

**Minutes of PTA Council Meeting
April 28, 2016
Harrison Room, Administration Building
Hosted by West Middle School PTSA**

Meeting Called to Order at 9:41am.

Pledge of Allegiance & Welcome by Samantha Phillips, Debbie Jones & West PTSA.

Representative Reports

Superintendent Report & RCS Bond Update, Robert Shaner

- Bond work in progress
- State of Michigan budget season - still too early in process to make assumptions as to what the numbers will look like for RCS
- Hometown Hustle – please participate, run or walk, in this great community event
- Chinese delegation of 15 middle school students and 6 staff – returned from China with great new experiences. This trip should have higher participation next year.
- Working on future partnership with Costa Rica – for a Spanish speaking student experience
- District calendar – First half of 2016-17 school year published. Waiting for second half because Spring break not yet set. Asking for variance from Oakland County calendar due to testing schedule. First day of school will be September 6th, and it will be a full day. All districts must meet time in school requirements set by the State of Michigan.
- Possibly more changes coming to state wide testing. Changes can be precipitated by political issues.

RCS Foundation / Community Relations, Lori Grein

- Hometown Hustle – please attend and support. All money raised goes back to the district through the Foundation.
- \$100,000 in scholarships were awarded to RCS seniors at RCS Foundation scholarship ceremony on 4/19.

Board of Education, Sandy Fiaschetti

- China – impressed by the students who traveled to China and their openness to new experiences to food, culture and new friendships. Teaching style very different than ours, lectures only, no discussions.
- Waiting on bond proposals and Michigan funding budget before proceeding with RCS budget.

Rochester Education Association

- Doug Hill, absent, report read by Nancy Benedettini
- National Teacher Day (May 3) and National Teacher Appreciation Week

Officer Reports

President, Samantha Phillips

- Michigan PTA Convention Update – April 15-16 – Lansing – 4 delegates from RCS (highest in state). Workshops were disappointing, but still interesting. Good vendor information. Encouraged more delegates to go next year to represent RCS.
- Michigan PTA Awards awarded to: Meadow Brook Elementary, VanHoosen Middle, Adams High school. Also, Council Award of Excellence.
- PTA Council senior scholarship of \$500 each awarded to:
 - RHS - Andrew Schaefer
 - Stoney Creek - Jennifer Cline
 - Adams - Connor McDevitt
 - ACE - Jacob Walrath
- Safe Routes to School – mini grants awarded to University Hills Elementary and Reuther Middle school
- Talk Early Talk Often (TETO) Parent enrichments were well attended with approximately 80 parents at both the elementary and middle/high school events.
- Green Schools received a DTE Green Currents Award

- Partnership with Rochester Education Association and PTA. First meeting held determine areas to support each other.
- Field Trip sub-committee – looking into 3rd grade field trip to Michigan Outdoor Adventure Center in Detroit.
- Recess/Kinesthetic Movement sub-committee – looking into recess options at elementary level and different learning techniques. Brooklands principal, Teresa Simonetti to discuss with elementary schools. Notes can be found on Google docs.
- Presidents Breakfast – May 5th – invite new presidents

Vice President, Barb Rill

- Attend Board of Education Meetings - Next regular meeting is May 9, 2016 - Barb, North Hill & Long Meadow representatives to attend
- Media Update. Authors In April postings. Please send year end activities to post in local papers.

