**Approved Royal Oak Middle School PTA Meeting Minutes: September 20, 2021**

**In attendance:** Michelle Vinluan, Lori Klopfenstein, Elizabeth Rummel, Linda Cronk, Jen Tietz, Carie Hooker, Val Moskalik, Kelly Knoll, Nellie Harrie, Maryanne VanHaitsma, Lindsy Potterack, Karrie Chafetz, Becky Bibbs, Julie Aichler, Jenny Kowalkowski, Sheila Robine, Sally Gilreath, Susan Browning, Barbara Shipmen,Trisha Fergusson, Burgundy Hullo, Deidre Messing, Megan O’Shea, Kelly Condit, Lou , Elizabeth Mulheisen, Christine, Hipp, Laurie Ovies, Melanie Macey, Monique Kitchie, Tiffany kosak, Stephanie Bald, Megan Pennefather, Jason Vinluan

**Quorum: Met (7 members constitutes quorum)**

Welcome and Pledge of Allegiance

* 1. Meeting called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Michelle Vinluan
  2. Introduction of Executive Board:
     1. Michelle Vinluan - President, Liz Rummel -Treasurer, Elizabeth Mulheisen - Secretary, Joelle Jarrait - VP/Membership, Megan O’Shea - 2nd VP/Historian, Lori Klopfenstein - Member at Large, Melanie Macey - Communications, Member at Large, Lindsay Potterack and Kate Chambers -Teacher Representatives/Student Council

Secretary’s Report: Elizabeth Mulheisen

May 2021 meeting minutes were distributed to those in attendance.

* + - 1. Melanie Macey. I move to dispense with the reading of May 2021 minutes and approve as presented.
      2. Approved by consent.

Treasurer’s Report: Liz Rummel

Broad strokes budget. It is not balanced based on what we paid for last year and placeholders. Cash on hand around $23000 and shortfall can be used and met even if revenue doesnt hit. We have prepared for this event; we just have to be mindful of how we generate revenue.

1. Sally Gilreath. I move that we approve the current budget as presented. Seconded by Sheila Robine. The motion passed. Budget is approved.

Principal’s Report: Todd Noonan

Great to have kids back in the building.

ROMS curriculum night begins Thursday. Starting at 8:00am remote access online through Canvas parent observer account. This was well received format last year.

Google calendar is a new thing. Subscribe if you have not.

Exciting to bring back Bulldawg tailgate Wed 29th 3pm-4pm. Music and chips/hotdogs before football kick off and basketball tip off.

Two new counselors. 6th Smantha Ellis from Plymouth Canton area. 7th Meghan Callahan from Hamtramck. Kids have the same counselor each year.

Taking questions:

Are kids allowed to carry trapper keepers? Yes. Cell phone policy: why are kids allowed to have them? Equity standpoint. Kids texting parents about things that the parents are not officially notified of. Prior

to Covid, no phones except during lunch. In spring of 2021, kids having phones helped in quarantine situations and also helps now because contacting parents is easier. Mid year they will revisit the child cell phone situation.

A student took a picture without the other student’s consent. Is that bullying? Where is the pic? Reports of social media inappropriate posting is dealt with when they are notified. Next week, student support, and announcements will remind kids that pics and posting is not allowed.

Re: 6th graders 10 am lunch. They are hungry in the afternoons. Is there a schoolwide policy on snacks? Teachers moving forward with knowledge of kids needing snacks. If teachers have space to have kids unmask and eat snack they can. Grade level offices are available for snacks. Students need to talk to their teacher to let them know. Prior to Covid they could eat snacks whenever needed.

Late start Covid protocols breakfast club monitoring. Encouraging kids to spread out. Breakfast club attendance is way down. Fewer kids in the building before school than at lunch. Free meals for all kids. They can look at cameras to identify for potential contact tracing.

Rumors of fights in school. Is there zero tolerance? How do kids respond if physically assaulted? Conflict is common. Conflict that ends up physical is rare. Mostly pushing or shoving. Adults are around. Kids can defend themselves, if necessary.

Is there more than one adult in each of the eating areas? Yes, more than one.

Will there be a recess for grades? Yes, unless bad weather kids are sent behind cafeteria in tennis court area.

A parent spoke with Mr. Colligan about 6th grade orientation after not feeling as connected. Previous years we would have had more administration touch points. Having an opportunity to see school administrators in person is invaluable. Would curriculum night be better in person? Online allows teachers to get all the information out without time constraints.

Some parents want more in person Q&A. PTA can advertise Mr. Noonan’s availability during and after PTA meetings. There is a FAQ with new questions on the PTA page and Mr Noonan sends out in email.

School Board Liaison: Maryanne VanHaitsma

Introduction. Two daughters who graduated from ROHS 2017 and 2019. Is board liaison to Oak Ridge and ROMS. Don’t hesitate to contact her for any reason vanhaitsmamaryanne@gmail.com

Understands challenges coming from a small elementary school to ROMS, but the change teaches life lessons. We are behind students and families to support them. Former PTA president at middle school and high school. Active PTA mom still.

Start of school in person is huge and the difference in having the kids face to face. Aug 2 the board made a mandatory mask mandate. District felt mitigation strategies were important because they want kids to stay in school and the decision was supported from Oakland County Health Department.. Ultimately, the goal is to protect students, staff and families.

