



Meeting date:	September 18, 2017
Time (Start/Adjourn):	6:00 -7:20 PM EST
Attendance Total:	17
Board Members:	(6) Kerry Labovitz, Tasha Benson, Christine Sedam, Laura Hancock, Courtney Mulvey, Kierstie Keller
PTA Members:	(11) Lindsey Barnhorst, Ffion Prestidge, Jacquie DeFreze, Erin Fleming, Dawn Uliano, Gina Abood, Nichole Clayton, Katherine Errecart, Sheila Adams, Sophie Bednarek, Margaret Honda

## Agenda Items/Notes

### 1. Co-Presidents' Report

- i. Introductions
  - Members in attendance introduced themselves
- ii. Overview of goals and mission
  - To provide PTA members/public with information regarding the PTA's plans, events for the upcoming year
  - PTA hopes to obtain feedback regarding what is working, not working, recommendations, idea...all comments are welcomed!
  - This year is about giving back and showing where the budget is spent vs. large fundraising events
  - To be considerate about the number of PTA requests so it isn't a constant burden for members
  - We have approximately 95 members and have not had a huge membership drive yet; most people seem to have signed up to obtain the \$5 discount for ASE programs
- iii. Upcoming events
  - 10/26: Monster Mash (6:00 – 8:00 PM)
    - This event is our biggest fundraiser planned for the year and will consist of a haunted house, DJ/dancing, ice cream/treats, raffle baskets/items; a fortune teller may be included as part of the haunted house (need to confirm with Steve and find a volunteer to play the role)
    - Ticket cost = \$7.00 per person
    - Volunteers are needed for putting raffle baskets together, decorations, setup/teardown, baking treats, event check-in
      - ❖ Action: Kierstie/Courtney to plan and create Sign-up Genius
    - Jacquie mentioned that teachers aren't aware of the need for donating raffle items until the last minute
      - ❖ Action: Kierstie will create an email that will be sent to Mrs. Lull and Mrs. Soucy for distribution to teachers/staff
    - Example raffle items were discussed such as game night basket, baking basket, designated event parking space, Principal for the day, etc.
  - 12/5: Staff Cookie Exchange
    - Looking for Volunteers to bake for this event
      - ❖ Action: PTA to create and send sign-up genius for event
  - 12/8: Polar Express Night (6:00 – 8:00 PM)
    - This event is for kids to enjoy a movie night complete with popcorn and hot chocolate and for parents to enjoy 2 hours to do some shopping, wrapping or just some free time
    - No set event price - By Donation
    - Red-carpet type drop-off planned (trying for elf or festive costumes from greeters)

- Looking at Rye Rec babysitters to assist with the event
  - Volunteers needed in some capacity
    - ❖ Action: Courtney/Kierstie to determine needs and create sign-up genius
- iv. After-School Enrichment (ASE) Update
- Report
    - We are currently running 11 of the 13 ASE session 1 programs
    - 2 were cancelled due to low enrollment (Morning yoga and Basketball)
    - Members are taking advantage of the \$5 discount
    - Highest enrollment comes from Kindness Ambassador Club and Capture the Flag
    - Jewelry making is well received
    - Might consider dividing certain programs by age groups to keep similar interests/levels
    - Stipend is \$50 a class if anyone is interested or has a specific skill they'd like to instruct
  - Ideas
    - Moth Story-telling (see Grant request area for more details)
    - Holiday crafts/baking
    - Cupcake decorating (Lilly Murray from Rye Beach Treats.com was recommended)
    - Hip Hop LA Beatz
    - Knitting or Sewing
    - Chess (leveraging HS chess players)
    - Adult ASEs (Beer sampling, Quilting, Knitting)
- v. Suggestions/ideas
- Diversity and acceptance assembly is being investigated per a suggestion from Suzanne Lull
    - Action: PTA to investigate possible speakers for presentation
  - School lunch/payment of school lunch program
    - Currently there is not a program in place that allows parents to track what their child is having at lunch (i.e. 3 chocolate milks, 3 lunches at once)
    - Lunch program payments consists of reminder emails and checks sent to the office to replenish available funds
      - ❖ Action: PTA to consider Apps that will allow monitoring of lunch purchases and online payment for lunch money
  - Drop off/Pick up notification
    - Currently there is a "Manual" process for obtaining up to date pick up notification – parents either send in a note or the office of any changes which can cause confusion and extra work for both parents and administration
      - ❖ Action: PTA to investigate apps such as Pickup Patrol (used by North Hampton) to allows for online updates for pickup changes
  - Online forms/Parent Portal
    - Currently we use paper-based forms to collect information for back to school records, fields trips, emergency contact forms, etc. which causes a huge amount of manual entering, filing, as well as redundant collection of the same information (for those with large families)
    - Sheila mentioned that "PowerSchool" has an add-on Module for forms but when presented to the school board it became an issue of large expense
    - Also mentioned was "Infinite Campus" and "Parent Portal"
      - ❖ Action: Suggest that people attend the School Board meeting to show the importance/interest in incorporating more technology into our systems