Vice President of Membership, Amy DiCresce

- Membership Update – 33 members (30 paid members, 3 comp members) – Met goal for the year!
- Meeting sponsored by:
 - Colburn, McDonald & Associates Realtors
 - Lozier Music
 - FlipSpot Gymnastics and Cheer
 - Shamrock Travel
 - Rochester Sports Cards & Memorabilia
- Raffle prizes:
 - Colburn, McDonald & Associates gift basket #1: Jenni Glaspie
 - Colburn, McDonald & Associates gift basket #2: Iran Ducharme
 - Colburn, McDonald & Associates gift basket #3: Michelle Ruprecht
 - FlipSpot Gymnastics and Cheer \$25 gift card #1: Jeannette Howes
 - FlipSpot Gymnastics and Cheer \$25 gift card #2: Tracy Gruber
- Collections for Pontiac. See flyer. Partnership with Rochester Education Association to collect used school supply items that might be thrown away. This is to supplement teacher supplies for the classrooms. See SignUp Genius for one person per school needed to collect and empty collection boxes occasionally. Amy to deliver boxes to schools. Doug to print hard copy of flyers with permission slip to elementary age. Middle & High school distribution electronically. Will need extra volunteers to collect on the seniors last day of school. Will need volunteers this summer to sort through donations, Sign Up Genius to be sent at later date with more information.

Secretary, Nancy Benedettini

- Approve Meeting Minutes of 3/17/16 as written.
- Please update new officers and chairs on Directory Update in Google Docs:
<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1BOHwpZNaQDdR5fKyqjJfTXE5VUBkBQScrEzdHqkNBg/edit?usp=sharing>
- TETO Parent Enrichment Update – 80 parents at each Elementary and Middle/High school events. Great turnout and well received by parent reviews. The cost of \$1,600 was well spent with 160 parents able to learn the skill of having conversations with our children about puberty and sex. Susan Demeniuk, RCS Health Advisory Board Chair would like to see TETO brought back every other year to our district.

Treasurer, Tracy Gruber

- Treasurer's Report
- STEAM grants – 5 schools out of 17 (elementary/middle) schools did not use available grant money, \$1,000 remaining. Discussion regarding on if and how this remaining money should be allocated. Possible options were first five requests, or increase amount and open again to all 17 schools. The last grant offering was for new or expanded STEAM programs. This discussion was tabled.
- Proposed 2016-2017 Budget presented. Vote to be taken at May meeting. Note of new item to give Authors In April \$150 to sponsor the scavenger hunt. If there are any questions or comments, please send to Tracy prior to our next meeting.
- MI PTA increased annual dues to \$40, effective this June. Please update your school budgets accordingly.
- Safe Routes To School Update – Katy Johnson from Safe Routes will be meeting to discuss possibility of adding more schools to the program, and offer support as needed.

Committee Reports

Nominating Committee, Tracy Gruber, Nominating Committee Chair

Presentation of Slate:

President – Barb Rill
VP – Jenni Glaspie
VP Membership – Lisa Roscoe
Treasurer – Tracy Gruber
Secretary - Amy DiCresce

Nominations can now be accepted from the floor. Vote to be taken at May meeting.

Authors In April Committee, Lisa Wattai

- Contact: Lisa Wattai, wattai4@att.net
- AIA was a huge success. 360 people at banquet. All authors well received, entertaining, and taught valuable lessons to the students.
- PowerPoint picture recap of AIA week
- May 6, 2016 – middle school reveal for 2017
- Next year Authors In April will be April 24-28, 2017
- AIA banquet will be Monday, April 24, 2017

Legislative Committee, Barb Anness

- Council Rep Contact: Barb Anness, tbanness@aol.com
- Next Legislative Committee Meeting: May 6th, 9:30am Admin Bldg, Parker Room
- Presentation of Rochester Community PTA Council Legislative Committee Statement of House Joint Resolution HH: Constitutional Amendment to Eliminate the State Board of Education. Barb Anness presented the statement and open discussion as to What/Why/Where of State Resolution HH. She stated the likelihood of this Resolution to pass in the House is small, but its message is big, and asked our Council to take a stand. Samantha asked the question: "Is the Resolution right for our kids?" Please use that as our guide if we as a Council would like to take a stand.
- Motion by Lisa Kowalski, Second by Michelle Bueltel, to accept the statement as written by the Legislative Committee, to state "PTA Council" instead of "Legislative Committee". Therefore, the Statement would read:

Rochester Community PTA Council Statement on House Joint Resolution HH: Constitutional Amendment to Eliminate the State Board of Education.

