
FLORHAM PARK PTA

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

MAY 31, 2017

RIDGEDALE MIDDLE SCHOOL

Executive Board:

Stephanie Rauschenberger
President

Val Huang
VP Ridgedale

Alfie Zirpoli
VP Ridgedale

Kathy Henning
VP Brooklake

Jennifer Casola
VP Brooklake

Alexis Seubert
VP, Briarwood

Nicole Takla
VP Briarwood

Liliana Cannizzo
VP Arts in Education

Kristen Fox
Treasurer

Jennifer Pulice
Food Treasurer

Kimberly Rezzonico
Recording Secretary

Sarah Iodice
Corresponding Secretary

Call to order: President Rauschenberger at 7:05PM

- I. **FP Music Department – Sondra Paulson(RMS) and Michael Leone(RMS)**
 - A. Mr. Serfozo was unable to attend, but provided a narrated video of a “day in the life” overview of the music programs at both Briarwood and Brooklake schools.
 - a. Handbell Choir: At Brooklake, 4th and 5th grade handbell choir is limited to 14 due to the limited number of bells. Students are selected through a lottery system of those who submit their names and there is a fall and spring group so 28 children can participate.
 - b. Chorus: They currently have 114 Brooklake students in the choir which is open to 3rd, 4th and 5th grade students. This is the largest group ever. He thanked the PTA for the generous donation of extra risers.
 - c. For the 4th and 5th grade he also teaches general music class. They work on keyboards learning note reading, melody, harmony, rhythm, forms and texture. The 5th graders’ final project is composing a song using the garage band software on Ipad.
 - d. At Briarwood, Mr. Serfozo teaches Pre-K – 2nd where he focuses on music and movement. They utilize Orff mallet instruments, but only have 8 so the students rotate through. He also works with the kindergarten teachers for their flag day concert.
 - e. At Briarwood they have Orff ensemble and Chorus for the second graders which perform at the winter concert. Orff ensemble is limited to 8 due to equipment restrictions and students are chosen by lottery. Chorus is open to all second graders.
 - f. A question was raised about the music program for the 3rd grade which is run by Mr. Hipwell. **Update:** Mr. Hipwell, who was unable to attend, provided his response: All students learn recorder in their grade 3 general music classes. They also begin learning band and string instruments in grade 3, although they are still invited to begin an instrument in grades 4 or 5.
 - B. **Mrs. Paulson and Mr. Leone provided an overview of the RMS music program**
 - a. Among the music offerings for RMS are Concert Band, Concert Choir, HP Marching/Football Band, Region Band, Jazz Band, Pep Band, Region Chorus, Brass Ensemble, Select Choir and General Music
 - b. For both chorus and band they meet twice during a 6 day schedule during 8th period. This is an optional class and they are not missing an academic subject or any new content. They receive a grade for this class on their report card.
 - c. There are currently 56 members of the band.
 - d. Jazz Band-This is an extra/after school band. You new longer need to audition to become part of this band and they encourage any student who might be interested to try it out. They perform at the concert band performances as well as out in the community.
 - e. Pep Band-They meet a few times a year, as the material is relatively easy and perform at home sporting events and pep rallies

- f. Select Choir-This is an after school group who perform in the community as well as to judged events.
- g. General Music-Every student has general music class where they are exposed to a wide variety of music genres and learn to read music.
- h. They have focused on bridging the RMS music students to HP through collaborative initiatives including the woodwind and brass ensembles now perform together with the HP students at the spring concert, the 8th grade students can now perform with the HP football band.
- i. The annual spring concert which is open to the community will take place Thursday, June 8th at 7pm on the RMS front lawn. Food trucks will be there and some seating. All are encouraged to bring a blanket and enjoy the concert.

