



Rocky Run Middle School PTA Meeting Minutes

January 4, 2011

Respectfully submitted by Barb Waldmiller

Welcome and Call to Order done by Carol Cleveland at 11:37pm

In Attendance were: Carol Cleveland, Matt Eline, Janet Reyda, Mary King Taylor, Susan Hoyler, Kathy Richter, Donna Baker, Martha Alderman, Terry Cleveland, Amy Newberry, Barb Waldmiller, Terry Angelotti, Beth Margarida, Jen Zhey, Evelyn Irani

The minutes from the December 7th meeting were approved by voice vote as submitted.

Added to this meeting's **agenda** were: a report from SpiritWear, and Susan Hoyler who is working on publicity.

The Treasurer's Report: "We are cash healthy at the moment". (Account statement presented at meeting for specifics.)

Publicity Report given by Susan Hoyler: The PTA Directories went out before Christmas to members. Members who have not received them might want to check their child's backpack (☺). Susan did a statistical analysis and found that less than 1/3 of the Rocky Run families are members of the PTA. It is believed that this may be a publicity issue (or rather lack of) more than anything else. So, using the labels provided by the school, at the same time the PTA directories were sent out to members, people who were not already members received a flyer asking if they wanted to become a PTA member. That tactic netted 12 new memberships.

There was a discussion about what should or should not be included in next year's directory. Some things discussed were the inclusion of home addresses, parent's email addresses, and parents' names. Also discussed with the potential addition of these fields was an "opt-out" choice. Susan will have a prototype ready for February's meeting with a Zoomerang Survey or a Survey Monkey so the PTA can give her feedback.

There was a question about selling the directories outright – to non-members – and it was pointed out that it was tried at Chantilly HS and did not work, and it also was pointed out that it would be a "disincentive" to join the PTA. So, the idea was scrapped.

The new and improved **Rocky Run Website** is being shown to Mr. Eline by Pam Messersmith on Thursday, January 6th. Carol Cleveland has contacted Chantilly HS to see if there were 2-3 kids looking for volunteer hours who would be willing to work on the PTA portion of the website. She is waiting to hear back.

The **Holiday Staff Luncheon** held on Monday, December 20th went well. Mr. Eline reported that the staff appreciated it, and Carol reported they had enough food. The PTA provided lasagna and volunteers brought in salad, bread and desserts. There was enough food, but more volunteers were needed, especially for the clean-up.

SpiritWear sales are dismal. While many like the new tie-dye shirts, there is some thought the shirt may sell better if the font were a bit more masculine. Before new ones are ordered, the designs will be able to be viewed via a link on the PTA website.

The **Reflections Chair** has announced that the work of 2 Rocky Run students (Noah Shin - Music Composition; Vooha Putalapattu – Photography) will be recognized for their entries in the Reflections Program by the Fairfax County PTA on Tuesday 1/18/11 @ 8 PM (Centreville HS Auditorium). Their entries will be forwarded to the VA PTA. Once the results from the state competition are known, we will have a recognition ceremony at Rocky Run.

Next month, as per VA PTA rules, we will be electing a **Nominations Chair**.

Kathy Smith will be attending the next RR PTA meeting which will be held Tuesday, February 8th at 11:30AM.

The documentary “**Race to Nowhere**” is being co-sponsored by Rocky Run and Franklin Middle Schools and being shown at Chantilly HS auditorium on Thursday, February, 10th at 7pm. There will be a panel discussion following the screening, but the goal is to be out by 9pm. Pre-Sale tickets are available for \$10 online and \$15 at the door. More information on ticket sales is forthcoming. For information on the documentary go to: <http://www.racetonowhere.com/about-film>. Due to the mature nature of the film, parents only are encouraged to attend.

Financial Report from the President: Carol reported that we’re only down ~ \$1,000 in fundraising money and \$900 in dues. We have received \$1700 from our business partners and some money from the No-fuss Fundraiser. Carol is proposing not funding the following three items:

- 1) All night graduation party (\$100)
- 2) CPMSAC (**Chantilly Pyramid Minority Student Achievement Committee**) (\$100)
- 3) Fairfax County Scholarship Fund (\$100)

There was a reminder that the **No-Fuss Fundraiser** is never closed! Here is the link to print off the donation page: <http://www.rockyrunmspta.org/forms/nofuss.pdf>

Here is the shortcut to donate directly:

<http://www.pay4schoolstuffonline.com/>

The Principal’s Report: Mr. Eline is deciding what to do with his grant money. Paying for remediation, as has been done in the past, is being considered, but he will give a full report in February.

Jackie McKeown, the Director of Student Services, is retiring at the end of February. The job will be posted on Monday, January 10th. Two parents are asked to sit on the interview panel all day Wednesday, January, 26th. Interested parents should contact Mr. Eline: (email: Matthew.Eline@fcps.edu).

Goal Setting Pilot: The goal setting will be kicked off in the PE classes in the next couple of weeks. 4 teachers (2 PE teachers, 2 counselors) are going to training on January 20th for **Naviance**. This is a pilot program for RR. It is a program usually used at HS, but it will be a state requirement next year. It is about the exploration of careers based on personality and interests. i.e., ‘if you’re good at mat and science, here are a cluster of jobs to consider. . .’ The program will be run through the PE dept. In June the current 7th graders will participate in it, and again in 8th grade.

NAEP “**The Nation’s Report Card**” has randomly selected RR to test 150 8th graders. A letter will be going home. Everything is confidential. The children are selected randomly. RR does get a report back, but, it only gives general information since there are no names attached to anything.

*The **Winter Dance** held on December 17th was well attended (by ~ 200 kids). There were no problems and the kids seemed to have a good time.*

Meeting adjourned 1:00pm.

Next meeting Tuesday, February 8th 11:30AM