

**Minutes of PTA Council Meeting  
November 19, 2015  
Adams High School**

Meeting Called to Order at 9:40am.

Welcome & Pledge of Allegiance by Samantha Phillips, Kevin Cumming & Adams PTSA

**Representative Reports**

Superintendent Report, Dr. Robert Shaner

- RCS Bond passed with 73% approval rate. Thank you for all involved.
- Starting financial process of construction team; committee structure for project management and construction schedule for design work. Priority will be both Safety & Security and Technology & Infrastructure projects first.
- Financing - Sell bonds first weeks of January 2016. Cash will be received & invested, then construction draws taken on a schedule.
- As far as PTA funds used for technology – Please Wait – patience still as district gets infrastructure in place first before any PTA donations are made for technology.
- Current legislation to watch out for –
  - Bail out of Detroit schools. This will add cost to all districts, and will be significant to our bottom line finances. Questions to ask our legislators: Emergency managers? EAA? Detroit not required to make MPSERS retirement payment? Why? Bankruptcy? Would governor be legislating bankruptcy?
  - Vouchers. Legislators looking again to change Michigan Constitution to allow vouchers.
- Superintendents Coffees canceled. Trying to make more productive and better attendance. Looking for suggestions.
- Samantha Phillips thanked Dr. Shaner for large display case in Admin Building lobby.
- Samantha Phillips announced we will add line item for Bond Updates to future Council Agendas.

RCS Foundation / Community Relations, Lori Grein

- Absent, no report

Board of Education, Beth Talbert

- RCS Bond passed with 73% approval rate. Thank you for all involved.
- Asks for patience on spending bond money. District has started process, did not want to start before bond passed.
- Stability of District: BOE wants Dr. Shaner to remain superintendent. Working on evaluations and extended contract.

Rochester Education Association, Doug Hill

- RCS Bond passed with 73% approval rate. High approval rate speaks to quality product – teachers, strong education package.
- Thank you to PTA for monetary support and manpower support.
- Thank you to the district leaders for visiting all buildings and talking to teachers, and listening and acknowledging their voices and any concerns.
- Be aware of stress levels during the holidays.

**Officer Reports**

President, Samantha Phillips

- Advocacy Day – Thank you to Barb Anness for leading our RCS group through Lansing and the legislative process.
- School of Excellence recognition program – 15 schools actively working on, 1 school submitted, 2 schools earned in prior school year.
- Safe Routes to School – Tracy Gruber leading with representative leaders from buildings, district & local government. Asking for input as to where there are safety issues on our school grounds, ie. Sidewalks, lights, trees, signs. PTA is being asked at each school to put together carpool list to assist families to find help for rides for their students.

- Mindfulness Program – mc4me.org – district approved, rolling to as many schools/grades as possible.
  - Michael Behrmann stated it is a good use of instructional time because it helps our kids to focus.
  - Paula Leonhardt is point person to collect best practices teachers and the different movements they've found to help kids focus.
  - Looking for parents to get trained, and be potential trainers. In order to bring to entire district, volunteers will be needed. See Samantha, she's being trained in January 2016.
  - Dennette Fend has also added "Coping" station to our Health Fair kit.
- Hot Topics – please put any comments concerns on the board.

#### Vice President, Barb Rill

- Attend Board of Education Meetings - Next regular meeting is December 7th 2015 - Rochester HS and Brooklands representatives to attend
- Website Guidelines - Council to follow up with school websites for compliance.
- Posting "Did You Knows" on Facebook, website, newsletters – currently being pulled together to share.
- Media Update – hopefully will get more articles posted. Include pictures if possible.
- Google Docs training – immediately following Council meeting. Taught by Adams Media Specialist, Brenda Carlson. 16 signed up for training.
- Scrabble word – COLLABORATION

