

**Minutes of PTA Council Meeting
January 21, 2016
Hart Middle School**

Meeting Called to Order at 9:37 a.m.
Welcome & Pledge of Allegiance by Samantha Phillips

Representative Reports

Superintendent Report, Debi Fragomeni

- Superintendent, Dr. Shaner, is in China with other RCS reps furthering the district's global awareness/education partnerships. District is encouraged to advance beyond China too, as strategic plan think tanks are exploring offering more languages in elementary school, more exchange student opportunities, etc.
- Dr. Shaner attended the State of the State address, as a special guest of State Representative, Michael Webber.

RCS Bond Update, Lori Grein

- RCS has been given a new long-term credit rating designation of AA- with a stable outlook for the \$128 million unlimited-tax general obligation school bonds. The rating was issued by Standard & Poor's Ratings Services. The AA rating is the second highest assessment possible and indicates that obligations are of high quality with a very low credit risk.
- On Jan. 19, bonds worth \$128,000,000 were sold at a premium rate, with minimal fees and underwriter costs, allowing RCS to maximize dollars to the district. Funds will be available Feb. 16 and will be invested to match construction and cash flow needs over the next five years. The remaining bonds are expected to be sold in May 2019.
- Estimated project timelines have been shared with the Board of Education, principals and staff, the PTA, and the community. Documents and updates will be shared on the RCS website in the coming week. Committee work is beginning.

RCS Foundation / Community Relations, Lori Grein

- Scholarship applications are due Jan. 31. Applications can be done online at RCS Foundation website.

Board of Education, Pat Piskulich

- The district is in very good financial shape. Our credit rating improved. Our bonds sold at a premium. Dana Taylor helped improve accounting procedures for a clean audit. Dr. Shaner's completed contract demonstrated district stability. Ten percent of our general fund is in reserve. All these items reflect our financial stability and strength.
- The board is looking at changing the evaluation tool for Dr. Shaner, which is far more stringent than other superintendents. Although student performance markers should be included in the evaluation tool, his was at approximately 50%, and most teachers have student performance markers as 25% of their evaluation. They are looking for middle ground.
- The board is doing a book study regarding coherence and using coherent goals across the district.

Rochester Education Association, Doug Hill (absent)

- Absent, report read by Samantha Phillips.
 - *It really is kind of a dead period in teacher land: we're between professional developments (November and March), everyone is pretty well hunkered down for exam week, report cards, and then beginning to put necessary systems in place for M-STEP and the new SAT later this spring. As I understand it, M-STEP building scores have now been released, but not yet disaggregated by responses/answers. This is really the most-useful information for the teachers because it's able to show trends on what instructional areas possibly need to be modified and/or bolstered.*
 - *I've heard from a couple of building administrators and some teachers in my time around the district that parents seem to be understanding that this really is a transitional year as far as this state assessment is concerned. On behalf of the building staffs around RCS I would like to thank the PTSA for assisting in spreading the word that we shouldn't be reading too much into the scores this year.*
 - *As far as exams, plenty of rest, water, and good breakfasts each morning to get those dendrites firing on all cylinders.*
 - *If anyone has any questions for me they're most welcome to contact me at dhill@rochester.k12.mi.us.*
 - *Thank you, as always, for the opportunity and partnership.*

Officer Reports

President, Samantha Phillips

- Presidents' Breakfast update. We are looking for reps on some strategic planning committees, including media/technology and collaborative spaces.
- Resignation, Board Member Position Opening – Diane Glinski has vacated her position as VP of membership. Volunteers are encouraged to consider taking this role.
- Field trip committee – A district-wide field-trip committee is being formed and has its first meeting coming up. Betsie Brodbeck is the contact person for volunteers.
- Some training and information will be available soon regarding mindfulness, movement in the classroom, anti-stress strategies for students, and kinesiology in the class.
- Talk Early, Talk Often (TETO) – discussed these parent presentations related to communication with kids. Programs created by district health advisory committee. Two program options are available. 1. A two-hour presentation for elementary OR middle school parents about how to start difficult discussions (sex, bodies, bullying, alcohol, drugs, etc.) 2. Askable Parent presentation, not as in-depth for combined elementary and middle-school parents. Attendees seemed to favor more in-depth option. Will be discussed and costs are within enrichment budget.
- The April PTA Council meeting has changed from April 21 to April 28 in the Administration Building, Harrison Room, due to Authors in April conflicts. The Superintendent's Breakfast will change accordingly.
- State membership issues – There were some administrative problems with the state PTA getting membership applications. Four schools were in danger of not having their Reflections submissions accepted. The problem is on the state-end, not Rochester. Schools are asked to check and confirm their status. Also, chapters with a 10% increase in membership can win awards. Feb. 28 is the deadline to apply.
- Gun safety statement – The Council discussed the gun safety statement presented by the legislative committee. Council agreed to advocate to keep schools classified as gun-free zones. One clarification was made in the last sentence, to include all school grounds, not just inside school buildings.
 - Motion to adopt statement: Lisa Kowalski
 - Second by: Steve Hanley
 - Discussion to clarify last sentence. Statement presented again.
 - Motion to adopt as amended and presented: Kristin Nahass
 - Second by: Steve Hanley
 - VOTE: PASSED unanimously

Vice President, Barb Rill

- Attend Board of Education Meetings - Next regular meeting is February 8, 2016 -
 - Stoney Creek & Hamlin representatives to attend. Please wear lanyards and identify yourselves.
- Posting "Did You Knows" on Facebook, website, newsletters – For instance, did you know that as a group, Rochester PTAs give \$750,000 a year to the schools?
- Media Update – Please keep sending news. Current focus on STEAM fair and Founder's Day.

