

Minutes – January 12, 2012
RPCS Middle School Parent Network

Present at meeting: Kathy Blue, Middle School Parent Network Chairperson
Verna Moore, Middle School Head
Joyce Fraiman, Middle School Parent Network Secretary Substitute

6th Grade Parent Reps:
Diana Sugiuchi
Melanie Baker
Joyce Fraiman
Ruby Younus
Bhavneet Bharaj

7th Grade Parent Reps:
Sara Ball
Sheeba Mathew
Ana Frenkil
Jeff Frenkil
Paige McGee

8th Grade Parent Reps:
Tonya Hardy
Michael Spencer
Doty Jackson
Carol Brewer
Cathy Fishel
Sharon Credit

The meeting was held in the Trustee Seminar Room and was called to order by Kathy Blue at 8:00 am.

Review of December Events

Holiday Fair (Shramko report by Kathy Blue): Over \$21,000 generated from this event. MS basket sold 229 tickets. Both the greens table and bake sale tables did very well. Popular games/tables included obstacle course, snowman toss, lemon sticks, fish and jail. It was noted that lemons were gone by about 3:15 and we were short on some lunch items as well. Dunking booth and spin art did not generate a lot of money, either due to lack of popularity or cost of supplies which limited profit.

Immersion Day/ Sleepover (report by Verna Moore): College students from Morgan State and Loyola assisted our girls with roller coaster construction. Sleepover was positive with no exceptional news to report.

Parent Email Communications to Students during school hours from Verna Moore (in newsletter)

IMPORTANT REMINDER: EMAIL and MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS: Please refrain from emailing your daughter during the school day. If she sees an email from you in her Inbox, it will distract her from her academics. Responding to that email during class would be considered a violation of

the Acceptable Use Policy. Should you need to get in touch with your daughter during the day, please go through Miss Keim in the Middle School Office and/or your daughter's advisor. Printouts of an email can be taped to your daughter's locker if it is essential that you pass on information to her. Miss Keim can be reached at x3024 or KeimA@rpcs.org .

Verna reiterated the importance of parents NOT emailing their daughters during the day. When the girls see pop ups from their parents, they want to respond to us and it puts them in an uncomfortable position because they know it is against school policy. Always go through Miss Keim.

For 8th Grade Parents: Looking Ahead to Upper School

Verna's January online newsletter had this information:

A Message for 8th Grade Parents: Moving to another division within the school is always an exciting time. Although it is still early in the year, many Eighth Graders and their families are already excited about the upcoming move to Upper School. Like the Lower School, we too have a careful and thorough transition process in place.

- Jean Brune and Upper School Head Ereni Malfa host an 8th grade Intro to the Upper School at a Parents' Coffee on Tuesday, January 31st at 8:00am in the Apgar Lecture Room.
- Ms. Malfa meets with 8th grade girls, and their parents, on Tuesday, April 3rd at 7:30pm in the Lower School MPR to present the curriculum overview.
- At spring conferences on Thursday, April 5th, MS advisors will give parents the course sign-up sheet and section recommendations.
- Ms. Malfa is available to answer any parent questions on Parent Conference Day.
- Course selection sheets are due in April.
- Advisors are assigned by the US Head in consultation with the MS Head and 8th Grade Team recommendations.
- Schedules will be mailed home, or available on-line, in early July.
- There will be a Latin Camp, free-of-charge, to prepare students for the transition to the Latin Program at Gilman in Upper School. This camp is required for students going into Latin II Honors and is recommended for students going into Latin II during the week of August 13.
- On the day just prior to the first day of school in August, all students new to the Upper School attend an Orientation Day designed to help them get to know the Upper School and its teachers.

Please don't hesitate to contact Ereni Malfa, malfae@rpcs.org, if you have any questions about this process or would like to hear more about the Upper School firsthand. It is always exciting when our girls move "up" to 9th grade and begin a new chapter in their memorable RPCS lives.

Maternity Leave Updates (report by Verna Moore)

Beth Venn: Is on leave with baby girl Laurel Owen Opelt Venn. She delivered on 1/9/12 and baby weighed 6 pounds 6 ounces. A retired Latin teacher, Patricia Short, is subbing. Verna will send more information once it is determined how Venn's advisory will be handled. Currently, the girls are scattered. Beth is expected to return after Spring break, between March 27th and April 2nd.

Erin Greenhalgh: is due on February 10th. Miss Williams will be her sub and she will be spending several days with Erin before she leaves. Erin is expected to return around April 9th.

David Rosen: Leaving on Jan. 30th and plans to return on Tuesday, Feb. 21st. Girls will go to their alternate advisory due to the short time period. Molly Moores will be subbing.

Advisor Birthdays

January: Baker (½ bday, June 10)
February: Short (½ bday, July 29)
March: Rosen (22)
April: Bacon (7); Greenhalgh (21)
May: Pniewski (5)

Review upcoming January events (dates on attached calendar)

8th Grade Art exhibit (4-16)
Dr. King Convocation (12)
MS Winter Concert (12) ** DVD form
Schools Attuned Workshop (13)
School Holiday (16) ** Distribute materials
MS Spelling Bee (18)
6th Grade Drama Showcase (sorted by section, 3 dates, 18-20)
7th Grade Mixer (20)
8th Grade Mixer (20)
7th Grade Parent Mandatory Meeting FCD (25)
8th Grade Drama Showcase (26)
8th Grade Coffee: Intro to Upper School (31)

Gift Collection information update

Verna thanked us for her restaurant gift certificate and she looks forward to using it with her husband.