#### Vice President of Membership, Diane Glinski

- Membership Update – more business members still needed. \$100/membership. Exposure to whole district. Window clings to display. Shelf in showcase. Potential members – please give contact information to Diane.
- Meeting sponsored by: The Barre Code, Rochester Soccer Club & Bobbie Lynn's Lip 'n Skin
  - Raffle winners can either keep prize, or pass along at school meeting.
  - The Barre Code – 1 month free = Paula Leonhardt
  - Rochester Soccer Club – gift bag = Mary Boudreau = passed on to University Hills
  - Bobbie Lynn's Lip 'n Skin – ALL in attendance received a free lip moisturizer

#### Secretary, Nancy Benedettini

- Approved Meeting Minutes of 10/15/15 as written
- Council Connection Newsletter, 11/25 deadline for articles, Wendy Holt, [wlholt5@gmail.com](mailto:wlholt5@gmail.com)
- PTA Council Standing Rules & Bylaws updates:
  - Suggested changes to the Council Standing Rules were reviewed and discussed. Changes were to bring current with our current practices. Changes were made to mirror line items of budget. Addition made to include Guidelines for Code of Conduct, PTA Facebook pages, and PTA Websites.
    - Suggestion to add under "Expenses – Printing and Copying" – Covers any printing and copying fee associated with the Council PTA Board or unfunded committees.
    - Motion by Michelle Bueltel and Second by Wendy Depp to Approve Standing Rules as proposed, with the addition of the words "or unfunded committees" under Expenses - Printing and Copying.
    - Motion unanimously passed.
    - Nancy to send out new edition to all via email and post to Council website.
  - First Reading of the Suggested changes to Council Bylaws were reviewed and discussed.
    - Motion by Jennifer Windeler and Second by Debbie Jones to accept first reading of the updated Council Bylaws.
    - Motion unanimously passed.
    - Second reading and approval vote will take place at the January 21, 2016 Council meeting.

#### Treasurer, Tracy Gruber

- Current Treasurer's Report reviewed
- Budget Change to combine line items of Acknowledgements and Hospitality into one line, named Acknowledgements & Hospitality. The reason being the two are very similar, and each could be used interchangeably. This would provide clarity and consistency.
  - Motion by Barb Anness and Second by Shawn Grant to combine Budget Expense line items of Acknowledgements and Hospitality into one line, named Acknowledgements & Hospitality.
  - Motion unanimously passed.

## **Committee Reports**

### Founder's Day Committee, Debbie Jones & Barb Rill

- Contacts: Debbie Jones, [debra-l-jones@hotmail.com](mailto:debra-l-jones@hotmail.com) and Barb Rill, [barbrarill@gmail.com](mailto:barbrarill@gmail.com)
- Theme – "I'm a PTA Volunteer – What's Your Superpower?"
- Theme – Superheros. Colors - red, blue & yellow
- Can NOT receive two awards during the evening.
- Next planning meeting: November 20th - 9:30 - 11:00 - Admin Conference Room B
- December 4th - Distinguished Service Awards Due to Barb Rill: [Barbrarill@gmail.com](mailto:Barbrarill@gmail.com)
- December 11th - Founders Day Mtg to choose Distinguished Service Recipients
- NEW = Distinguished Service – Advocacy Award
- January 29th – Honoree Nomination write ups due to Barb Rill: [Barbrarill@gmail.com](mailto:Barbrarill@gmail.com)
- February 25th, 2016 - Founders Day Celebration & Ceremony

### Legislative Committee, Barb Anness

- Council Rep Contact: Barb Anness, [tbanness@aol.com](mailto:tbanness@aol.com)
- Committee Chair Contact: Steve Hanley, [sjahanley@gmail.com](mailto:sjahanley@gmail.com)
- Next Legislative Committee Meeting: December 4th, 9:30am Admin Bldg, Parker
- PTA is for advocacy. Both RCS PTA and MI PTA issued statements on concealed weapons in the schools.
- See 11/6/2015 Legislative Committee Recap for details, it was mailed out with meeting package. Can be shared at school meetings.

