

General Meeting Minutes
Rock Creek Forest Elementary School PTA
May 4, 2021 7:00 p.m. via Zoom

Minutes taken by Recording Secretary

People in attendance:

7:30 p.m. meeting called to order by Reema Aggarwal after determining the presence of a quorum

2021-2022 Executive Committee Slate of Nominees (Juliana Horowitz)

Position	Nominee
President	S. Hennes (S/N)
Executive Vice President	M. Pratz (S)
Vice President, Fundraising	M. Lavoie (N)
Vice President, Outreach	M. Byrd (S)
Vice President, Membership	M. Surrusco (S)
Treasurer	A. Carrion (N)
Recording secretary	V. Hougham (S)
Corresponding secretary	T. Casella (N)
BCC Cluster Rep	N. Verdun (S)
BCC Cluster Rep	M. Barbero (N)
MCCPTA Rep	K. Sturtervant (N)
MCCPTA Rep	E. Strunk (S)

- Juliana Horowitz moves to approve the slate
- Reema Aggarwal moves to second the slate
- Please enter yes and no votes in the chat
- Mike Surrusco, VP, Membership will check that only active, paid members vote
- 28 yes, 0 no so the motion carries! Welcome to the new team.

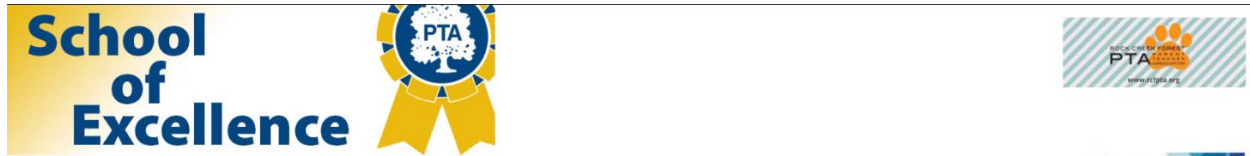
Teacher Appreciation Day – (Tanea Foglia)

- Thank you do our amazing teachers and staff
- Thank you to the executive committee from last year

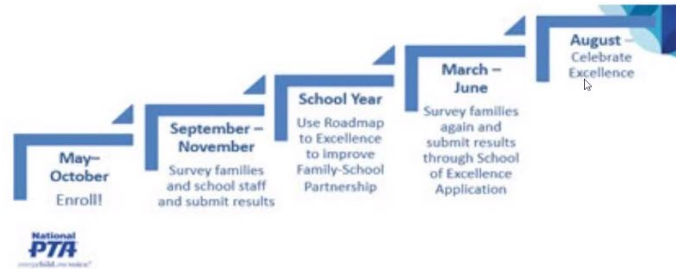
School of Excellence Progress – (Tanea Foglia)

- We are making progress on being a school of excellence

- We accomplished a lot this last year, including all of the items below:



Focused on COVID 19 Recovery and specifically Mental Health and Social Emotional Support



- Online safety training
- PEP presentation
- Posted reopening resources on PTA website
- Mental well being - checking in on your mental health
- Strategies for distance learning engagement & creating emotional connections
- In person learning tips & transition Q&A
- Wellness bags & water bottles
- Yoga & Zumba
- Move-A-Thon
- Provided healthy snacks for staff and students
- Teacher and staff mindfulness session

- Next up in our process will be a survey coming out in the next week
- After that we will complete our application in June

Treasurer’s Update (Ana Carrion)

Treasurer’s Report

- Bank Balance as of April 30: \$81,952.53

RCFES PTA Budget to Actual 30-Apr-21			
	Budget	Actual	% breakdown
FY20-21 Income	\$40,750.00	\$ 24,605.03	60.38%
Expenses			
Academic Support	\$27,200.00	\$12,622.55	46.41%
Staff Support	\$21,525.00	\$6,560.28	30.48%
Community Building	\$7,450.00	\$5,124.96	68.79%
Management and Admin	\$5,726.00	\$4,392.57	76.71%
Total Expenses	\$61,901.00	\$ 28,700.36	

- Current bank balance is \$81,952.53
- This has been an unusual year in both fundraising and expenses. We started the year slow and will probably end up underspending in most of the categories.

