

MEETING MINUTES

RMS PTO MEETING

February 2, 2018; Roosevelt Middle School LLC

Meeting Called to order by: Stephanie Wernet. Time: 9:20 a.m.

Present: Karen Simon, Beth Chang, Stephanie Wernet, Sarah Hampson, Sharon Barry, Misty Olson, Amy Kurtz, Kim Meyer, Larry Garstki, Howard Wax, Deb Wolkstein, Molly Quinn, and Ellen Chamberlain

Executive and Administrative Report

Presidents' Report

Sarah Hampson

- December meeting minutes were approved.
- Staff/teacher/crossing guard thank you notes for holiday gifts were circulated.
- The Mindset event will be held on Saturday, February 3rd at RMS from 11:30 to 2:00. Ann Battenberg will be the keynote speaker. The event will include refreshments, keynote, and breakout sessions. It is not necessary for participants to have read the book to attend.
- It is time to start filling all committee positions for 2018-19. Lisa Krusinski has agreed to help us with recruitment again. If folks are aware of individuals with children who are moving from Willard/Lincoln to RMS, who might be interested in getting involved at school, please let Stephanie or Sarah know. Fall Fun Fest, Grade Level, and Green 4 Good coordinators will be needed. The Green 4 Good coordinators will have the opportunity to coordinate with and expand upon the new District-wide sustainability policies that are being implemented. It will also be important to maintain the new efficiencies and improvements to Fun Lunch that Deb and Nancy have created.

OPRF Gender Inclusiveness Schools Coalition

**Kelly O'Keefe
(as reported by Stephanie)**

- This committee, a group of representatives from both River Forest and Oak Park, has presented to both the D90 Board of Education and the IAB. They will be working closely with D90 as it forms a new committee to address issues

around gender identity and inclusivity. Their next meeting will be held on February 5, from 6:30 to 8:30, at Brown Cow.

Treasurer's Report

Karen Simon

- Fun Lunch revenues for 2nd semester have come in and have increased our bank account total. Our expenses in the next few months include payments to Fun Lunch vendors, 8th grade lock-in, and 8th grade graduation. We were able to give \$496 to the library from the Birthday Books program.

Superintendent's Report

Ed Condon

No report.

Principal's Report

Larry Garstki

- The District is currently interviewing for a new Special Education Coordinator and has narrowed the search down to two candidates.
- Larry has received grant requests from RMS teachers who would like to take advantage of the PTO teacher grants this year. Examples include requests for lab coats and goggles for science classes, a presenter for spoken word poetry, demountable sets for plays, headphones, xylophones, and more. The requests exceed the amount that the PTO has allocated, but Larry is confident that he can work with the staff to meet all of the requests at least in part, and potentially find other sources of funding for the few requests that exceed our resources (i.e. innovative classroom furniture).
- Schoology is now live for everyone to see. Teachers have been mandated to use the student management system. It will continue to get better and better.
- Conferences are coming up. There are not enough sessions for teachers to meet with every student's family. Therefore, if parents don't really need to see a teacher to discuss student performance, they should not schedule a conference this spring.

Board Liaisons' Report

Kim Meyer and Howard Wax

- COW Meeting 12/5: The meeting involved evidence-based funding in the state of Illinois. When it goes into effect, D90 will not receive funds from the state

because our district is well funded and doing well academically. The most needy schools, based upon various criteria (poverty, academic achievement), are the ones that receive funding.

- BOE Meeting 12/18: A survey was sent out to the whole community (not just parents of school-aged children). Roughly 500 people responded. The board is sorting through those responses.
- COW Meeting 1/9: There was a brief Willard construction update. Members of the literacy committee spoke about the goal for students to love to read and write and continue that throughout life. The committee is looking at both school and classroom libraries and purging outdated books.
- BOE Meeting 1/16: A 7th grade student presented grade level updates. There was also discussion around a consulting firm that has been retained to come up with safe walking routes to school. D90 is paying 50% and the village is paying other 50%.
- COW Meeting 1/31: The Board approved the 2018-19 school calendar which can be found probably online now. The majority of the meeting was spent discussing screen time during a presentation by two local pediatricians. They provided a link to a family media plan. They also discussed the harm that too much screen time can do to overall health, BMI, and sleep patterns. They also stressed the importance of family meals.

Administrative Reports

Grade Coordinator Updates:

- 5th Grade: Fifth graders had their winter parties and are now looking forward to Valentine's Day. Their service project will be a book drive for the Oak Park River Forest Infant Welfare Society.
- 6th Grade: Sixth grade was responsible for the last pack the gym. They had a very successful concessions sale and there was a more concerted effort to bring more 6th graders into the gym. Fifth Grade will be responsible for the next Pack the Gym and they may need to replenish some supplies.
- 7th Grade: The parent social initially scheduled for January 26 was cancelled due to low turnout and has been rescheduled for March 9. Molly asked for a

list of email addresses for the seventh grade only. Cathy Rutman is able to send an email to parents from only one grade if she has the content to send.

- 8th Grade: There are some changes to 8th grade graduation, which will be held on June 6. Students will be wearing caps and gowns, rather than suits and dresses. The dance will be held on June 2 at the 20th Century Club. It will start at 7:00 pm. Fewer seventh grade parent volunteers will be required because the eighth grade parents will not be tied up with post-graduation obligations. The graduation fee will remain the same at \$75. There was discussion about possibly finding a location where we can donate the caps and gowns after use to minimize waste.

8th Grade Lock-In

Stephanie Schrod & Stacey Williams (reported by StephanieW)

- 8th Grade Lock-In will be held on March 9 and volunteers will be needed.

Pre-pack School Supplies

Bridget Thomason (as reported by Stephanie W)

- We are already buying school supplies for next year in order to benefit from a 4% discount. RMS is working with Lincoln and Willard so that dates for purchase/cut-off line up. Bridget has reached out to teachers to get their lists and expects that more items may be added to the pre-pack boxes this year (i.e. geometry templates and calculators). Tissues and wipes will likely be ordered in bulk this year as it has been an ongoing frustration to parents. School store and pre-pack supplies will be combined next year.

Meeting adjourned at 10:35 a.m.

Allison Parrell

RMS PTO Secretary