

General Meeting Minutes
Rock Creek Forest Elementary School PTA
September 10, 2024 7:00 p.m. via Zoom Only

Minutes taken by Janet Reyes, Recording Secretary

People in attendance (172 Virtual Attendees)

- A McClain
- Abigail Sztein
- Abigail Wheeler Daniels
- Albania B
- Alex K
- Alexander Ziskand
- Alexandria Mihalcik
- Alicia Di Piazza
- Amber Telleen
- Ana Arsenova
- Andria Sherrod (MCCPTA Rep)
- Angie Kim Seaman
- Arjoo Mekala
- Atiyah Schroeter
- Ben Wieder
- Bethzaida Arias- Hoskins
- BMESPTA Fundraising
- Bria Mimms-Farr
- Brayan Farr
- Carlos Andres Zuluaga
- Carlos Robles
- Cassandra Berman (VP, Membership)
- Cathleen Williams(PTA Corresponding Secretary)
- Cecilia Teran
- Cerre` Morse
- Christine Lucchessi Leon
- Colin O`Neil
- Damone Jones
- Daniela Bilbao Navarez
- Daniela Nunez Ponte
- Dany Nunez
- David Kosub
- David Mihalcik
- Dawn B
- Deborah Greebon
- Deisi Castro
- Dekera Greene Rodriguez
- Dilcia Ramirez
- Edward Bernat
- Elfin Noce
- Elizabeth Gilliam- Hertz
- Elizabeth Roche
- Ellen Mitchell
- Emily Berger
- Emily Mallozzi
- Emily Strunk (BCC Cluster Rep)
- Enrico Henry
- Erica Seifert
- Erin Hoffman
- Fireta Gebresslase
- Gloria McLean
- Hannah Sloss (PTA President)
- Heather Zuerblis
- Heidi Brown
- Jade C
- Jamie Rothman
- Janet Osherow
- Janet Reyes (PTA Recording Secretary)
- Jared Grauer
- Jenilee Keefe Singer
- Jenny Chang
- Jomy George
- Jorge Salazar
- Juan Mayogitia
- Julieta Trias
- Karen Santiago
- Kate Rios (PTA Treasurer)
- Katherine Barrett Ryan
- Kelly Habig
- Kimberley McBride
- Kimberly Sienkiewicz
- Kristen Hatleberg
- LaShanda Taylor
- Laura O
- Lauren McVey
- Lavina Carrillo
- Lee Altamirano
- Lilliane Cherrick

- Linda Adami-Patel
- Lindsay Burdette
- Lucia Fort
- M. Knollmueller
- Ms. Osorio
- Margarette
- Marika Kelderman Bragato
- Meara Brennan
- Meghan Brown
- Melanie Cohen
- Melinda Martin-Beltran
- Melissa Dell'Omo
- Melissa Stein
- Mesfert Gebreyohannes
- Michelle Adato
- Mike Z
- N Raymond
- Natale Zimmer
- Nicole
- Nigest G
- Nigist Gebretsion
- Nikki Edgecombe
- Oluwatosin Adetifa
- Paola Rivadeneira
- Patricia Robbins
- Patricia Santucci
- Paula Garzon
- Puja Das
- RCF Enrichment Coordinator
- Rebecca Henson
- Rob Daniels
- Robert Viegas
- Sandra Maldonado (PTA Vice President)
- Sara R
- Sarah Daggett
- Scott Trudell
- Shana Newman Fajardo(PTA VP, Fundraising)
- Sheila Somashekhar
- Shemeka Ivy
- Siddarth Jha
- Siobhan Forbes
- Sonia Lopez
- Steph Bozzo
- Steven Horwitz
- Sunny Widmann
- Susan Kutz
- Thalia Theodore Washington
- Thayana Ayoobi
- Tiberh Abgaz
- Tiffany Decker
- Tina Chang
- Tite Etho
- Tova Ronis
- Tricia Widge (PTA VP, Outreach)
- Trudy Rebert
- Vianette Thurston
- Victoria Schneider
- Will Carraco
- Will Valencia
- Winnie Chen
- Wudasie Abegaz
- Ysemhar
- Yvette Robbins
- Zabihullah Safi
- Zainah Irizarry
- Remaining participants joined by phone

7:02 p.m. meeting called to order by PTA President

Welcome

Hannah Sloss, PTA President

- Review Housekeeping rules
- Who We Are
- PTA Executive Committee Introductions
- Upcoming Events (see slides for details)

PTA Updates

- 5 General PTA Meetings for the year
- First and last meetings will be virtual

- December, February, and April meetings will include parent workshops

How We Communicate

- Whatsapp
- Listserv (Groups.io)
- Website
- Social Media
- Email
- Mail Chimp
- PTA can be reached at hello@rcfpta.org

