

Richard Montgomery PTSA  
December 18, 2007  
Minutes

**Kate Savage** brought the meeting to order at 7:40 PM. Kate asked that the October meeting minutes be approved. The minutes were approved. [Note that there was no November meeting since it was scheduled at the same time as the candlelight vigil for the RM students involved in the fatal car accident.]

**Gail Rothberg gave the Treasurer's report.** Gail explained the purpose of the "friends helping friends" line item in the PTSA budget, which has been used for a variety of charitable expenses. Since the PTSA had already used most of the budgeted funds for the current school year, she asked that the PTSA approve an increase in the budgeted amount to cover a donation to each of the families with students involved in the fatal car accident. Gail suggested a donation of \$100 per family. Trudi proposed that the donation be \$200 for each family, which was approved. Additionally, an increase in the budget line item covering this expense was approved for \$600.

**Mr. Carrasco gave the Principal report.** Mr. Carrasco noted that he covered several topics in his "State of RM" address given prior to the meeting. Some of the topics he presented included highlights of RM's history beginning as the first high school in Montgomery County, academic success of the students, goals for RM students, student body demographics, core values of RM, MYP and IB programs, high school assessments, AP classes and exams, SAT scores, and special programs at RM.

Mr. Carrasco asked Mr. Josh Sunshine to address the PSAT's. He noted that the results had been returned and will be given to students in their homeroom. A video will be shown explaining the score report and interpretation of scores.

Ms. Jennifer Hoover announced that the deadline for IB applications will be extended from January 4<sup>th</sup> to the 10<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Carrasco discussed the following additional topics:

1. Farewell party – There will be a student party the evening of the last day of school in the old building. The cost for entrance will be \$5 and the party will be from 7 to 11 PM.
2. New building – All students will be required to wear their ID's at all times in the new school building. Students will not be allowed into class without their ID's on. The administration has decided that 5 minutes is sufficient time to pass between classrooms in the new building. This is a change from the current 6-minute passing time. The open lunch policy will stay the same and parking permits will be available to seniors that apply. The evening of January 17<sup>th</sup> will be an open house for parents to visit the new school and see classrooms from 6:30 to 8:30 PM. RM will have a new telephone number, 301-610-8000, but keep the same address and zip code.

**Kate Savage gave the President's report** and discussed the following items:

1. Kate commented that the "Stroll Down Memory Lane" event was attended by approximately 500 people. She said that there were several alumni from the 50's and 60's.
2. Spring programs – Kate reported that the "Every 15 minutes" program to be held on April 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> needed some volunteer assistance. RM will be working with the city of Rockville to reenact a car crash on school grounds. RM alternates years as the host of this event with Rockville High School.
3. Post Prom – Prom is scheduled for May 16<sup>th</sup> and the Post Prom will be from 12 – 5 AM at the Potomac Community Center. The PTSA is still waiting to hear what the theme will be from the junior class to determine the decorating requirements. More volunteers are still needed to assist with this event.

4. By-Laws – the PTSA needs 2 or 3 volunteers to review the PTSA by-laws and put them into the new template.
5. Nominating committee – The PTSA needs 5 volunteer members for the nominating committee for the PTSA executive board for next school year. The new terms will begin in July 2008.

**Kate continued with the Committee and Liaison reports.**

1. SGA – Volunteers are needed to assist the teachers with packing on Wednesday afternoon. The SGA is also sponsoring the anti-food can drive.
2. Membership – The PTSA currently has 483 members and approximately \$1600 in donations.
3. Staff appreciation event is now scheduled for January 22<sup>nd</sup>. The PTSA is contributing to the luncheon on Friday, December 21<sup>st</sup>.
4. Boosters – The RM athletic boosters have 3 major events planned. First, on March 8<sup>th</sup> is the mulch sale. Volunteers are needed to assist with several different functions for this major fundraiser. April 11<sup>th</sup> is the casino night at the Marriott by White Flint, which will include a silent auction. May 5<sup>th</sup> is the 1<sup>st</sup> annual Mike Curtis celebrity golf tournament at Hampshire Greens golf course. All of these fundraising events will contribute to the new Sports Academy at RM.
5. Pedestrian Safety – The city of Rockville has agreed to narrow Fleet Street in front of the new school to allow for the construction of wider sidewalks. They will also put a median in the middle of Fleet Street. Additionally, they agreed to install new traffic control devices to stop traffic for pedestrians in front of the new building.
6. Events – The dedication ceremony for the new building will be in the fall.
7. MCCPTA – Liz Wheeler reported that RM still does not have a delegate for the MCCPTA which meets once a month on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday and does not meet in the summer. Several resolutions were under consideration including more parent advocates, additional guidance counselors at elementary schools, additional crossing guards and educational facilities officers, and required background checks on all new employees. The county has a 2% hiring freeze, which has required the use of long-term substitute teachers. The hiring freeze is affecting 2 positions at RM in the security staff and math department. The \$2.1 billion operating budget reflects the smallest increase in the budget in many years. Most of the budget is for salaries, which constitute 90% of the budget. There is an operating budget forum on January 7<sup>th</sup> at the BOE building.
8. Post Prom – There are 2 fundraising events at pizza places planned. The first one is in late January and 50% of the proceeds will go towards the Post Prom.

**Trudi Niewiaroski introduced some new business.** Trudi announced that the East Asian Studies class is looking for an old coffee urn in which to brew tea.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 PM. The next meeting will be on January 15, 2008 in the new building.