RKE PTO General Membership Meeting

Tuesday February 12, 2019, 6:30 pm, Minutes taken by Secretary, Melissa Chernovsky

Principal's report (Elizabeth on behalf of Shira Dowling)

- The contract for Outdoor Spaces is being prepared for signatures
- Parent Teacher Conferences coming up on March 5th
    - For students who didn't already have a conference or those that need guidance to be contacted by the teachers
    - Signups are therefore not posted to the RKE website, but parents can reach out to teachers with the request
- February 20th – US Naval Academy Jazz ensemble
- Mids for Kids → need drivers, a Signup genius has been created to organize volunteers
    - There are 4 groups of Mids where 2 groups have drivers (upperclassmen).
    - Wednesday's group has 2 Mids, and Friday's group has 4 Mids.
    - Week of Feb 18-22 is exam week at the Naval Academy

President's Report (Elizabeth King)

- Hershey Park Ticket Sales (proceeds for Backpack Buddies) – Vanessa Sharf is spearheading
    - Tickets are $32.95 this year, proposing $37.00 (consistent with last year which was $5 proceeds on $30 cost)
    - orders need to be in by March 29th
    - Tickets are for general admission – good for all summer long, also can go the night before after 7pm on the same ticket
    - Last year 2017-18 sold 266 tickets and several meal tickets with $1 upcharge, bringing total for backpack buddies to approximately $1500.00!
    - Bonuses received from the sales were used as Race for Education student incentives

VP report (Audrey McGuire)

- No update on new memberships
- Teacher Appreciation:
    - January event – a dip bar
    - February event – soup day planning in progress for Thursday February 21st
    - A signup genius was created with the top 5 favorites from the teachers

Treasurer's Report (Kim Augusterfer unable to attend)

- Abbie McNomee turned in a check with all of the money from the 5th grade class donation to be put towards a portion of a table. Need to create a process and uniform plaque to commemorate the class donation

Volunteer Coordinator (discussion on behalf of Lauren Miller)

- Please when checking into volunteer, remember to sign in with the administrators as "Volunteer" and not as "Visitor"
- Also if volunteering outside of the school, send hour count to Lauren every month.

Special Events Coordinator (Catherine Bishop)

- Father/Daughter dance – Vanessa Sharf is volunteering with planning
    - Discussion occurred about when to hold the dance
    - Friday April 12th was proposed, but the School book fair with family night is on April 11th. It may not be ideal to have school events back to back, especially to maximize participation by students and parents for both events
    - Friday May 17th was proposed. Commissioning week is the next week where local families rent out their homes, so being ahead of the commissioning week is reasonable, rather than at the same time (May 24th)
    - Event to run 6:30 to 8:30pm with pictures set up 6:30 to 7:10pm.
- Variety Show – moving to March 7th with rehearsal on February 27th
- Rocket Blast - Please send Catherine any announcements you have for the Rocket Blast as content is needed.

Race for Education Committee (Lisa Lyman)

- Bought all the stamps before the US Postal Service increased the first class rate 😊
- Student assembly is planned for February 22nd – 30 minutes to get students excited about the race
- Then packets go out
- Labels will be due March 6th
- Teachers are tasked this year with the letter writing and folding
- Discussion occurred regarding T-shirts for the students.
    - Color will be orange
    - Should a form be sent home? This may lead to less leftovers, but would need to track those students who didn't send in forms and include them in the order
- Event being planned for April 26th, with the rain date April 29th.
- Goal is 20K to continue implementation of the phases of the Outdoor classroom plan

Secretary (Melissa Chernovsky)

- Box Top Collection to occur in Mid-February where the box tops must be tallied and postmarked by March 1st.
- Box tops are a great program for the school where funds do not have strong earmarks for particular purposes, just general well-being of the school. Funds at RKE have been channeled to special projects and incidentals to help fund activities for kids such as field trips.
    - For example, picture money – earmarks are in place where all students need to benefit

RKE Staff Report (Mrs. Bassett and Mrs. Dowling)

- Teachers are appreciative of the support and enjoyed the dip bar for the teacher appreciation event in January.
- Happiness Advantage – new RKE School Initiative
    - Positive journaling – discussion of student participation, parents shared that it wasn't a favorite for the students, it has ups and downs on being an effective strategy
    - Community circles are going very well
    - Mrs. Bassett shared that her class had a lot of fun with the meditation
    - Meditation activities will be rolled out to all classrooms in April
    - 15 minutes of fun – not required to occur outside. Can include games that build culture or sharing different songs from different cultures
- Part B of new RKE Initiatives is Restorative Circle for conflict / incident resolution
    - The restorative circle involves answering 5 questions with focus on what happened from different viewpoints, sharing thoughts and feelings from during and after the event, and who was affected
- Cultural Arts Participation was discussed
    - RKE is host for regional classes where joint community circles are shared with RKE students
    - Global Studies is a hit with many students
- Discussion of RKE policies for outdoor recess
    - If weather has temperatures < 32F with windchill or > ~90F students will not go outside, as well as if it is raining or the playground areas are covered with snow
    - There is no recess on 2 hrs early release or on opening 2 hrs late as the daily schedule including required guided reading and mathematics topics is quite compressed
- Band and Strings discussion
    - It is challenging to schedule band and strings without missing instructional time, students can be missing certain subjects such as art and/or recess regularly
    - Band and strings faculty are part time for individual schools and is dependent on total school enrollment. RKE faculty part time share is 2 ½ days and is shared with South Shore which fortunately is a short drive away.
- It was discussed that the school isn't having as many recurring transportation issues with late buses. Unfortunately, there are still regular speeders in the community and student drop-offs occurring in mid-intersection.
- Gifted and Talented identification testing is currently occurring for 2 grades:
    - 2nd grade as follow up from the Fall CogAT test, identified students are taking the Performance Series achievement tests which are all electronic with adaptive questioning sequences
    - 5th grade students are identified with PARCC test scores (from 4th grade)

Next General Membership meeting is on Tuesday April 16th 2019. Adjourn ~7:30pm.