### Green Schools Committee, Wendy Barthelemy

- Contact: Wendy Barthelemy: [wendybarthelemy8@gmail.com](mailto:wendybarthelemy8@gmail.com) OR [rcsgreenschool@gmail.com](mailto:rcsgreenschool@gmail.com)
- Next Green Schools Committee Meeting: January 25th, 2016 9am Graham A&B
- Lost 6 schools last year to no longer have Green designation, Goal to get all schools back participating.
- Grouped committees at district level to help all get designation.
- Optional at school level, but hope all will participate.
- Monthly themes, challenges, fundraising and events.
- Proposal: Green Schools Fundraising Opportunities – After discussion and questions, topic was tabled until next meeting when detailed information could be reviewed in advance of meeting.

### Enrichments Committee, Shawn Grant

- Contact: Shawn Grant, [sgrant2@mac.com](mailto:sgrant2@mac.com)
- Please update Enrichment details on the PTA Enrichments and Activities Calendar on google drive
- Enrichment Events: Talk Early and Talk Often (about sex) and Self Harm parent events in 2016.

### STEAM Committee, Barb Rill for Michelle Bueltel

- Contact: Michelle Bueltel, [bueltel.michelle@gmail.com](mailto:bueltel.michelle@gmail.com)
- STEAM Career Exploration Fair is March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at RHS from 9am - 1pm (Fair from 10am -12pm)
- Request middle and high schools put an ad in their newsletter seeking a STEAM Fair liaison, who would help advertise the event at their school, and help in the organization of the event and hopefully volunteer during the event.
- Need for STEAM Liaisons from Hart, Van Hoosen, West, and SCHS
- Additional Grant funds received to bring in a speaker
- Looking for guest speaker.

### Authors In April Committee, Lisa Wattai

- Contact: Lisa Wattai, [wattai4@att.net](mailto:wattai4@att.net)
- April 18<sup>th</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2016
- Banquet, MONDAY, April 18, 6pm, Royal Park Hotel
- Library Signing Event, Wednesday, April 20, 4-6pm, RHPL
- Link to K-1 AIA author David LaRoche video. Watch at home and be ready to answer trivia question at the January PTA Council meeting, winner will win a book. <http://authorsinapril.org/2016-author-videos>

## New Business

### *Additional Committee Report Updates:*

#### Meals on Wheels Committee, Mary Boudreau

- Contact: Mary Boudreau, [boudreau.ma@sbcglobal.net](mailto:boudreau.ma@sbcglobal.net)
- Meals on Wheels volunteer needed from Meadow Brook Elementary for 12/9/15.

#### Health & Wellness Committee

- Contact: Dennette Fend, [dfend@beaumont.edu](mailto:dfend@beaumont.edu)
- Next meeting January 25th, 12 - 1pm Admin Bldg, Graham A
- Mindfulness programs for coping skills being brought to our schools

#### Reflections Committee

- Contact: Shawn Grant, [rcsreflections2015.2016@gmail.com](mailto:rcsreflections2015.2016@gmail.com)
- Deadline Dates:
  - District- December 11, 2015
  - State-January 16, 2016
- District Ceremony: March 14, 2016 at Stoney Creek High School

#### Special Education PAC Committee

- Contact: Lisa Kowalski, [lisakowalski1984@gmail.com](mailto:lisakowalski1984@gmail.com)
- Need PAC/DAW contact person for each school

Meeting was adjourned at 12:00pm.

Quorum was present. Per the Rochester PTA Council Bylaws Approved in 2013; a quorum for the transaction of business shall consist of at least two officers and one delegate from a majority of the member PTA/PTSAs.

Minutes:

Approved as written:   X   Date:   1/21/2016  

Approved as corrected:            Date:                   

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Minutes taken by Nancy Benedettini, Secretary