The Rochester Community PTA Council is committed to advocating and being a voice for children, not only in our school district, but for all children in public education throughout Michigan.

This Rochester Community PTA Council recognizes and supports the value of a locally elected school board to govern policy decisions regarding curriculum, teaching and the administration of the Rochester Community Schools district.

To that end, this Rochester Community PTA Council also recognizes the value and importance of the Michigan State Constitution calling for an elected State Board of Education.

Therefore, the Rochester Community PTA Council DOES NOT support House Joint Resolution HH to introduce a constitutional amendment to eliminate the State Board of Education and Superintendent of Public Instruction, giving education oversight to the governor through a governor-appointed Director for the State Department of Education.

At its inception, the State School Board and State Superintendent of Public Instruction were to be elected by the Michigan electorate, given independence from the governor's office and were designed to operate independent of the political branches of Michigan's state government. The Rochester Community PTA Council encourages the preservation of local voter rights to best advocate for Michigan students and public education policy. This separation allows the elected professional officials of the State School Board to carry out policy that is in the best interest of ALL children in our state.

- Motion to accept statement was unanimously approved.

Green Schools Committee, Wendy Barthelemy

- Contact: Wendy Barthelemy: wendybarthelemy8@gmail.com
- Next Green Committee Meeting: June 6th, 9:00am-11:00am
- Earth Day – thank you for great support of Earth Day events
- DTE Green Currents Award for enrollment challenge. No numbers available yet. With award there will be 20 students to go on free field trip to wind farms.
- Recycle Bank – 11 schools were awarded grants totaling \$23,180 for green school initiatives.

- May Green theme – *Join the Race to Make the World a Better Place* – no idle cars, walk/bike, turn of electricity
- June Green theme – *Make a Splash* – save water

Special Education PAC Committee, Lisa Kowalski

- Contact: Lisa Kowalski, lisakowalski1984@gmail.com
- The 2016-2017 dates for Disability Awareness Workshop are now available. Also offering non-profits or religious groups the chance to use the DAW program during a Community Night. There will also be slots available during the school day if a middle or high school program wants to use the workshop for a secondary purpose next year. Examples include Health and Welfare Committee initiative or High School Practicum class opportunity.
- PAC information magnets (size of a postcard) for all PTA Presidents or parent leaders who want a reminder of what PAC does and how to contact PAC.
- 1,810 students in RCS with an IEP
- IEP Training and Advocacy Enrichments 2016 – Fall 2016 – PTA and PAC partnership to help and support RCS families through the IEP process.
 - September 27th 6-8pm at West Middle school – Mechanics of IEP and laws on behalf of children. To be presented by Oakland Schools.
 - October 11th 6-8pm at West Middle school – Parent advocacy. To be presented by a non-profit child advocacy group.
 - Childcare will be provided, plus quiet room available on both evenings.
 - PAC is paying for these events.
- PAC has \$10,000 extra funds and is looking for ideas of something schools may need. Contact Lisa if you have an idea of something your school could use.

Non Profit Community Partner

Blessings in a Backpack, Kim Williams

- Program in 7th year at RCS.
- Currently 212 RCS students at 19 schools receive weekend meals.
- In addition, adopted 60 students at Owen Kennedy School in Pontiac
- Rochester summer program partners with Rochester Hills Public Library to deliver same times/locations as Bookmobile. 98 students will participate. More food and toiletries are passed out during the summer. In addition, partnership with Raising Rochester to give fresh produce during the summer months.
- Continue to collect toiletry donations, Health & Wellness Committee to coordinate.
- New 2016 – two RCS senior scholarships awarded, one for a student in the program and one for a student who helped the program through community service.

New Business

- None

Meeting Adjourned at 12:14pm.

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: 5/19/2016

Approved as corrected: _____ Date: _____

Minutes taken by Nancy Benedettini, Secretary