonja Jansons confirmed that the hospitality budget did not allocate funds for the Teacher EOY party or plans to support it. . The president offered to continue the conversation after the meeting, since the matter was no longer a subject for discussion by the general membership.</p>
Adjournment:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business concluded at 11:45 a.m.

Description

Discussion

Prepared by: Barry Tilton, 8th Grade VP, for Secretary