Review of 23-24 End of Year Survey

Put the T in PTA

- More communication via email
- Dedicated PTA liaison for staff- Emily Skrunk
- Expand teacher appreciation- need a committee lead

Put the P in PTA

- Grateful for work PTA did last year
- Revamp volunteer program
 - volunteer coordinator
 - Flexible commitment
 - Mentorship program
 - Recruitment focus
- Looking for parent suggestions on how to bridge gap between lack of time to volunteer and desire to volunteer
- Pull for Volunteers- shared current event lead vacancies, looking to have two co-chairs for each event

Other Ways to Support PTA- Gifts of Time and Money

Treasurer's Report- Katherine Drew Rios

- 2024 Summer Budget
- Proposed FY25 Budget/Motion to Adopt Budget
 - Vote results- Majority voted "Yes", zero "No"
 - Budget adopted

Proposed FY25 Budget



INCOME Category	FY24 Approved	FY24 Actual	FY25 Proposed
Memberships: Memberships include family memberships at \$25/each and staff memberships at \$0/each	\$3,000	\$1,944	\$4,000
Donations: Includes donations to the general PTA fund, Holiday Gift Drive, Staff Appreciation, Big 5! Bundles.	\$16,500	\$7,201.55	\$16,000
Fundraisers: Bingo Night, Book Fair, Art and Talent Show, Read-a-thon, Rebate Programs, Spring Fair, Ice Cream Raffle.	\$68,731	\$55,757.34	\$68,000
Total	\$88,231	\$64,902.89	\$88,000

EXPENSE Category	FY24 Approved	FY24 Actual	FY25 Proposed
Academic Support: 5 th Grade Promotion and Student Service Leaders, Academic Enrichment Scholarships, Media Center, BOSS Kits, Counseling Programs, Cultural Arts and STEAM Fair, BrainPop Software, Recess Equipment, Yellow Communication Folders.	\$34,930	\$29,004.16	\$41,950
Staff Support: Professional Development, School Admin Support, Staff Appreciation, Teaching Innovation Grants, Staff Supplies Support.	\$21,800	\$15,972.16	\$22,100
Community Building: Art and Talent Show, Movie Night, Bingo Night, Spring Fair, Multicultural Night, Color Splash, Field Day, Green Team/Nature Trail and Compost Crew, Cafecitos, Community Outreach, Room Parties.	\$30,050	\$22,185.62	\$35,750
PTA Administration: Accounting and Payment Fees, Administrative Expenses, Membership Expenses (dues for National, State and County PTA), Fundraising Expenses, PTA Insurance, PTA Meetings, Website Maintenance.	\$13,180	\$11,515.55	\$10,080
Total	\$99,060	\$78,677.49	\$109,880

Q: Why the switch to Google Meet this year?

A: Google Meet is free for nonprofits for up to 150 people.

RCFES Back to School

Principal Carrillo

Presentation (slides will be provided by school in Sunday's Tiger News)

Introductions

- Principal Carrillo
- Shemeka Ivy- AP
- Jamie Rothman- Staff Development Teacher
- Kim Sienkiewicz-Reading Specialist
- Upcoming
 - Chat Chews with Principal Carrillo and Assistant Principal Ivy

Principal Carrillo shared a Padlet link in the chat and asked that any questions during the presentation be added there. Questions would be answered tonight and in the Tiger News communication.

Reimagining Back to School Night (BTSN)

- Outreach to connect with ALL families
- Receive information earlier
- Less sit and get, more meet and greet, more time for family questions
- Format Variety- resource fair
- Dinner and childcare will be provided

Upcoming BTSN Events- Shemeka Ivy

- Staff Community Connect- 9/10/24 from 6-7
 - Staff will head into the local community

- Tiger Fest- Back to School Night
 - September 26, 2024 from 6-7:30 pm
- Volunteers Needed
 - Look for more information in Sunday's Tiger News communication
- Let's Connect
 - Sunday Tiger News
 - Grade Level One Sheeter
 - Remind App
 - Student Communication Folders
 - Teacher Friday Communication

Q: Is there a set schedule for BTSN, especially if you have multiple children?

A: More fluid, parents will be able to plug in to the child's classroom, less presentation style, more meeting and greeting teachers.

Q: When will we get formal information (plans, policies, etc) from our teachers?

A: Teacher policies will be posted in the classroom, included in Tiger News communication, Friday teacher communication and a copy will be given to the children. This is new and feedback will be collected during BTSN and afterward to make adjustments as needed.