Do mask mandates disincentivize? There are different philosophies, but do not want students or staff to get sick, so the idea is in preventing harm.

School board meetings are the second Thursday of the month. Next is Oct 8th. The Finance and Facilities meeting starts at 6:30.

New UVC systems in schools for another layer of mitigation. Federal funding was available and Royal Oak was one of the first districts to do that. District website has information.[www.royaloakschools.org](http://www.royaloakschools.org)

School board section delineated board and superintendent roles.

Hired many new staff and joined the welcome back to school event. Outdoor event was new and well received. Welcome video on Royal Oak Schools website introducing new hires.

Cultural Competency Engagement Committee (CCEC) meets Oct, Dec, March, and May. Diversity Coordinator Kimberly Martin, PhD. www.royaloakschools.org/community/forward-together/

President’s Report: Michelle Vinluan

* 1. Open Treasurer position was filled. Appointed by the executive PTA board. Lori Klopfenstein Treasurer and Nicole Mariott Member at Large.
  2. Open Committee Chair positions
     1. Green Team (green schools application due in march)
     2. 8th Grade Celebration. Jason Vinluan volunteered during the meeting.
     3. Health & Wellness. Physical and mental well being. Send an email to Michelle if interested romspta@gmail.com
  3. RO Council is looking for a Treasurer and VP. Any PTA chair or executive board experience is good. The council is different and not as much work as PTA since it is not a school.
  4. ROMS alternating monthly PTA meetings between in person and Zoom. We want to accommodate many people. Oct. meeting is Zoom.
  5. ROMS Family Workshop Series is back, virtually. Information to come.
  6. Parent advisory committee (PAC) meeting on September 22nd Oakland Schools level (county) for parents of students with special ed. Virtual and IN person. Info on Facebook page.
  7. Please join the PTA, if you haven’t already. Continued access to the Facebook group and online meeting links will only be available to members. Need to be an active member to join the Zoom link. Facebook group only for members as of November 2021.
  8. Washington DC Funds that were returned due to the cancelled trip are remaining in individual student accounts to be used to reimburse families for pay to school related costs (athletics, boosters, yearbooks, etc.).To access your funds, please pay for the item and request reimbursement with proof of payment to [Annemarie.carlisle@royaloakschools.org](mailto:Annemarie.carlisle@royaloakschools.org). Dawg walk donations over $50 half would go into the DC account. Is DC going to happen this year? Mr. Noonan says that from the PTA council meeting that DC is not going to happen this year, but that is not official yet. Maryanne said that it was approved in general, but it depends. Just because it is approved doesn’t mean it won’t possibly be cancelled. Hard to do trips because of Covid protocols.

Membership Report: Joelle Jarrait (not in attendance)

1. 400 members as of 9/17/2021
2. Thank you to [Jeffery Sauger Photography](https://www.jeffreysaugerphotography.com/index) for business membership. He does this each year. Does good work.

Teacher Representatives/Student Council Report: Lindsay Potterack, Kate Chambers

* 1. Lindsay Potterack advisor for student council. Co teaches math and student council with Kate Chambers. Great to be back. In adjustment mode. Focusing on community building and social emotional as well as re-learning how to be in school. Student Council Halloween costume event. Received donations but no one shopped last year. 100 costumes available. Any families in need come to the gathering place Oct 18-21 from 3:00-4:00pm. Possible need of parent volunteers. Kids can come after school. Last year we did not take new student council members but 17 returned and reapplied. There is a window for new applicants, 2 weeks Oct 2nd. Announced on Student Support page.
  2. Gym curriculum. Doing regular gym for now and curriculum for gym starts in Nov.

Committee Reports/Announcements

1. DEI: Val Moskalik
2. District wide committee to advance diversity, equity, and inclusion. She is a 7th grade parent. Finding the best way to understand and implement DEI. Differing feelings about DEI is ok. No expectation that everyone will feel the same. Why do we need to advance DEI? Mission for PTA is engaging and empowering families and community, advocate for all children. How can we do that if all children are not represented?
3. This includes many differences: physical disabilities, mental, learning styles, languages used, heritage, etc. considered. It’s not enough to recognize differences, how do we include? Virtual monthly meetings. Open to in person if people want that. Consider being on the committee whether you are excited or uncomfortable.
4. Community Rewards: Megan O’Shea
5. Part of the VP role is to make sure all rewards are up to date. Please remember to your rewards programs from elementary to ROMS...more information will continue to be posted about this. Add Amazon Smile and look for Royal Oak Middle School Royal Oak PTSA. At Toyology tell them it is for ROMS we get a portion of the sale. Boxtops is digital, using an app, can scan in receipts. Info will be posted on Facebook PTA page.

Old Business

Memorial Gift for Sarah Klaus. She was a student who passed away 2 years ago. There is a mural and we would make a sign or plaque for it. Pics will be posted when complete.

New Business

Raffle. Monique Dietchie won the $25 gift card.

Adjournment: Afterglow Ye Old Saloon. Next meeting: Monday, October 18, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. on Zoom. Memberhub email will explain how to register.