New Business

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service on 1/16/12 organized by Kaliq Simms, RPCS Director of Diversity & Equity. Information went out to girls and was resent through advisor reps this week.

Suggested activities include: Visiting MLK, Jr. Memorial in D.C. – organized bus trip
Making transition baskets for foster care youth
Marching in MLK parade in Baltimore

Contact Ms. Simms for more information at simmsk@rpcs.org or 410-323-5100 X 3035.

Teacher Appreciation (report by Tonya Hardy): Held week of April 30 – May 4th. Week will culminate with luncheon on 5/4. Theme is Champagne and Chocolate. Volunteers are needed throughout the day. It was suggested she get in contact with Lee Roebuck to coordinate volunteers. Donations can be made in the form of check payable to RPCS Parents' Association.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 am.

Respectfully submitted by,
Joyce Fraiman

2012 Dates

- Jan. 3 Classes resume
- Jan. 4 All Walk to School Day
- Jan 4-16 8th Grade Art Exhibit, Knott Lobby
- Jan 12 Middle School Parent Network meeting, 8:00 am, Trustee Room
- Jan. 12 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. All-School Convocation, 1:45pm, Athletic Center
- Jan. 12 MS Winter Concert, 7:30pm, Sinex (NO HOMEWORK NIGHT)
Verna Moore sent out a detailed email to students and parents
- Jan. 13 Schools Attuned Parent Workshop,8:00 am – 10:00 am, Trustee Room
Organized for Learning: will examine the organizational demands of learning.
- Jan. 16 NO SCHOOL - Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday
- Jan. 18 6th Grade Drama Showcase: Section 6-3
The Green Room
10:00 a.m.-10:45a.m.
- Jan. 18 MS Spelling Bee, Sinex, 2:30-3:10pm
- Jan. 19 6th Grade Drama Showcase: Section 6-1
The Green Room
10:00 am - 10:45 am
- Jan. 20 6th Grade Drama Showcase: Section 6-2
The Green Room
10:00 am-10:45 am
- Jan. 20 7th Grade Mixer at Boys' Latin
- Jan. 20 8th Grade Mixer at Calvert
- Jan. 24-27 Freedom from Chemical Dependency (FCD) on campus to address students
- Jan. 25 Mandatory 7th Grade Parent Event, 7:30pm (6th & 8th grade parents also welcome)
- Jan. 26 8th Grade Drama Showcase, 2:25pm-3:10pm, Sinex
- Jan. 27 First semester ends
Report cards, with grades for the first semester, to come home on February 7th.
Narratives and effort grades for Arts & Phys. Ed. will be included in these reports
- Jan. 30 Semester Two Begins
- Jan. 31 8th Grade Parents Coffee - Intro to the Upper School, 8:00 a.m., Apgar Room

Jean Brune and Upper School Head Ereni Malfa to host

- Feb. 1 ALL WALK TO SCHOOL DAY
- Feb. 3 MS Class Trip: BSO Youth Concert Live: A Journey Through Time
9:00 am - 11:30 am (all grades)
- Feb. 10 Middle School Parent Network meeting, 8:00 am, Trustee Room
- Feb. 17 NO SCHOOL - Faculty Professional Day
- Feb. 20 NO SCHOOL - Presidents Day
- Feb. 23 Schools Attuned Parent Workshop, 8:00 am – 10:00 am, Trustee Room
Paying Attention – explores the different parts of Attention and their impact on learning.
- Feb. 24 8th Grade Parent Coffee
- Feb. 24-26 Middle School Musical
- March 9 Middle School Parent Network meeting, 8am, Trustee Room
- March 19-26 NO SCHOOL - Spring Break
- March 27 Classes resume
- March 30 7th grade Mixer at Gilman
- April 3 8th Grade Students & Parents, 7:30pm, Lower School MPR
Ms. Malfa meets with 8th grade girls and their parents to present the curriculum overview.
- April 5 NO SCHOOL for Students: Parent-Teacher Conference Day
- April 6 NO SCHOOL - Good Friday
- April 9 NO SCHOOL for students: Faculty Professional Day
- April 11 Fine Arts Festival, 1:00-3:00pm, Gilman
- April 12 Middle School Parent Network meeting, 8am, Trustee Room
- April 13 6th Grade Mixer at Friends
- April 13 7th Grade Mixer at Bryn Mawr
- April 13 8th Grade Mixer at Gilman
- April 16-20 6th Grade outdoor education trip to Echo Hill (5 full days)
- April 19 Schools Attuned Parent Workshop, 8:00 am – 10:00 am, Trustee Room
Learning and Self Esteem – explores how learning strengths and weaknesses contribute to self-esteem.

April 27	6 th Grade Parent Coffee
May 17	Spring Concert
May 18	Middle School Parent Network meeting, 8am, Trustee Room
May 24	Dance Showcase
May 28	NO SCHOOL - Memorial Day
June 1	8 th Grade Exams (8 th grade dismissal at 1:30pm)
June 4-5	8 th Grade Exams (8 th grade dismissal at 1:30pm)
June 6	7 th Grade Bliss Luncheon for students and parents
June 7	MS Awards Assembly, 2:00pm
June 8	MS Closing Exercises & 8 th Grade graduation 2:00pm (no school in am)
June 11	8 th Grade Hershey Park trip
Aug. 29	Students in all 3 divisions will need to be at RPCS
Aug. 30	2012-2013 School Year begins: 1 st Official Teaching Day