- We have raised to date: \$24,605.03 in income which includes fundraising events and activities, SpiritWear, donations and memberships.
- Under Academic Support, we spent on BOSS Kits, cultural arts, counseling and reopening. that will be picking up some as we get into 5th grade promotions and the spending down of funds for the Media Center and Counseling programs.
- Under staff support, we have spent on administration support, teaching & classroom supplies and staff appreciation. A reminder to teachers/staff to submit their reimbursements soon!
- Under Community Building, expenses have included Wellness activities like the Move-a-Thon, outreach and community support activities and sprucing up the garden in front of the school.
- Under PTA management and administration, that has included expenses such as online subscriptions for zoom, quickbooks and taxes.
- Here are some highlights of income and expenses that have been recorded in the last two months.
- Please join the PTA Budget & Innovation Committee
 - The budget committee meets bi-monthly and helps to review and approve the budget and expenses. They also review and approve grant proposals.
 - Please email Ana if you'd like to join: rcfes.pta.treasurer@gmail.com

Welcome (Principal Jennifer Lowndes)

- Grateful for everyone that is part of the RCF community, including parents, students, teachers, staff and PTA members
- Special thank you to Tanea and Reema who have been PTA presidents this past year
- Thank you from all of the RCF personnel for al the treats brought this week during Teacher Appreciation Week.
- We will be a No Place for Hate, Anti-Defamation League certified school by the end of the year
- We have a Families4Families food drive this weekend. If you are able please sign up: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0d49a9a82ea2f4c43-rock>

Capital Compost Team – (Ethan Weiss, Jack Clauss, Micah Schuchman)

Capital Compost

Ethan Weiss, Jack Clauss, Micah Schuchman (All 11th Grade, B-CC HS)



- BCC HS 11th grade students
- We are working with The Compost Crew to help remove organic waste from schools
- 530,000 tons of food waste are generated at schools each year – more than 50% of waste we throw into landfills or incinerators could turn into nutrient-rich soil instead
- [First Step: Why Your School Should Start Composting](#)
- Our Ask
 - We will help your school begin working towards ZERO Waste goals
 - We will create an English and Spanish curriculum to teach RCF students how to compost
 - We will show your students how to play an important role to help our environment
 - We will connect you with discounts from Compost Crew

We have a special deal for you!

Special Deal from **Compost Crew** (2021) For RCF:

- **\$152.99/month** (rather than **\$199.99/month**) for 2, 65 gallon bins and weekly pickup ---\$1,376.91 for 9 months (instead of \$1,799.91)
- \$25/each for 2, 32 gallon **green lunch bins** -- \$50
- \$15/each for 2 **wheels for lunch bins** -- \$30
- \$87.99 for 100 **compostable bags** (x3) -- \$351.96

Total expenses to start the program for a full school year (estimate): **\$1808.87**



ROCK CREEK FOREST
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

- Compost Crew Special Incentive
 - With every 20 families (in the community) that sign up for composting, the school gets an additional FREE 65-gallon bin
 - Up to 5 additional FREE bins are possible if 100 families sign up
 - If we go ahead with this project we will share a special code with the school
- [RCF Slides](#)
- RCF Budget team will review this proposal as part of the budgeting process for next year.

Jerome Smalls

- Author of [Small Talk: One Youth. Seven Stories. Countless Lessons](#)
- Went to Georgetown and now works for Georgetown as a program manager for this program
- Runs a company called “Small Talk” to help students tell their stories and to help educators and parents hear those stories
- It is important for us as educators and parents to ask and listen to children
- Need skills as adults to be curious about the lives of young people
- Allow yourself to be human in front of students, and it will be mutually beneficial
- We should develop curiosity in young people.
- Question for us: How can we expect young people to be curious if we are not curious?
 - This means we should have a real inquisitiveness to us
 - We want our students to be better than us
 - We need to instill a growth mindset
- Adults are often too scared to have conversations with each other and it manifests in us not having these conversations with kids
- Kids need adults to help lead them through the journey/navigating
- It will be difficult for us to see
- “Authentic curiosity in parents and teaching is essential”
- There are 3 major pillars to connection
 - Curiosity - Eagerness to learn, curiosity, and learning from your student. Exchange curiosity
 - Vulnerability – see the child as a whole person and be a whole person.
 - Empathy - Help children come to understand their mistakes on their own.

Close Meeting (Reema Aggarwal & Tanea Foglia)

Meeting adjourned 8:35 p.m. and turned over to the RCF NAACP.