## 2. Vice President's Report

- i. Grant requests and vote
  - **RJH enrichment program** - Request to fund \$1639.80 towards the following enrichment programs:
    - Doghouse building – \$500
    - Laser cutter – \$300 wood and leather
    - Typing and cursive – \$89.90
    - Project Pintrest – \$150
    - Sperros – \$175
    - Babysitter course \$150
    - Survival life skills \$50
    - Changing spaces – staircase to make music – \$75
      - ❖ Motion to approve grant; Unanimous YES vote
  - **Moth StoryTelling** – Erin Fleming presented the concept as an ASE to help facilitate student artists through storytelling. Students would learn the components to building their own story and would present it in front of their peers and/or at a larger venue such as 3S Artspace or other local location
    - Concept was presented differently at the meeting vs. the written grant which outlined an audition/competition style vs. everyone having the opportunity to present
    - Discussion around how this could also be a potential learning opportunity as audience members to be deep listeners and provide a safe space to be vulnerable
      - ❖ Motion to table the grant until next month for the details of how the program will run to be solidified and re-submitted

## 3. Treasurer's Report

- i. Budget Report and vote
  - Changed the fiscal year to align it to the school's fiscal year
  - There is approximately \$51K in the bank due to the large fundraising events in the past
  - PTA is expecting to make approximately \$10K in ASE
  - Proposed Budget Items:
    - Monster Mash fund distribution to align it more to the Ice Cream Social
      - ❖ Unanimous approval
    - Remaining Regatta funds to be used for other supplies for the program vs. on the boats themselves
      - ❖ Unanimous approval
    - Overall 2017-2018 Budget
      - ❖ Unanimous approval

## 4. Secretary's Report

- i. Approve Minutes
  - No minutes to approve since this is the first meeting of the school year

## 5. Communications Reports

- i. Other comments
  - Discussion over quarterly newsletter highlighting the programs PTA is supporting vs more frequent communication – no opposition

- We will still be sending weekly email updates and Facebook updates
- We are considering enhancements to the ryePTA.org website along with improvements for online membership forms/payments to be consolidated into one action

## 6. Other items

- i. Open discussion about RJH Regatta
  - Students in grades 6 – 8 will build dory boats, test them and participate in a regatta at the end of the year and auction off the boats
  - Comments on having this be a town-wide event ending with a BBQ where everyone in the community can participate
    - ❖ Action: Tasha to share more information about Regatta with Lindsey who requested it
- ii. Student Council will be selling “Notes to School” pads for \$3.00 in the office
- iii. School websites have changed – there will be a redirect from the old URL to the new ones:
  - RES – res.sau50.org
  - RJH – rjh.sau50.org
- iv. PTA member or family directory
  - Discussion over interest in creating this
  - Julie D? ran into privacy issues in the past but if there is interest we can reinvestigate
- v. RJH would like to run an open house now for the incoming 5<sup>th</sup> graders to we are top of mind vs. private schools
- vi. School Board is considering monthly newsletters which would include news from both RES and RJH regarding projects/activities/student council news, etc.
  - Suggestion for it to be on google docs where the latest is at the top vs. a long email format