II. Fun Fair-Alexis Seubert and Kristen Rowe. The Fun Fair will take place this Saturday 11am-4pm. They have added more food and games this year and were able to get a better deal from the vendor. So far 82 wristbands from 46 families have been sold. It was suggested to contact John Timmons at the town rec department to get it put on the town electronic message board. After feedback from last year, the volunteer shifts have been shortened but they need at least 10 more volunteers. They have contacted the boy scouts and they are going to help. It was suggested that they contact Holy Family as many confirmation candidates need service hours

III. Executive Slate 2017/2018-Kimberly Rezzonico and Jennifer Casola

- A. The executive slate for the PTA Board 2017/2018 was presented for general membership vote. The nominating committee submitted the following nominees:
 - a. Valerie Huang-President
 - b. Lisa Rossi-Vice President-Briarwood
 - c. Nicole Takla-Food Treasurer

The membership was asked for a voice vote. There was no opposition to the nominees and the three members were voted in for the 2017/2018 PTA Board.

- B. A new nominating committee was formed to fill the vacant RMS spot. Jennifer Casola will coordinate the committee, with Jennifer Pulice and Kathy Henning serving as the additional board members on the committee.. A request for two additional non-board members was made and Anna Cave and Mary Bill volunteered. Deadline for submission of candidates to Jennifer Casola is Monday, June 12th with nominating committee deliberations to happen before the end of the school year. Jennifer will work with the nominating committee to schedule that date. For additional information, including position description, please see the PTA website.

IV. Opportunities for 2017/2018 SY-Stephanie Rauschenberger

- A. Descriptions of all of the open Committee positions are on the PTA website as well as a sign up genius for those who are interested. There are a variety of committees open. For those that are interested but may have questions, please contact Stephanie Rauscheberger.
- B. There was a question about what the Sunshine Committee does. Stephanie explained it is the committee that is responsible for sending cards or gifts to Florham Park school district staff and Board members in acknowledgement of special events. (New baby, wedding, achievements, illness, etc.)

V. Lunch and Field Trips-Jennifer Pulice

- A. We are very pleased with how the first year of the new lunch program has rolled out. The lines are moving quickly and everyone is overall pleased the new program.
- B. Unfortunately, some of the upcoming field trips were not communicated in a timely manner by the administration to the PTA and it is too late to make adjustments lunches ordered that day. Food and supplies have already been ordered. A meeting is scheduled next week between the PTA food treasurer and the administration to streamline this process and communications to avoid this issue in the future.

VI. Lunch Survey Results – Jennifer Pulice

- A. 130 Responses out of 600 families. Of those, 60% liked the new program better. Some of the comments and suggestions for improvements were that they wanted healthier options, children didn't like the food and that they wanted more time for lunch. The PTA has no control over the amount of time the children are given but the lines are moving more quickly. Regarding the healthier options, it was noted that there are a much wider range of options now including salad bars and fruit. Regarding some children not liking the food, that was subjective and a small percentage of the respondents.

- B.** Bringing pizza back was again mentioned and is being looked into. There are challenges because historically there have been times that the pizza was delivered late and Michelle's Catering will now be responsible. Adding grilled cheese was also mentioned but without a griddle, is not possible at this time.
- C.** In response to requests, they have added more of the favorites during each of the ordering cycles.
- D.** People liked the short ordering cycles versus previous years.
- E.** Going forward they will schedule ordering times to not be close to school holidays.

VII. Outgoing Board Member Recognitions- Stephanie thanked Jennifer Pulice, outgoing Food Treasurer, for the countless hours and amazing job that she did in running the lunch program and especially in bringing in the new food program this year. Val Huang, incoming president, thanked Stephanie Rauschenberger for her tireless dedication and the outstanding job that she has done guiding the PTA over the last 6 years on the PTA Board, 3 years as Briarwood VP and 3 years as President. She will be greatly missed, but her contributions to the PTA and to the board will remain. Both were presented with flowers and a gift card from the PTA. Thank you both on behalf of the PTA Members and Board.

VIII. Correspondence – Sarah Iodice – The PTA received thank you notes for teacher appreciation week from Mrs. Tedesco, Miss Manno, Mrs. Pizzano and Miss Rebecca (Pre K-4), Mrs. Vitiello, Mrs. Viola, Ms. Pompei, Ms. Abdy, Ms. Franklin, Ms. Bernstein, and the 7th grade team. We also received a thank you note from Ms. Gilligan for the donation of oranges and water for the jump a thon, Marlene Rinaldi for her flowers, and Christy O'Conner for the baby gift.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:05pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Kimberly Rezzonico
Recording Secretary