

SSMS PTA Meeting

September 12th, 2018

1. Welcome- Irma Altman introduced herself and Christine Kufta as the 2018-2019 school year PTA presidents. She welcomed everyone back to school and thanked all for attending the meeting. Irma shared the PTA email address- RVCSSMSPTA@gmail.com. Please feel free to use the email to contact the PTA.
2. Board of Education – Board of Education members John O’Shea, Susan McNulty and Kelly Barry were at the meeting. They welcomed everyone back to school and are looking forward to a great year. They encouraged all to reach out to them with any questions, suggestions or concerns at BOE@RVCschool.org. They are here to answer questions, advocate and support.
3. Vote to accept May minutes made by Irma Altman. Motioned by Michelle Sewell; seconded by Emma Travers. All in favor.
4. Introduction of the 2018-2019 SSMS PTA Committee- Christine Kufta introduced the PTA Committee members-
 - Co- Presidents- Irma Altman and Christine Fufta
 - VP Fundraising- Larry Maier and Justine Aranki
 - VP Membership- Stefanie Giangregorio
 - VP Communications- Anita Meehan
 - Treasurer- Faith Varley
 - Recording Secretary- Pegi Connors
 - Corresponding Secretary- Marie Eckrich
 - Delegates to Council- Maria Yarris and Tricia McCabe
 - Alternate Delegate- Patricia Ganly
 - VP SEP- Kelly Lynch
 - Advisors- Shelagh McGinn and Emma Travers
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5. Motion made to add Justine Aranki as VP of Fundraising made by Irma Altman; seconded by Emma Travers; all in favor.
6. Treasurer’s Report and Presentation of the Budget- Faith Varley reported that the PTA balance as of August 31st was \$7,700. There have been no significant changes although there are a few outstanding expenses.
7. Motion made to accept the 2018-2019 budget made by Irma Altman; seconded by Kaitlyn Keogh; all in favor.
8. Committee Updates-
 - Dave and Buster’s Event- Irma Altman shared that Sept 12th is the last day to order tee shirts. A flier went home in the summer mailing. Information regarding the

event will be emailed, as well. Last year's event was a great success. The committee is hoping for a great turn out this year.

- Fundraising- Larry Maier and Christine Aranki introduced themselves and explained the new approach they will be taking regarding fundraising this year. It will be a multistep, yearlong process that will involve both raising funds and building a sense of community among middle school families. A letter will be sent out at the end of the month that will make the case for support of the PTA and ask for monetary donations. Donations can be made online. A mega-raffle, to be raffled in the Spring, will be organized and supporters will receive raffle tickets based on their donation amount. A fundraising team is in the process of being organized. Members of the team will be asked to make a donation, attend one of the three "Parent Night Out" events, and help out in other ways throughout the year.
- Picture Day- Picture day will be on Sept. 25th and 26th. Forms have been sent home with students. Students will take pictures on the day they have gym. Parent volunteers are needed- please sign up to help.
- Apparel- Jen Demos shared that the committee has changed vendors. Apparel will now come from SMP. There are all new designs and items. Orders can be made online and can be picked up or delivered.

9. President's Report- Irma Altman and Christine Kufta shared-

- The PTA was once again represented at the West End Community Day.
- Thank you to Janna Pinsky for the staff welcome back breakfast.
- Two chairs for the 8th grade party are still needed. They would like one volunteer from 7th grade and one from 8th. Additional volunteers are needed to help with the dance, breakfast and other festivities.
- All are encouraged to shop at Models and use the 15% coupon. 5% will go back to the PTA.
- Box Tops are still being collected. They can be dropped off in the Middle School lobby, at the Rec Center or at Kara Spinelli's house.

10. New Business- Irma Altman- No new business.

11. I-Pad Information- Jen Pascarella- The I- Pads are to serve as an educational tool. They, and the keyboards, should be brought to school charged and ready to use. Parents are encouraged to buy insurance, which needs to be renewed every year. Students should be reminded that they should be careful with them, as they are delicate and expensive. They are meant to help and supports students and their learning, not to hinder them. The I-Pads are the school's property. The administrators have access to them. They are monitored and can be searched. Parents are encouraged to monitor the students screen time and to not allow I Pads to be left in the bedroom overnight. If the student is having trouble managing and using the I-Pad responsibly it can be taken away from them. All school work can be completed without the use of the I-Pad. The goal is to help teach students how to manage technology in a responsible and appropriate way. Ms. Pascarella also explained the difference between E-backpack and Powerschools. Powerschools provides access to live information such as grades

progress reports and report cards. E-Backpack provides access to homework, assignments, hand-outs, classwork.

12. Principal's Report- Shelagh McGinn-- Ms. McGinn introduced Ms. Jacobs, the new library media specialist. She thanked Ms. Keogh and Ms. Giacone for serving as the teacher representatives. She shared that the opening of the school year has been wonderful. Teachers and older students have been very helpful to the 6th graders. The school lobby now has an anteroom. Parents are buzzed in now. When you drop off anything it will go into a box till period 5. Parents will show their license and have a picture taken. The info will then be stored district wide. Call guidance if you want a meeting with teachers or wait till after Back to School. Remember to fill out an emergency card. Encourage your child to use their agenda book. Announcements will be posted on the RVC Schools website in the morning. Download the RVC Schools App. There are many clubs - encourage your child to get involved. They can check the Club Central Board. There is a late bus at 3:40 for bus riders. Intramurals will begin soon. Practice will be held Monday thru Thursday until 3:25.

13. Motion to adjourn the meeting made by Emma Travers; seconded by Marie Eckrich.