September 2026 General PTA Meeting Notes

Date: September 1, 2026
Location: Ritchie Park Elementary School
Meeting slides: Sept 2026 PTA General Meeting Slides.pptx

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1. Welcome & Meeting Overview

- **Purpose:** A supportive organization for our school & community; strengthen connections between families, staff, & students.
- **Schedule:** Monthly meetings typically on the 1st Tuesday (1 hour). Details at www.ritchieparkpta.org.
- **Volunteering:** Volunteer as you can — every bit helps!

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2. 2026–2027 Board Members

- **President:** Wendy Boland
- **Co-Vice Presidents:** Kim Abramson Adams, Ethan Baker
- **VP of Programs:** Marie Rienzo
- **VP of Communications:** Alla Shkiler
- **VP of Fundraising:** Adam Bookman
- **Treasurer:** Suchi Vajrala
- **Secretary:** Yasha Moz
- **MCCPTA Rep:** Maureen Geary
- **NAACP Rep:** Jennie Jacoby

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3. PTA Programs, Events & Shout-Outs

- **Recent Events**
  - **Back to School Picnic:** Shout-out & thank you to all organizers and volunteers.
  - **Teacher/Staff Appreciation:** PTA provided a Potbelly lunch and a small gift to staff during in-service week.

- **Upcoming Events:**

    - **Family Skate Night:** Saturday, Oct 10 | 6:30–8:00 PM
    - **Community Service Night:** Thursday, Nov 12
    - **Scholastic Book Fair:** Mon–Sat, Dec 7–12
    - **Book Fair Storytelling Night:** Thursday, Dec 10 | 6:30–8:00 PM
    - **Boosterthon Fun Run:** March 19
    - The full list is on the PTA website and will be sent home with kids

Staff Appreciation

- Fun and exciting, event planning committee dedicated to “showing the love” to our RPES teachers, admin. and staff.
- Monthly activities ranging from stocking the lounge with snacks, to catered lunches to fun activities to make sure our staff feels loved and appreciated.
- Next event is pizza dinner on Back to School Night.
- Seeking volunteers who enjoy:
    - Detailed and fun event planning - great for after hours support
    - In-person set-up/clean-up and occasional cleaning and organization – great for those with daytime availability
    - Social media posts and witty commentary to share activities with RPES community on FB and PTA website.
- Please contact Emily Newlan (301) 455-1379 or emilynewlan@gmail.com

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4. Membership Drive

Membership Type	**2024-2025 Actual**	**2025-2026 Actual**	**2026-2027 Goal**	**2026-2027 Actual**	**% Towards Goal**
Family	69	70	80	35	44%
Individual	20	34	40	17	43%
Parent Total	**89**	**104**	**120**	**52**	**43%**
Teachers/Staff	13	23	25	13	52%

PTA Total	**102**	**127**	**145**	**65**	**45%**

- **Funds Raised:** $2,130 raised through membership fees + $240 raised through drive donations.

Please join PTA and encourage other parents to join!

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5. 2026–2027 Budget & Reserve Funds

- **Bank Balance (7/1/2025):** $44,127
- **Bank Balance (7/1/2026):** $41,978
- **Projected Income (AY 26/27):** $32,500
- **Projected Expenses (AY 26/27):** $41,421
- **Projected Reserve Balance (7/1/2027):** $33,057
- **Reserve Fund Utilization:**
    - $6,000 Field Trip Fund ($1,000 per grade).
    - Goal: Spend down $7,000–$10,000 of reserve funds.

Discussion & Questions:

- **Q: Some classes are larger, do we need different amounts to different grades**
    - A: All grades are 57-63 students, so no need to make adjustments
- **If Boosterthon is successful, why do other fundraising?**
    - Boosterthon is the main thing, other things are minor and optional, i.e. merch and restaurant days
- **Can you share expenses?**
    - Yes, we will share detailed spreadsheet with PTA members
    - Biggest categories - $11K for events, assemblies, field trips, fundraising costs (Boosterthon), Maryland PTA dues, credit card fees, insurance, staff appreciation, etc.
- **Are teachers still doing Amazon wishlists?**
    - Teachers are not allowed by school system guidance
        - Sometimes teachers may ask parents for certain supplies
    - PTA is supportive
    - Is there a way to learn about the needs, so parents can fill it?
        - PTA can do it, school can not
        - Volunteers are welcome to step up and coordinate

Budget was approved unanimously

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6. MCCPTA Updates (Maureen Geary)

- **Elementary School Boundary Study Timeline:**
    - **Phase I (Closure/Consolidation Study):** Aug 2026 – Feb 2027

        - Last time it was done in 1980s, now projecting fewer students in coming years, reviewing school condition
    - **Superintendent Recommendations:** Feb 2027 – March 2027
    - **Board of Education (BOE) Vote:** May 2027
        - Will decide on potential closures
    - **Phase II (Boundary Options & Feedback):** June 2027 – Dec 2027
    - **Final Recommendations & BOE Adoption:** Feb 2028 / May 2028
    - **Effective Date:** 2029–2030 School Year
- **Screen Time Audit:** K–8 review of device/survey usage data; report due to BOE by March 2027.
- **Capital Improvement Projects:** Facilities Advisory Committee applications due Sept 4th.
- **Montgomery County Vaccination Clinics:** Free vaccinations available through Sept 25th (Tdap, HPV, COVID-19, etc.).

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7. NAACP Parents' Council Update (Jennie Jacoby)

- **Upcoming Focus Topics:** Math curriculum changes, special programs, boundary studies, and budget priorities.
- **Contact:** Email Jennie at Jrosejacoby@gmail.com to join the distribution list.

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8. Communications & Resources

- **Channels:**
    - School Directory - sign up
    - Newsletter - monthly PTA communication, usually first or second week of the month
    - PTA Website - afterschool programs, upcoming events
    - Facebook Group
    - Take-Home Folders - using it less to be more green
    - Mrs. Heifetz's Weekly Newsletters has a PTA section

Volunteer to help with event photography

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9. Updates from the Principal

- **New school routines**
    - Working on less crowding by the doors
    - Introduced Voice Meter
    - Teachers walk their kids to cafeteria and sit them down, less lines for lunch, more clean up stations
- **Safety week drills last week, more practice drills coming**
    - Emergency protocols are available throughout the school and online, parent instructions are available for pick up
- **Parent Child Reunification reminders**

- **Update “Release to” and Emergency Contacts**
    - If you want emergency contact to be able to pick up, there is a form for that in ParentVue
- **Begin the year forms:**
    - Arrival and dismissal form - very important and helpful to school staff
- **Testing calendar has started**
    - Attendance matters!
- **Back to School Night on Sept 10**
    - Starts at 6:30 - two sessions - first is meeting the teacher in your child’s classroom, second session is shorter if you have more than one kid, can meet resource specialists in the cafeteria

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Next Meeting

- **Date:** October 6, 2026 at 7:00 PM