

MEETING MINUTES

RMS PTO MEETING

November 13, 2015, RF Library Meeting Room

Meeting Called To Order by: Stephanie Schrodtt Time: 9:20 am

Present: Sarah Lempia, Stephanie Schrodtt, Stephanie Wernet, Allison Parrell, Julie Moller, Marisa Green, Ed Condon, Dawne Simmons, Larry Garstki, Sarah Hampson, Tania Wilson, Kim Gladden, Sally Gibbs, Maria Preuhs

Executive and Administrative Reports

Presidents' Report Sarah Lempia and Stephanie Schrodtt

- The October 2, 2015 minutes were approved.
- The Spelling Bee is now complete. Gia Fisher was the winner and will go on to regionals.
- 5th graders did not have a Halloween party since Halloween was on a Saturday.
- Parent/Teacher conferences were earlier in the school year than usual.
- The Book Fair is now complete. We had problems staffing the book fair.
- Tonight is the 7th/8th grade dance.
- Holiday parties coming soon with an early dismissal from school.
- Sarah and Stephanie are considering sending a survey to parents re: more inclusiveness in PTO activities and possibly more parent social events. Parents want more social events but is that the PTO's job? These events would be for parents only. Parents want to feel more included in PTO/school activities. People tend to flock towards the people they know, and we should introduce ourselves at these events. Name tags would help at these events.

Treasurer's Report

Stephanie Wernet

- Fall Fun Fest was the biggest event in the fall.

- The cash boxes for these type of events should be handled by the event chairperson. All cash should be funneled thru the chairperson.
- Terri Bonno is now our PTO accountant and our registered agent. She is keeping track of our expenses. The state registration fee has now been paid for our 501(C)(3) status.

Superintendent's Report

Ed Condon

- Ed thanked the PTO for a successful Book Fair and Fall Fun Fest and also for promoting sustainability.
- The new IL state report card is out and online. The state is required to post it by October 31, which they did, but did not have the PARCC scores. The student scores were sent out today to each school but the schools will hold on until the validity of the scores is confirmed. Several schools have dropped out of PARCC; there are only six states participating now, plus DC. Springfield will decide if we continue to participate. Funding is an issue.
- Full day Kindergarten was discussed at the Board meeting. A presentation in its favor was made by several parents. The Board asked that more data be gathered, including costs. No decision was made.
- The Board has previously been presented a report on the River Forest schools' air climate and the limitations our school buildings present in terms of cooling the temperatures. Air-conditioning the schools is fairly cost-prohibitive. The architect made a presentation that the temperature could be brought down to 76 degs. The architect and engineer will be coming to the next meeting with ideas to cooling the building, especially the elementary schools.
- Equity committee spoke at the Board meeting.

Principal's Report

Larry Garstki

- Parents generally liked having the parent/teacher conferences earlier in the school year. Some teachers liked it earlier, some would rather it be later.
- RMS had a lock down drill. Larry felt it was a successful drill.
- Honor roll assembly was yesterday, during which Larry answered questions from kids about what's going on in school. There was entertainment for the kids during the

assembly. Also, awards were given for the Fenwick Science Bowl; RMS ranked #2 out of 44.

- Carrie Goldman, author of "Bully", customizes assemblies for each grade level plus a meeting for parents. The assemblies will be the end of January.

Board Liaisons' Report

Marisa Green

No Board Liaisons' Report.

Administrative Reports

Grade Coordinator Updates:

- 5th grade: No report.
- 6th grade: No report.
- 7th grade: 7th/8th grade dance is tonight.
- 8th grade: 7th/8th grade dance is tonight. Lock-in will be February 26.

IMPACT

Stephanie Schrodt

- Parent Cafe had a presentation about the difficulties of parenting and how parents can connect and communicate with their kids. People spoke honestly and parents were reassured that they are not alone.

Green4Good

Julie Moller

- Science Garden was harvested, including kale, radishes, and beets. Bulbs are in for the spring.
- Green team is working with the Robotics team learning about composting.

Fall Fun Fest Recap

Tania Wilson

- The event was a big success and made more money than last year. More silly string and henna tattoos were added.

- There were 27 prizes, down from 32 prizes last year. Online sales were very successful; over 100 more meals were served over last year.
- Tania encouraged everyone to email a “thank you” to our sponsors.
- Smoothies were sold out in 1 hour.
- There were lots of alums and guests of parents, which probably helped with the profits.
- Parents really enjoyed the parent lounge.

Fun Lunch

Maria Preuhs

- Fun Lunch has been very organized this year. Only one problem and that is people showing up to volunteer and they haven't signed up to volunteer.
- There may not be enough volunteers for next Friday because it is just before the holiday.

Meeting adjourned [10:17 am](#)

Allison Parrell
PTO Secretary