Tuesday, January 12, 2021, 6:30pm

RKE PTO Executive Board Meeting (REMOTE)
Board Attendees:
Jazmin Lawhorn
Elizabeth King
Catherine Bishop
Melissa Chernovsky
Jillian Fleshman
Lindsey Rouse
Lisa Lyman
Sarah Seller
Carolyn Waters
Michelle Baccomo
Wendy Smith

Principal's Report (Jazmin Lawhorn)

- Reopening Survey:
  - Sent out to ALL AACPS families, not just elementary. Encourages all families to fill it out. Changes can be made to the survey up until the deadline. Whether or not changes can be made after that is a big question.
  - School faculty/staff/admin continue to get the same information from AACPS as it pertains to schools re-opening/new schedules and the like that parents and guardians do, generally at the same time.
- On eventual school re-opening:
  - Preparations continue to be made.
  - There will be very strict procedures in place to keep students and staff safe, e.g., parents/guardians will not have the same access to the building as before.
  - Due to the new more contagious/less easily detected strain, we are taking preparations and subsequent safety guidelines very seriously.
- School Supplies:
  - Trying to gather as much information as possible using the survey and teachers' observations of students missing supplies during class.
  - Reach out to the front office for anything not on the survey list.
  - In answer to a question posed by a board member, she will try to find the specific information o items and where they can be purchased if a parent/guardian wished to replace something themselves.
- Chromebooks:
  - They are being sent out in waves. RKE is waiting for their next wave. This last wave is for the people who said they could wait to receive one.

- Anyone who didn't fill out the Chrome book survey will have to wait until the final distribution.
- Q) Can sites be blocked remotely by AACPS or does it have to be done physically on the hardware? A) Believe so, yes.
- Q) Can people decline a Chromebook? A) When students return to school for hybrid learning they will only be allowed to bring an AACPS device with them to school. If by chance someone forgets their device, there are desktops that can be used. There are strict detailed cleaning protocols in place for in between users.

Staff's Report (Mrs. Covington-Alexander) re: Community resources for RKE families:

- Following up on some of the questions/discussion about resources for RKE families from the last general meeting. Mrs. Covington-Alexander works closely with a myriad of different personnel from Homeless Liaisons, to Pupil Personal Workers and Translators to constantly reach out to and help members of the RKE community find resources to get any needs met. She is on the phone daily reaching out to students and their families.
- Different schools have different needs and different abilities to meet those needs, e.g., community schools versus commuter schools (which RKE is).
- A school counselor's job is to provide resources so that families can access them on their own.
- All counselors have the crisis response information on the bottom of their emails.
- Most families get the majority of the help they need from churches, friends and the sharing of information from those sources.
- Q) Are there other day to day needs, beyond food issues, like needing transportation to pick up chrome books that the PTO could help with? A) If there is someone who can't get it, we will get it to them. R) Perhaps the PTO can serve as an additional resource if you can't get tit somewhere.

President's Report (Elizabeth King): Discussion regarding PTO Statement in support of BOE Black Lives Matter resolution

- Discussed what transpired at the December 16th BOE meeting in regard to the language "Black Lives Matter".
- Statement: Saying it is great, but are we going to put our money where our mouth is and walk it out.
- Should it be something that is in some way added to the bylaws.
- Need to be cognizant that it is a hard conversation to have for some people.
- Work to expand diversity on the board and the membership.
- Suggested to make it a mission statement and part of the bylaws. Make it part of the PTO foundation.
- Statement: Walking it out is most important.
- Finding resources for parents

- Suggested using the language Anti-racist/Anti-bias as a more all-encompassing guiding framework.
- Other types of action we can take as a board/PTO, e.g., Attend diversity talks, book club.
- AACPS already works Social Justice into daily lessons in an age-appropriate way, for example during community circle.
- Statement: When we listen, lean in, and have tough uncomfortable conversations is when the work happens.
- Will check out other PTO/PTA pages to see how they may have addressed it.
- Suggested we revisit the topic, allow everyone to digest the information/conversation from tonight.
- Carolyn will put together some stuff for consideration.

Possible special PTO meeting about reopening

Topic for Feb 9 meeting: Q&A

PTO role post reopening – serving in school and at home students/teachers.

- Make sure that whatever is done covers both in-person and virtual.
- Hybrid may make it easier to find ways to help teachers than virtual.

Vice President's Report (Catherine Bishop)

Teacher Appreciation - Holiday Gifts: Gifts are being distributed this weekend.

Treasurer's Report (Melissa Chernovsky)

- Box Tops: Due to the diminished returns of using box tops, we will no longer utilize them and instead focus on other things like Amazon Smiles.
- Budget:
    - 21,337 in the bank
    - Paid out $624 for PTO fees, insurance, and dues for national membership.
    - Q) Does CC take a percentage of dues paid to RKE PTO? A) I believe it does.

Social Media Report (Sarah Seiler)

- Supporting the RKE Community: Think about purchasing teacher appreciation items/food for luncheons/breakfasts from businesses owned by RKE families as a way to help support our school community.
- Rocket Blast (Carolyn Waters)
    - It was suggested that it may not need to be published weekly.
    - Needs to be easily searchable within email. Using the same starting line was suggested.

Fundraising:

- Book Drive Report (Lisa Lyman)
  - RKE Book Drive A Huge Success
  - Two at Rolling Knolls and one in the Admiral Oaks community.
  - A total of 102 students visited the book drives and 147 books were distributed.
  - Will wait until March/when the weather is warmer to start again.

- Special Events
- Virtual Events for families – any updates, possibilities for these?
  - Thinking about doing a virtual PTO night.
  - Could do a virtual fundraiser instead of Race for Ed. Possibly on a Wednesday because everybody would be virtual and half day so easy to miss instruction time.
  - Right now all of the focus is on re-opening, so there may not be enough bandwidth for events right now.

Teacher's Report (Michelle Baccomo)

- Yearbook:
  - We will be producing a yearbook this year. That does present its own unique challenges in the virtual world.
  - Planning on having a "picture day" where teachers will meet one on one with students and take a screen shot of them.
  - In addition to the 5th grade baby page there will be a Staff baby pictures. Coming up with other creative ideas to supplement to usual in school tableaus.
  - Will need help to upload/categorize photos into an excel spreadsheet. Any volunteer will need to be cleared to see/work with photos.
  - Working on an advertisement to entice people to get involved/to upload pictures.