



Ritchie Park Elementary School PTA Meeting Notes

Meeting Details

- **Date:** Tuesday, October 7, 2025
- **Time:** 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM
- **Location:** RPES Library
- **Meeting Slides:**  [Oct 2025 Meeting Slides.pdf](#)

Welcome & Introductions

The Ritchie Park Elementary School PTA President Debra Schaffer opened the second meeting of the school year.

Safety and Security Briefing by school administration

- School administration showed the MCPS safety video about Avoid/Deny/Defend strategy - [LINK](#)
- Request for the school community to complete post-briefing survey - [LINK](#)
 - The surveys are brief and anonymous. Information provided will only be connected to the school where the lesson occurred.

Questions:

- What content is shared with younger students?
 - No video is shared with younger kids, they practice the Avoid drill.
 - Six-graders watch the video
- How often does a school resource officer stop by?
 - Occasionally, by request - introduces himself to students
- What about the reunification procedure?
 - Parents fill their information and who they are picking up, school administration has emergency contact information to verify
- How are schools alerted about the emergency?
 - Administration gets phone alerts and make decisions independently, can consult with central office if necessary
- Do students get drills on emergency when they are not in the classroom

- Yes, school practices reverse emergency drills, i.e. when students need to come back to school in case of a weather emergency

Past event updates

Panther Picnic was a success, thank you to everyone who attended and to all the volunteers!

Upcoming Programs & Events

The PTA has several events planned for the upcoming months.

- **Family Skate Night:** Saturday, October 25, from 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM
 - Tickets are available now, the prices are less than regular open skate
 - Costumes are encouraged, but not required
 - Oct 25, 2025, 6:15 PM – 8:00 PM at Cabin John Ice Rink
 - RPES will have the whole rink to ourselves
 - \$8 Skate Tickets (required for anyone who wants to skate, +\$4 Skate Rentals
 - [PURCHASE TICKETS AND RENTALS HERE](#)
- **Community Service Night:** Thursday, November 13
 - When: Nov 13, 2025, 7:00 PM – 8:30 PM at Ritchie Park ES All Purpose Room
 - Will be putting together Comfort Cases, backpacks filled with comfort and personal care items for youth entering the foster care system.
 - Three parts to the program
 - Monetary Donations towards Comfort Case supplies - [LINK](#)
 - In-School Assembly with Comfort Cases founder Rob Scheer
 - Community Service Night on November 13 - This is the big night when our school community comes together to assemble Comfort Cases!
 - Learn more about Comfort Cases [HERE](#).

Fundraising News

The PTA will be running various fundraising initiatives to support the school.

- Spirit wear at PTA events - already sold over \$1,000 worth of t-shirts
- Restaurant nights - first one is coming up on October 29 at LEDO Pizza and Pasta
 - School gets 20% back from each order
 - Promotion during 5-9pm on October 29
 - Code for online orders to be shared closer to the event

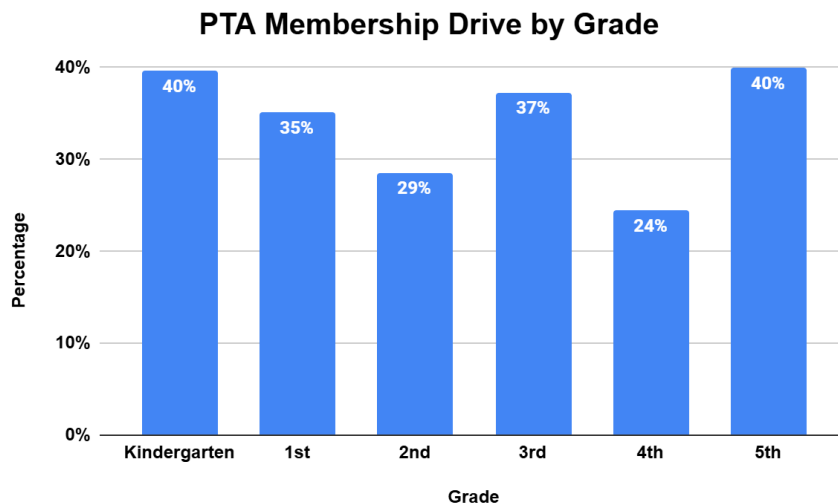
PTA Membership Drive

Results of the September membership drive:

Membership type	Number of PTA members, 2024	Number of PTA members, 2025	Goal for 2025-2026 (20% increase)	Percentage towards the goal
Family	69	69	83	83%
Individual	20	30	24	125%
Parents Total	89	99	107	93%
Teachers/Staff	13	23	16	147%
PTA Total	102	122	122	100%

We are at 93% of reaching our goal for parent PTA members. \$4,500 has been raised via PTA membership drive toward the goal of \$5,000.

Results of the “competition” among grades for the most parents in the PTA - Kindergarten and 5th Grade will have popsicle parties. Please encourage others to join, we are at 36% of school kids having parents in the PTA, would love to see the numbers increase some more.



A live raffle took place among everyone who joined the PTA in September. Winners of PTA Membership Drive movie basket raffle were Prab Poreddy and Marie Rienzo

Teacher and Staff Appreciation Update

- September BSTN Dinner - PTA sponsored a pizza party with pizza, salads and a cookie platter for staff. Thank you for making this happen!
- **Thank you so much for your generous donations! Our Amazon wish list is now complete.**

- Next Up - October Staff Lounge Restock. We will restock the lounge on Friday, October 10th. Thank you for fueling our staff's and students' success!
- November Staff Breakfast from 4th and 5th Grade
 - Calling volunteers from 4th and 5th grade to support staff breakfast on Friday, November 7th. More details and volunteer sign up coming to room parents.
- Volunteers Needed - Still calling for volunteers to assist with the Staff Appreciation Committee.
 - Short, monthly commitment to plan and execute staff appreciation events. We have it down to a science but need some parent volunteers. Minimum effort, big rewards. Contact Emily Newlan for more information.

MCCPTA Update

- Boundary Study-Revised options coming out on 10/13
- More information at www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/facilities/boundary-study

Book Fair Preview

- Fair takes place during December 1-6
 - Set up: Monday, December 1
 - Storytelling Night: Tues., December 2
 - Bar-T sponsored event (TBD): Thurs., Dec. 4
 - Brrreakfast & Books: Sat., December 6
 - Close fair: Sat., December 6
- Fair is a great opportunity to raise funds for the school, get the new books for the library and classrooms
- Ways to support the Book Fair - opportunities to volunteer, sponsor a student and help with supplies for the book fair.
- More details about the fair can be found in the slides at the end of PTA meeting [deck](#)

The next PTA meeting will take place on Tuesday, November 4, from 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM