

Minutes for the RCMS PTA General Membership Regular Meeting

Date:	Wednesday, November 11, 2015	Time:	12:00 p.m.
Meeting Chair:	Elaine Tilton, PTA President	Location:	RCMS Library
Attendees:	48 members, including Executive Committee members: Elaine Tilton, Barry Tilton and Kiran Pothapragada. Staff was represented by Gordon Stokes, Brenda Humphrey and Stacy Kirkpatrick. Complete attendance list is appended to the 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 12:05 p.m. A special welcome and thank you to all the veterans who spoke to the students today. Guest Speaker, Kathy Smith, was introduced.
Guest Speaker: Kathy Smith, School Board Member	<p>Mrs. Smith addressed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2017 Budget and the challenges that FCPS is facing. Budget information and Task Force recommendations can be found on the FCPS website: http://www.fcps.edu/news/fy2017.shtml. • Fairfax County receives significantly less state funding based upon the "Local Composite Index" whereas other counties are receiving 45% funding, our county receives ~23%. • For school-related matters, contact local board member. For county-wide school matters, include all school board members. For state-wide school matters, contact state representatives/governor. • Tax rate for budget is set March 1. • 4 new school board members begin January 1. • Only need 5 snow days to apply for waiver to begin school year before Labor Day. • A copy of the agenda she provided for her discussion is attached to these minutes.
President's Report: Elaine Tilton, President	<p>Mrs. Tilton reported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reflections committee did a great job. They received 12 entries which produced 3 winners: Hazel Vineet, Photography; Sally Park, Literature and Visual Arts; and Sreenidhi Sankararaman, Music Composition. • Cookie dough fundraiser was a success. \$11,300 in sales; PTA receives 40% of that. • Book Fair will be week of December 7th. Committee will need volunteers and support. • Holiday Bake Shop will be December 17th. One hundred (100) 8th grade volunteers will need to provide 4 dozen baked treats apiece in exchange for two (2) service hours. <p>Mrs. Tilton invited Monica Varner to speak regarding transportation concerns:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some buses are picking children up too early. The buses arrive at RCMS before 7:00 and the children sit on the bus until 7:10. <p>Ms. Sybil Terry responded for RCMS administration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The students cannot come into the school before 7:10 because teachers are not in place to receive them. There is only one entrance to the school for buses and Kiss & Ride. These buses leave to pick up high school routes and cannot afford to be late. RCMS is also host pickup location for 160 TJ students. • The more that transportation hears from concerned parents, the more they will examine the issues.
Principal's Report: Gordon Stokes, Principal	<p>Mr. Stokes reported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Veterans' Day activities were a huge success. Local veterans were invited to speak to the students. Students also watched "Honor Flight". Inviting these veterans to speak is in keeping with the plan to invite the local community into the school. • The fall play "The Chasm" debuts this week: Thursday @ 3pm & Friday @ 7pm.

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Treasurer's Report: Monish Banga, Treasurer	Mr. Banga reported: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A copy of the budget vs. actual is attached. Numbers reflect through end of September, so not a lot of activity to report. • Initial goal for Friends of Carson (\$5K) has been met, so the goal has been extended to \$7K.
8th Grade VP's Report: Barry Tilton, 8 th Grade VP	Mr. Tilton reported: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He attended CSAC (Community Service Advisory Council) meeting. Information will be extended to parents through the KIT. • Kwame Alexander, author of the RCMS summer reading book The Crossover, will be coming to speak soon. Part of his contract includes signing the books. The books are being collected through English classes for easy return to students. Make sure students name is on back right page. • Preparations have started for 8th Grade Party.
7th Grade VP's Report: Kiran Pothapragada, 7th Grade VP	Mr. Pothapragada reported: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amazon Smile. Can use your amazon prime account. Select Rachel Carson Middle School PTA as your charity at www.smile.amazon.com. Must shop through www.smile.amazon.com for the support to be realized. • Dine in for dollars: Lucia's in Fox Mill plaza – Saturday, November 15th from 12-10 pm. • Dine in for dollars: Chipotle in Franklin Farm plaza – Sunday, November 29th 5-8 pm.
Old Business:	Approval of the minutes from September 15, 2015 meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moved for approval by Barry Tilton and seconded by Kiran Pothapragada. The minutes were unanimously approved and will be posted to the PTA website.
New Business:	x2VOL - Tracking and Entering Service Hours <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New program implemented at our school effective this week. Two components - one part allows the students to enter their hours and enable verification by the activity sponsor, and the other part allows students to search for (and select) opportunities to perform the required services. • Portfolio of service logs stays WITH the student for all of Middle and High School, so there will no longer be any requirement for service tickets or paper logs. • 8th Grade PTA VP Barry Tilton showed the following video during the meeting which summarizes the purpose and process for x2VOL: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3zzc0HFZY2g • ALL services performed to date will be included! NJHS and Civics Service Hours for 8th Grade: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NJHS service hour requirements are 10 minimum/15 maximum; must be done at RCMS. • Civics service hours requirements are 15 total; can be done at Rachel Carson Middle School or in the community (i.e., churches, youth/recreation/adult centers, food banks, etc..) • More information can be found at www.fcps.edu/is/servicelearning.

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New Business (cont'd):	<p>After-School Clubs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • After-School Specialist - Adam Pawlowski addressed the parents and discussed the issues of enrollment, selection process and bringing additional and new STEM activities. • Many parents were concerned with deadlines for specific clubs that have run in the past, are still wanted, but are not being run this year due to faculty sponsorship. • A group of parents have offered to run and/or sponsor these clubs (e.g., TSA, Science and Math Olympiad) • Many parents expressed concern about the enrollment and selection process • The membership has requested a meeting with Mr. Stokes and Mr. Pawlowski to discuss this further due to certain deadlines that have to be met. The PTA will forward notice when this meeting is scheduled. • Also at issue, many clubs are full before the students have been given access to the signup sheets (which are being posted in the cafeteria during lunch) • Parents addressed concerns that the selection process and tryouts are NOT inclusive • List of clubs and classes can be found on the RCMS website http://www.fcps.edu/RachelCarsonMS/students/afterschool%20docs/Activity%20Listings%2010-28.pdf • 7th Grade VP - Kirin Pothapragada (RCMSPTA.VP7@gmail.com) has offered to take lead and follow-up on the above issues.
Adjournment:	Business concluded at 2:12 p.m.

Prepared by: Kathy Brown, Secretary

Approved: