

SSMS PTA Meeting 9/30/14

Welcome and opening remarks by Michelle Sewell and Tish Garrett. Introductions of this year's Teacher reps, Jackie Giaccone and Bob Baulsch, Executive Board and committee members.

There was an issue with the email system. If you are not receiving email blasts from SSMS, please email Kate Ditchik at chek@optonline.net

Treasurers Report - Christina Belling – review of the proposed budget. For the most part, the budget is in line with 2013-2014

Revenues \$22,850

Program Expenses \$13,275

Total expenses decreased slightly \$30,250

Cash forward \$14,482

Motion to approve the budget – Sue Quilty, 2nd Liz Mullen – Budget approved

Board of Education Representative, Mark Mason, provided the following updates:

- Bond Improvements:
 - High school & Watson renovations on target for completion
 - High school – 1st part NW portion scheduled for completion 9/15
 - 2 years for final completion
 - High School field is complete – track and football field
 - Middle School air conditioning
 - Some units installed on the 1st and 2nd floors
 - Rest of the units are at the State Education Dept for approval
 - 400,000 in savings in aid when the state approves the plans should be approved shortly and anticipated completion in Spring.
 - Work will start as soon as approved by the state for all remaining air conditioning units district wide.
 - Outside contractors will do the installation on a project basis
 - If there are any questions, please feel free to contact the board of education at boe@rvcschools.org or Mark directly at mmason@rvcschools.org

Bus concern 7th grade soccer – Ms. McGinn advised that there was a complaint regarding erratic driving by the bus driver of the girls team. The coach and the girls did not feel that the bus was being driven erratically or sped off. The athletic dept and the bus company were both contacted. All of the girls appeared to be happy and safe.

Concern raised over a mud pile on the MS Soccer field. This will be investigated as per Ms. McGinn.

Committee Updates:

- Health and Wellness – Cammie Harloff & Noreen Leahy
 - Thank you to the PTA for the donation to the health & wellness walk
 - 512 walkers confirmed at the event – it was a great day
- Directory – Danielle Ray - directory is a membership perk – join the PTA \$9
- Apparel - Sue LiCalzi, Gina Langdon and Alanna Bender
 - Initial sales have already exceeded budget expectations
 - \$4000 in sales for \$3000 in net income
- Newsletter – Jill Nass
 - Twice a year, submit any ideas to Jill
- Drug and Alcohol Task Force – Cammie Harloff & Noreen Leahy
 - Spring there will be a parent presentation - possible ideas: heroin and the legalization of marijuana
 - Raise awareness among parents
 - Start the conversations early and often
- Fall Fundraiser – Rosemary Talkin and Elizabeth McGettrick
 - Invites will go out this week
 - 11/14/14 at the Parish Center – Couples
 - Sign up for solicitations for the event – we need everyone to consider helping or getting together to donate a basket
 - There will be a Chinese auction and a silent auction
 - \$65 per ticket
- Picture Day - Barbara Barker 10/29 and 10/30 on your gym day
- SEPRVC – Elizabeth Mullen and Maryanne Pedersen
 - SEP rep will be at all PTA meetings
 - This provides an opportunity for all to bring up any questions, issues or concerns
 - New website will be linked to RVC Schools website and also RVCSEP on facebook
 - Dance classes for those that may need additional support at Ms. Colleens
 - Other offerings will be discussed monthly as well
 - Fundraising year round for scholarships
 - Noreen Leahy gave the details of inclusiveness of this new leadership model and how it is in keeping with RVC schools philosophy of inclusion.

Still need volunteers for additional committees: Rec Center Dances, curriculum, audit and 8th grade breakfast and end of year party

President's news - What can we do for you? We want you back at each meeting - encourage you to come back.... Random lottery tickets presented to attendees under their seats

Principal's report:

- Great opening this year – 7th & 8th graders very helpful to the new 6th graders
- 2 new water fountains – thank you PTA
- E Backpack used by middle school for iPads, Edline used by all schools
- Login to Edline – there is no need for a separate parent login
- Powerschools password is for parents
- No one is allowed to use school notes anymore
- Link to both Edline – link to teacher Edline and then link to eBackpack
- I Pads – there were issues with the new apple upgrades.
 - Parents are in control of the child's itunes account
 - You can change the password, delete any games you do not want your child to have access to on the school ipad
 - Ipads are not allowed in advisory or the cafeteria – these are areas where the children are encouraged to be social
- Upcoming Lunch Study Assembly – Anti Bullying Pledge
 - Entire school will take the pledge to be an upstander
 - Each member will have their names on a star and enter on a banner
 - Photo of entire school
- Upcoming 8th grade Challenge Day in conjunction with RVC Police Youth Officer
- National Junior Honor Society - Washington DC trip or a StayCation in RVC
- MYP – SSMS is in the candidacy phase for grades 6,7,8
 - Only school in Long Island that includes every student in the building
 - On-going training this year, we will apply next year

Minutes submitted by Margaret McGuire