

## PTO Meeting November 11, 2019

Meeting called to order at 12:33PM

### Members Present:

Natalie Kaiser  
Kelly Kroskey  
Principal Smith  
Amy Thomas  
Nicole Norris  
Raewyn Galloway  
Liah Lopez  
Jackie Bauer  
Maranda McSpadden

### Principal's Report

Ms. Smith announced Rising Starr's current CCRPI score is 97.6/100 which is up three points from 2018. The school achieved 100% mastery in Social Studies, Science, Math and English and is very possibly the school with the highest score in the county. She explained further about what the score is and how it's calculated. Also noted were the good gains measured in special education at Rising Starr.

Part of the CCRPI is the Climate Star Survey completed by parents (students and staff as well). That survey has recently been emailed out to parents. Rising Starr gets rated on the percentage of families who participate or complete the survey as well as on the results of the survey.

Ms. Smith credited the high scores to Ms. Rasnake's effective and targeted response to interventions that are needed when students experience gaps in their education and emphasized several times what a successful program we have here at RSMS!

Raewyn wondered if we, here in this affluent PTC community, had any idea how many families are using additional resources to support their child's experience at RSMS. Ms. Smith answered that she had no way of knowing for sure unless she asked families directly. Raewyn thought it would be interesting to know; and, if a high percentage of families do supplement their public education with tutoring, could that be tied to our score and success? Others added that there is a great deal of extra help available to students before and after hours at the school which many students use whether they are struggling in a subject area or not.

Ms. Smith attended the Lake Lanier Middle School Conference where she accepted *The Dr. Bob Puckett Effective Middle School Education Program Award* on behalf of the school for being "a very rewarding middle school experience". She plans to post a picture and details of the award on Facebook and/or Twitter. She and Mr. Harper are able to post to the school's social media so will catch those sites up on recent news.

Kelly suggested PTO post the announcement of RSMS 2019 Teacher Of The Year on its Facebook page as that was recently announced. There was a discussion about whether some of this other school news should be put on PTO's site. No definite plan or decision was made.

The Veterans Day program was nice and Ms. Smith expressed appreciation to all involved. General comments and positive feedback were also shared by other members.

#### *Upcoming events:*

The PTO General Meeting is coming up and Mrs. Smith will confirm with Jim Farmer soon that he will be speaking at the meeting. The meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m.

The Thanksgiving meal for the staff is coming up. This is prepared by the cafeteria and served for lunch.

Basketball games are in full swing. Girls are undefeated!

### **Presidents' Report**

Natalie posts each meeting's minutes on the PTO website. Ms. Smith asked that the minutes from the October 21 meeting be corrected to reflect that the one vaping pen that was recorded in the minutes as being found at SMHS was actually found at the (Willie Duke) auditorium. There is no way of knowing for sure if the pen belonged to someone at the middle school, high school or public. I agreed to mention the change here in these minutes. Here is the amended text for the report: "One vaping pen was found at the auditorium."

The minutes for the October 21 2019 PTO meeting were approved by Amy and seconded by Liah.

The General Meeting is December 3. Christie Hendrie's husband and Jim Farmer are our guest speakers on the subject of cyber security. Raewyn suggests promoting the meeting's topic by emphasizing Mr. Hendrie's expertise in high level security. Natalie encouraged all PTO board members to attend the general meeting to set an example to parents and out of respectful consideration to our guest speakers.

Since LeAnn was not yet at the meeting to give her Treasurer's Report, Natalie suggested we move on to the other committee reports.

