

RPES PTA Meeting

October 3, 2023

Welcome

Amy Haddad called the meeting to order and welcomed parents and staff to the second PTA meeting of the 2023-2024 school year.

NAACP Delegate Update

Latoya Peterson, was slated to introduce herself as the NAACP delegate, however was not able to make the meeting and will introduce herself at the next meeting.

Upcoming Events

Thank you to Victoria Padin, Jenni Templeman and all of our volunteers for an amazing back to school night full of food, games, music and fun.

Check out upcoming programming for the RPES community.

- Shake Shack Restaurant Night: Oct. 18
- Next PTA Meeting: Nov. 7
- Skate Night: Saturday Oct. 28
- Cultural Heritage Night: Thursday Nov. 16
- Pizza Bingo: Friday Jan. 19
- Community Service Night: Feb. 22

In particular Cultural Heritage Night is an incredible opportunity to share your culture - and learn about the dozens of other cultures that make up the Ritchie Park community.

Visit the RPES PTA website - <https://www.ritchieparkpta.org/events> to keep up to date on programming and sign up to attend or volunteer.

All of these programs rely on generous donations from the parent community to the PTA. Nat Gorman leads fundraising and is always looking for volunteers to help fund these initiatives.

- **AtoZ Directory**

A to Z Directory: *Current and New Parents!* Please update or add your contact information <https://ritchieparkpta.membershiptoolkit.com/>. This is where you can find information about your children's friends and parents (think playdate connections).

- **Geo Bowl**

Shrimant Mishra, one of 5th grade parents, has been organizing a geography bowl for the 5th graders for the past 3 years. We have a template from other elementary schools that we tweak. Kids can learn geography and win an ice cream party and compete for a trophy that rotates from class to class (think the Stanley Cup).

- **Budget Update**

We are still waiting to close the books on last year to make accurate budget projections. The board is hoping to have the budget on the slate to vote at the next PTA meeting.

Currently we have healthy reserves, however we want to make sure we prevent significant future deficits. It was shared that there are rules around the middle school PTA budget that can carry over into the next year. The board will ensure they understand rules for deficit carry over.

Spirit Wear

Get your Ritchie Park Spirit gear and show your school pride. The greater the school sales, the greater percentage we receive. New sales start each Friday.

You can easily find links to the store on the RPES PTA website.

Teacher Appreciation

Thank you for fulfilling the teacher appreciation Amazon Wish List. The list was filled in record timing. Stay tuned for more initiatives moving forward in the next couple of weeks.

Updates From Mr. Winter

Principal Winter greeted the audience and acknowledged Vice Principal Tibbs and teacher rep to the PTA, Humma Asad, a new third grade teacher at Ritchie Park (she's also a local Bethesda resident with four children of her own).

First Quarter

We are more than halfway through the marking period. Interim reports are coming on Thursday on Synergy. Mr. Winter noted if you see anything concerning or in question to please reach out to your child's teacher.

Walk to School Day!

Join Principal Winter on Oct. 4th for walk to school day. He will be at Potomac Woods Park at 8:25 and will walk to school.

Professional Development Day - 10/9

On Monday, Oct. 9th there will be no school for students. Teachers will be at school doing training in the morning and working on the School Improvement Plan in the afternoon.

Picture Day - 10/13

On Friday, October 13th will be picture day and dress as your best day. Reminder for kids to look good and smile. If absent there is a makeup day in November.

Room Parents

Principal Winter has met with parents over the past several days and a letter with suggested donations will come out during the week of Oct. 9th including how to pay.

Halloween Celebrations

Parties will take place on Oct. 31 rain or shine. RPES will be doing a traditional celebration. Classrooms are not to be decorated beforehand.

The school is putting together a working group with parents and staff to talk about what is and isn't working - and what changes we might want to make around Halloween celebrations. The group will present recommendations to the PTA in May 2024.

Open House

Open houses will be held November 10th - 9:15 - 11:15 am across all Richard Montgomery cluster schools. If you cannot make this date you can coordinate with your child's teacher a day after November 10th.

Every Child, Every Day

RPES is committed to investing in every child, every day. Mr. Winter encouraged any parent with thoughts or ideas to reach out as he wants to make sure they are being responsive to parents.

MAP Testing

MAP testing ends on Friday, October 6th. A 5th grade parent expressed concern about the changing 5/6 test to now test on 6th grade content that has not been taught yet. Principal Winter indicated that he had reached out to the math department based on other feedback and had not heard back re answers to questions.

Parents noted that communication is key and that the school/district can do a better job communicating with parents and students to manage student expectations as the community was not aware of this change.

School Improvement Plan

Mr. Winter shared updates on the school's new School Improvement Plan that is now focused on a three-year plan with four different paths. This is aligned with MCPS' 7-step college, career, and community readiness plan.

There is a four step plan that includes;

Step 1: Data storytelling and root cause analysis - why are results the way they are?

Step 2 Develop SMARTIE goals in literacy, math well-being, and school culture. Think SMART goals with the addition of "I" for inclusion and "E" for equity). This ties into anti-racism plans.

Step 3: Plan school based strategies, actions and measures to accomplish goals.

Step 4: identify needed supports and professional learning to best implement the plan.

RPES has submitted to MCPS as of September 14th and is awaiting feedback from MCPS. Once they review there will be a version uploaded to the website once we receive final approval.
Literacy

Collaborative planning discussions and professional learning have not been geared toward differentiating learning for our Hispanic, African American and students with IEPs. The resources, training, instructional practices will support student learning.

By the end of the 2023-2024 school year, at least the following percentages of the following populations will meet or exceed the EOY DIBELS composite score benchmark:

75% of African American students

77% of Hispanic students

79% of special education students

By the end of the 2023-2024 school year, at least the following percentages of the following populations will meet or exceed the EOY Measures of Academic Progress in reading (MAP-R) composite RIT benchmark:

79% of African American/Black students

89% of Hispanic students

62% of special education students

For additional views, visit slides that will be sent by RPES on Sunday, October 8th.

Mathematics

District Math Goal (from MCPS Strategic Plan): By the end of 2025 school year, 90% of all students will be meeting the Evidence of Learning in Math, with an Academic Achievement Component Overall score of 2.6 on the Equity Accountability Model.

School Math Goal (This represents the overall **student achievement** of an underserved focus group(s). Achieving this goal will be essential in order to accomplish the District goal for all students, and address the root cause of inequity at the school level:

By the end of the 2023-2024 school year, at least the following percentages of the following populations will meet or exceed the EOY Measures of Academic Progress primary (MAP-P) composite RIT benchmark:

73% of African American/Black students

90% of Hispanic students

95% of special education students

50% of EML students

By the end of the 2023-2024 school year, at least the following percentages of the following populations will meet or exceed the EOY Measures of Academic Progress in mathematics (MAP-M) composite RIT benchmark:

50% of African American/Black students

73% of Hispanic students

57% of special education students

For additional views, visit slides that will be sent by RPES on Sunday, October 8th.

A few points to note:

- There is not an accountability plan for RPES or MCPS, nor is there an awareness if the goals are realistic. Mr. Winter indicated he would reply to parents when he has more information.

- Special education means any child with an IEP.
- County targets are 90%, below our standards
- A parent questioned if there had been any correlation to the Eureka math rollout and student performance. Mr. Winter indicated he would reply to parents when he has an answer.

Next PTA Meeting

Amy Hadad adjourned the meeting and noted that the next meeting will be held on November 7th.