**Royal Oak Middle School PTSA**

**Monday, October 21, 2019 (7:00 PM)**

**ROMS - Learning Commons**

**General Meeting Minutes**

**\*\*\***Present at meeting: Michelle Vinluan, Jason Vinluan, Peter Haun, Sarah Garcia, Maryanne VanHaitsma, Megan O’Shea, Kristine Huebner, Melanie Macey, Angela Maeso, Jennifer Rossbach, Rachel Wietrzykowski, Tressa Orthmeyer, Karen Eisenberg, Leanna Nickel, Finnegan Rossbach, Bridget Nelson, Marshan Taylor, Robb Taylor, Todd Noonan

Quorum is met (7 members constitutes quorum)

1. **Call to Order**

**Welcome and Pledge of Allegiance**

Called to order @ 7:03 PM.

Pledge of Allegiance made by all present.

1. **Secretary’s Report – Jason Vinluan**

**Approval of September 2019 Minutes**

\*\*\*Peter Haun made a motion to approve September 2019 minutes, Sarah Garcia seconded. All approved; no dissent. Motion passed.

1. **Treasurer’s Report – Sarah Garcia**

Sarah Garcia left copies of financials on counter for all present to review.

Sarah presented on month of September: Not a lot of activity in September, October generally has more activity.

* Income: $225.00 in sponsorship for Dawg Walk, $519.87 Kroger Rewards, $50.00 in ROMS merchandise/“swag,” $988.00 in memberships.
* Expenditures: $100.00 (pass through money) to sell memberships & make change, $1861.50 Bull-Dawg Bound. For Year - $5,060.83.
* Discussed Kroger Rewards: Tend to receive approximately $500.00 per quarter from Kroger Rewards. Angelo Maeso questioned if Kroger Rewards could be split between two schools in the District. No.
* Went over general account balance(s).

1. **Principal’s Report – Todd Noonan**

Todd Noonan thanked everyone for participating in The Dawg-Walk, it was a huge success & a blast! Thanks to the chairs & all the fundraising, without it, the DC Trip could not be the success it is!

Parent/Teacher conferences this week - Wednesday & Thursday, from 4:00 - 7:00 PM; cattle-call! Thank you to all the parents who come; your children’s teachers will be there! If you, or they, want/need to make alternate times to meet, please do so, in that your students teachers are here for you & your kids; and they are expected to help accommodate you @ alternate times/dates; be that over the phone or in person.

ROMS concerts this year: Orchestra - Oct 29th & Band - Nov 7th. Please stop by, if you get a chance, the kids are great & the music should be fantastic!

6th Grade Camp: Bridget Nelson asked Todd Noonan how camp went, this year? Todd indicated that it was great and that we should all be proud, they were and are a great group of kids. Todd went on to indicate that the dynamic and interaction between all three grades, this year (and for the past few years), has been fantastic; giving credit to the kids, their parents & his staff! Overall, just such a positive environment, and he couldn’t do it without the team effort, from all stake-holders.

Standards Based Grading Discussion:

* Jenn Rossbach asked Todd Noonan how the standards based grading was going, so far, this year? Todd indicated that the transition was going really well & that it much more accurately reflects a child’s learning and relative growth. Families need to talk to their student’s teachers if they have any questions, or concerns, regarding their child(ren)’s progress & path; or, generally, if they want to help their child(ren) on their learning path. Being positively engaged with your child(ren)’s teachers can only help them to grow, so please don’t be afraid to talk to them!
* Peter Haun asked if there will be information sessions regarding grading? Todd indicated that there will be sessions for parents with IEPs & 504s, as well as something, more generally, on Standards Based Grading & Mistar learning.
* Bridget Nelson asked if The High School uses the same grading system as ROMS? Todd Noonan, Jenn Rossbach, & Maryanne VanHaitsma indicated that ROHS has two grading/learning paths; but that they’re a bit behind on the Standards Based Grading path. The two paths @ ROHS are: IB Diploma Program and regular diploma.

1. **Board Member’s Report - Maryanne VanHaitsma**

Maryanne VanHaitsma:

* Reported that The District had ribbon cutting ceremonies for Oakridge & Keller Elementary, last week, and that they will be posting pictures. All are welcome to go on a tour and see the renovations, improvements, & upgrades.
* Bond work continues @ ROHS, numerous bids will be going out soon, cafeteria will be completed by 2020.
* The District did very well on its most recent audit, which just occurred.
* ROMS hosted ROAM home event which went very well.
* MLK Day (01/20/20): In planning stages, Berkley H.S. will be hosting this year; very nice event, please attend!
* Cultural Competency Group: Next two meetings - Jan. 7th, Apr. 21st. Feel free to attend!
* Book Club: Can still join! Additional information regarding book club is available.
* District happenings: Jay Marks recently gave a presentation on what’s going on in The District - continuous progress, improvement, and positive activities/happenings.
* Developmental Kindergarten Programs: Just came back from curriculum advisory meeting - really cool programs that will be great for the students; really happy to be able to offer to children who attend Royal Oak Public Schools.