### **Hospitality**

Donuts are being provided to staff on Friday. Kelly received a request from Mrs. Burnett for PTO Hospitality committee's help with a snack for the staff on November 18 or 19 as a thank you for their participation in the PBIS program at RSMS. Since donuts are being provided this Friday, the 15<sup>th</sup>, it was proposed that Mrs. Burnett's request be combined or rolled in to the donut snack PTO is already planning. Kelly will reply to Mrs. Burnett with this idea, copy Liah and Liah will work something out with her. Ms. Smith added further explanation of PBIS and its role and purpose at RSMS. It's being implemented by all teachers during Literacy. PBIS is a

behavior modification program to be used to promote good behavior in school. RSMS doesn't really have the need for ongoing lessons on how to behave in class. The kids are generally well behaved and don't need the constant teaching and re-teaching of good classroom behavior. Instead, as a way of integrating this program here at RSMS, lessons are taught that promote employability skills (or the soft skills). Natalie asked if this request for PBIS assistance would be an ongoing need and if PTO needs to consider a budget item for PBIS. Ms. Smith did not think it needed to turn in to an ongoing or regular need above and beyond what PTO already does to show staff appreciation. Nicole and others offered suggestions on how Mrs. Burnett might integrate PBIS staff appreciation into the upcoming donut day.

Nicole is coordinating the gift wrapping for teachers. She will send out teacher sign up this week and parent sign up Dec 2. It was suggested she send a brief announcement about it to parents before Thanksgiving. Not a sign up just a save the date type announcement. She agreed and will do so.

### **School Programs**

Kelly had no updates except that the schedule for popcorn and ice cream isn't filling up as well as it has in the past. She makes it work but does have to make last minute substitutions or changes on a weekly basis. The Board asked to be notified or included in the requests for help.

### **Box Tops**

Raewyn had exciting BoxTops news to share: Kelly Kroskey scanned a receipt for BoxTops and earned \$0.10 for RSMS this week!! It was her first scanned receipt. Well done, Kelly! To date we've collected \$539.80 worth of box tops clips and scans. \$413.40 of this total is from clips. \$15 is from a single scan Natalie submitted earlier this year!! Yet another notable and generous contribution by our dedicated Board presidents!!

### **Spirit Wear**

Amy's received \$3500 in gross receipts with profits to be calculated. She may order a zip front shirt that she was wearing which several staff have shown interest in, and she will continue to fill orders for new students. A Board member asked if there were best sellers from this year and if Amy would make any changes to spirit wear procedure next year. Sweatshirts and hoodies sell well, as did the shirt with the distressed panther logo. She does keep track of sizes and styles that sell and which don't. The apparel this year is sized for adults and is still a bit large for most middle schoolers, even the extra small size. Next year she wants to seek student preferences and get logo and design ideas from the student body and its art students.

### **8<sup>th</sup> Grade Dance**

They are having a committee meeting in January to build a crew and work on remaining decorations.

### **Treasurer's Report – as texted in to Natalie from LeAnne**

Net profit for Spirit Wear is \$1097.20. Publix earnings are \$356.47

PTO will need to order new checks and banking items because its bank is merging with another. LeAnne suggested we use this opportunity to consider changing banks. The bank we use is not conveniently located.

PTO taxes are complete and submitted.

### **Staff Appreciation**

Guidance Counselor Days are coming up in February.

### **8<sup>th</sup> Grade Picnic**

The committee is considering increasing the price for the picnic from \$20 to \$25 dollars. Most of us agree that this would be ok.

### **New Business**

Kelly reminded the Board of its responsibilities to show up for PTO events including these meetings, the general meeting and to fill in gaps in sign-ups as needed.

We discussed the recent Career Fair. The feedback we heard from our kids was positive. Ms. Smith informed us that the county may take over the fair in the future so it won't be coordinated by the school counselors anymore. She also felt the event was a success. Natalie and Liah heroically served as RSMS's parent volunteers and they noticed some students seemed overwhelmed as they arrived not sure where to go or start. They wondered if the kids had enough time to take in all that was offered. Ms. Smith said she was able to visit all five of the main areas and felt that if students came prepared to visit their top three picks of the five areas then they had plenty of time. Some schools may not have prepared their students to manage their time well. She also pointed out that bus constraints also effected how much time kids could spend at the fair. Liah noticed that careers in the culinary field were not really represented. She also knows someone who is a police sketch artist that might be interested in participating in something like this in the future.

Meeting adjourned 1:47PM

Respectfully and humbly submitted, Maranda McSpadden, BoxTops Committee Co-Chair