Vice President of Membership, interim, Barb Rill

- 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 Barb.
- Meeting sponsored by:
 - Solid Choice Solutions Corp - Carter Tillage - Custom Locker organizers
 - Fudge Business Forms - Heather Fudge - PTA parent
 - National Flag Football - Blair Williams
 - Raffle winners can either keep prize, or pass along at school meeting.
 - National Flag Football prize winner = Betsie Brodbeck
 - Fudge Business Forms prize winner = Jennifer Windeler

Secretary, Amy DiCresce for Nancy Benedettini (absent)

- Approved Meeting Minutes of 11/19/15 as written (Tracy Gruber)
- Council Connection Newsletter, 1/25 deadline for articles, Wendy Holt, wholt5@gmail.com
- PTA Council Bylaws second reading, discussion & vote-needs 2/3 majority. The bylaws were approved, with one change: the removal of the word "all" in the sentence related to needing two signatures when treasurer is unavailable.
 - Motion by: Michelle Bueltel
 - Second by: Maria Miceli
 - VOTE: PASSED unanimously

Treasurer, Tracy Gruber

- Current Treasurer's Report reviewed
- Reminder: sales tax is due Feb. 28.
- Safe Routes – Feb. 19 is the deadline to apply for a Safe Routes mini-grant. You must be registered as a Safe Routes school to apply, so submit registration ASAP.

Committee Reports

Founder's Day Committee, Debbie Jones & Barb Rill

- Contacts: Debbie Jones, debra-l-jones@hotmail.com and Barb Rill, barbrarill@gmail.com
- Theme – "I'm a PTA Volunteer – What's Your Superpower?"
- Theme – Superheroes. Colors - red, blue & yellow
- Can NOT receive two awards during the evening.
- Last meeting February 19th, 9:30 a.m. - Admin Conference Room B
- Honoree write ups, three per school due January 29th, 50 words or less
- Two baskets due from each school February 19th
- February 25th, 2016 – Founder's Day Celebration & Ceremony
- Congratulations to all Founder's Day Distinguished Service Award winners:
 - John Schultz Leadership award - Samantha Phillips
 - PTA Council Member of the Year - Dennette Fend
 - PTA Council Advocacy Award - Barbara Anness
 - Distinguished service awards - Amy DiCresce, Jennifer Windeler, Allan Schneck
 - Bright Ideas Award - Brooklands Bears Den

Legislative Committee, Barb Anness and Steve Hanley

- Council Rep Contact: Barb Anness, tbanness@aol.com
- Committee Chair Contact: Steve Hanley, sjahanley@gmail.com
- Next Legislative Committee Meeting: February 5th, 9:30am Admin Bldg, Parker
- Committee changing from focus on not just education, but moving to advocate when necessary for kids. Will be presenting statements to Council to have positions on important topics. Adopted a gun safety position today. Will work on third-grade reading proficiency at next meeting.

STEAM Committee, Michelle Bueltel

- Contact: Michelle Bueltel, bueltel.michelle@gmail.com
- STEAM Career Exploration Fair is March 5th at RHS from 10 to 12 with workshops before and after. Signup will be on the PTA Council website after 2/15.
- Received a donation from AT&T to cover most of the expenses of the event.
- Need for volunteers to help set up and run the event.
- Looking for a chair to run it next year, so anyone interested should come see how the event runs.
- STEAM grants are available through February. Schools encouraged to submit receipts.

New Business

Additional Committee Report Updates:

Health & Wellness Committee, Joanne Deys

- Contact: Dennette Fend, dfend@beaumont.edu
- Next meeting January 25th, 12 - 1pm Admin Bldg, Graham A
- Mindfulness programs for coping skills being brought to our schools
- Vision and mission developed for committee. Vision: Children who have health bodies and minds are successful.
- Students participating in logo design contest for committee.

Authors In April Committee, Lisa Wattai

- Contact: Lisa Wattai, wattai4@att.net
- April 18th - 22nd, 2016
- Banquet, MONDAY, April 18, 6pm, Royal Park Hotel
- Library Signing Event, Wednesday, April 20, 4-6, RHPL
- Authors: David LaRochelle, Sara Pennypacker, Kate Messner, Margi Preus
- Video - author introductions - <http://authorsinapril.org/2016-author-videos>

Reflections Committee

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

Neighborhood House, Kathy Losinski

- Thanks for assistance offered to Rochester Area Neighborhood House through holiday drives. Expectations were exceeded for clothing, coats and food. More than 9,000 pounds of food collected, plus \$20,000.
- Might want to consider that Scholastic Books will donate books to schools that do a pajama drive. Lisa Roscoe has more information.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:53 a.m.

Quorum was present. Per the Rochester PTA Council Bylaws Approved in 2016; 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: 2/18/2016

Approved as corrected: _____ Date: _____

Minutes taken by Amy DiCresce