1. **President’s Report – Michelle Vinluan**
2. **Committees:**

**-** Book Fair Co-Chair: Seats are still open, if anyone’s interested. Previously an 8th grade parent stepped forward expressing interest in co-chairing. Rachel Wietrzykowski asked how many book fairs there are per year (there are two); in addition to expressing interest in possibly co-chairing. Michelle previously reached out to Ms. Hill to get more information about the book fair; waiting to hear back.

- Grounds & Beautification: Seat(s) are still open, if anyone’s interested!

- Health & Welfare: Thank you to Karen Eisenberg for chairing! She will be partnering with Todd Noonan to come up with activities.

**2. Facebook Group:**

Reminder, this is a closed group. Membership is required by December 1st to remain in the group.

1. **Membership Report – Rose Castilla**

\*\*\*Chair was not able to attend meeting\*\*\*

471 Current Members! Yeah!!!

1. **Teacher Representative/Student Council Report – Kerry Derminer**

\*\*\*Teacher Representative was not able to attend meeting\*\*\*

Student Council remains proactive, engaged, positive, and inclusive! Yeah!!!

1. **Committee Reports**

**1. Reflections: Tressa Orthmeyer (Chair)**

Chaired @ Keller Elementary for the last 5 years. Was able to really increase parent engagement & student participation; as well as excitement from both groups & the Royal Oak Community, at large. The Arts are an engine to our economy, innovation, creativity, and free-thought; as such they should be championed, encouraged, and advocated for in our schools!

Currently working with Todd Noonan to get the word out that this is the 51st year of Reflections. They, together with Staff @ ROMS, are working on getting students excited to participate, as well as parents to encourage their child(ren) to do so. Last year, two students from Royal Oak Schools were able to make it to Reflections National judging; that is huge and a great honor and testament to Our School District!

Artwork to compete/submit to Reflections is due by Dec. 3rd, 2019. There are seven categories of art to compete in: dance choreography, film production, literature, music composition, photography, visual arts, & special artists. Judging, in the first round, is done by recognized “professionals” in Our Royal Oak community. Judging is done, under and through, an established rubric for the specific area of art.

Because The City of Royal Oak has one, dedicated, middle school; The District can send 4 students, from ROMS, to compete at The State level, in each of the seven major categories.

Our goal, as The ROMS PTA, should be to encourage as many students as possible to submit their art. Wouldn’t it be great if ROMS could get full representation, at The State level, in each of the seven, distinct categories?

\*\*\*Tressa Orthmeyer made a motion to increase the budget for Reflections to $400.00, Jason Vinluan seconded. All approved, no dissent. Motion passed.

**2. Dawg Walk: Megan O’Shea, Michelle Vinluan (Co-Chairs)**

Donations for the Dawg Walk totaled $57,049.00. Including Sponsorships, a grand total of $63,771.50 was raised! Under budget, but still waiting for some expenditures to be submitted to ROMS PTSA. Break down, line items, for all costs/expenditures associated with The Dawg Walk, are available, for any who might want to see.

Bottom line, when all is said and done, we netted more than last year! Go ROMS Bulldogs & Sponsors! … what are we, fisher-folk? ;)

1. **Old Business**

None

1. **New Business**
2. **Washington DC Scholarship Fund**

It was suggested that given the amount of money we netted for The Dawg Walk, we set-aside a line-item in the ROMS PTSA Budget called: Washington DC Scholarship Fund. The money in this fund will be given to “deserving” and “in-need” 8th grade students @ the ROMS Administrator’s discretion; with Teacher input.

ROMS Administrators, Teachers, & Staff have the right and responsibility to determine what constitutes “deserving” & “in-need,” based on whatever criteria metrics & measures they decide, in each given year.

Any money that is not used in the given year from the PTA Washington DC Scholarship Fund, will roll back into the PTA General Fund.

The Goal of this fund is to provide as many fully paid scholarships to Washington, DC, as possible, in the given year; to “deserving” and “in-need” 8th grade students @ ROMS.

\*\*\*A motion to vote on setting up this fund, was made by Jason Vinluan and seconded by Jenn Rossbach, with the following amendment added by Jenn Rossbach:

A line-item called “Washington DC Scholarship Fund, in the amount of $2,000, will be added to the budget in 2019; with the amount in subsequent years being determined by a vote of the ROMS PTSA, in said, given year.”

Majority approved, with three in dissent. Motion passed.

**2. Legacy Project Fund**

Jenn Rossbach asked about the 8th Grade Legacy project & where it stood, this year, in addition to indicating how great she thought the fund was; with the projects done by past 8th grade classes being awesome!

The Legacy Project is funded through Education Funding Support. There is currently $9,038.00 in EFS.

**3. Meeting Raffle**

Thank you to Pilar Calderon for donating the customized glassware!

Kristine Huebner wins the prize!

1. **Adjournment**

Next Meeting: Monday, November 18th, 2019 @ 7:00 PM in the ROMS Learning Commons

Meeting adjourned: 7:56 PM