Arrival and Dismissal Procedures

- Consistency is key for safety
- Arrival: Doors open at 9:10 and close at 9:25 am
- Whenever possible, have your child's dismissal plan stay the same each day.

School Meals

- Breakfast and Lunch Costs
- My School Bucks
- Free and Reduced Meal Prices- apply online
- If student wants to buy lunch it needs to be accounted for in the morning, not at lunchtime

Q: What are lunch options if a child is late?

A: There are counts for all students who order lunch in the morning. We want to ensure that everyone who was accounted for lunch in the morning has an opportunity to get their lunch at lunchtime. If a child arrives late, options will be provided.

Q: Question regarding timed lunch

A: All components of the school day are timed. There is a schedule from time students arrive at school until dismissal. Lunch is 30 minutes. Similar to instruction blocks.

Report Cards and Conferences- Jamie Rothman

- Report cards once each marking period
- Interim progress reports can be found in Parent Vue, will not come home as a hard copy
- Family- Teacher Conferences- Teachers will begin scheduling at BTSN on 9/26
- Regarding additional conferences-MCPS only requires one per year, but if you or teacher need additional conversation, that can be scheduled throughout the school year.

Social Emotional Learning

- Typically presented by the teacher at Back to School Night, but will be present tonight to allow more time at BTSN to ask more questions and present specific grade level information.
- Grades K-2- Peace of Mind curriculum
- Grades 3-5- MCPS Mindfulness Curriculum and Sanford Harmony
- Counselors will visit classrooms for SEL lessons 1-2 times per month
- Specials
- 4th and 5th- Choir is returning this year, instrumental music continues to be offered

Science and Health

- Based on NGSS Science Standards
- Health is taught two weeks each marking period, grades will only be reported in MP2 and MP4

Social Studies- Kim Sienkiewicz

- 4th and 5th grade curriculums were redesigned last year
- K-3 curriculum will be redesigned and rolled out in the next few years

Math Curriculum

- Eureka math has been used for the last six years

Tips for helping child at home

- Ask your child questions about what they learned in math
- Try to be positive about your child's math education
- Eureka Parent Resources- parent tipsheets, homework helpers in workbook, videos on Eureka website

Q: Will Kindergartners be able to check out books from the library?

A: They can check out books during their scheduled media center time, not during open library in the mornings.

Q: Does the immersion program use Eureka math?

A: Yes, same curriculum in Spanish.

Q: How to formalize conferences to be more than one per year?

A: This would need to come from the district level, not through RCF. However, teachers are extremely responsive and happy to accommodate additional conferences if needed.

New Literacy Curriculum

- Amplify CKLA (Core Knowledge Language Arts)- English
- Arriba La Lectura- Spanish

CKLA

- Skills + knowledge = skilled reading
- Focus on equity

Review of Program Design for grades PK-5

- Pre-K- different consecutive domains
- Grades K-2- 60 minutes of skills learning, 60 minutes of knowledge learning
- Grades 3-5
 - 120 minute reading block in grade 3
 - 90 minute reading block in grades 4 & 5
- Boost Reading- online program that provides assessment and allows for instruction to be personalized for their needs
- Student Hub online
- Caregiver hub- gives additional program information and ways to support students at home

Arriba La Lectura

- Designed for students learning Spanish
- Whole class instruction, teacher led small groups, build student independence
- Creates connections with various content (Science, Social Studies, etc)
- Same amount of literacy time as in English program

Questions in Padlet will be sorted and answered in Sunday communication.

Questions

Q: Will there be any resources or tutorials to teach parents how to navigate learning websites?

A: If using a chromebook, you will need to sign in via your child's MCPS gmail account. This should help with logging in. Chromebook is all Google based. If you are logged in as your child, many of the apps can be found on the Clever platform.

Q: Would like to know more about the cross linguistic connections for students in Spanish immersion who are becoming biliterate in English and Spanish.

A: Starting in 4th and 5th grade, English writing begins to be introduced. In grades K-3 the children are 100% immersed in the language. English writing begins in the second semester of 4th grade. You will hear more about this on 9/26 during the classroom portion of the evening.

Q: For the parents of children in Spanish immersion, is there an opportunity to get access to the English counterpart of the Spanish material?

A: There are resources through Eureka math both in English and Spanish. We are still learning about the resources available for the Arriba curriculum.

Q: How much training do teachers receive when a new curriculum is rolled out?

A: Over the summer the teachers spent two whole days in literacy curriculum training through CKLA and Arriba Lectura. We continue professional learning throughout the school year led by Ms. Sienkiewicz

Meeting ended at 8:32pm

Next PTA Meeting will be on December 3, 2024