

## RISING TIDE PARENTS GROUP

September 28, 2022

### Meeting Notes

Meeting convened at 6pm in Rising Tide Room 190 and online.

#### Welcome / Introductions

- We went around the table and introduced ourselves  
Parents – Ashley Carlucci, Wendy Marshall, Martha Dennison, Sarah Finkelstein, Cory Mace, Bonnie Cole, Frances Gantley  
RTCPS Staff – Michael O’Keefe, Head of School; Beth Choiniere, Upper School Principal; Ashley Carlucci, School Office
- Wendy Marshall identified that the Group Leader, Brittany Fidler, is unable to make the meeting due to illness.
- Wendy Marshall introduced the purpose of the meeting – as the mission of the of the Parent Group is to build community and support the school, we want to discuss activities and events we can support this year to achieve the mission.

#### Old Business

- Martha Dennison reviewed the notes from the June meeting at the end of the last school year. ([See attached notes from June 2022 meeting.](#))

#### New Business

- **Communication!** Discussion ensued about the use of Facebook pages to engage parents. The Parent Group doesn’t have any social media accounts, but members participate in various Facebook pages.
  - There is a Rising Tide Charter School Parents Page (RTCS Parents Page) on Facebook that is used by a lot of current parents to stay in touch or ask questions. The Parent Group uses this page to share information about meetings and activities regularly.
  - There are Facebook pages for parents of children in several different classes at Rising Tide, identified by their graduating class; e.g., Rising Tide Charter School Class of 2025. Parents are encouraged to seek out those groups and even to create a page if there isn’t one for their child’s graduating class and they think it would be helpful to have one.
  - There is a FB page for the Rising Tide Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC) at RT-SEPAC that offers lots of support to families whose children are engaged in the school Special Education program (but is often helpful to all families.)

Parents are encouraged to join FB communities and engage with other parents to build community.

- **Administration View** - Mr. O'Keefe and Ms. Choiniere were invited to discuss what they hope the Parent Group can do this year. Mr. O'Keefe spoke about his hope that the Group can engage parents and families across the school, especially asking Parents to keep communication messaging positive by being supportive and helpful. Feel free to send parents to school admin if they have questions. Ms. Choiniere indicated that, from her perspective, engage more people in the building will help achieve our goal of more community for our School.
- **Parent Group Leadership Positions – decided to postpone new assignments**
  - Brittany Fidler has agreed to remain in Leader position
  - Martha Dennison has agreed to remain in Communications position
- **Volunteer Opportunities**
  - Picture Day, 10/3 – signup genius still has openings; we'll help share the link
  - Homecoming, 10/15 – Cory Mace will follow up with Athletics Director, who is meeting with Student Govt, to see how Parent Group can help
  - Muffins in the Morning (Middle School) – week of Nov 6? – Cory Mace taking lead
  - Staff Appreciation during Conference Week in mid-November – Martha Dennison taking lead with Sign Up Genius for Stock the Staffroom
  - Book Fair in mid-November - Martha Dennison to reach out to Library to ask if volunteers are needed
- **Other Ideas - brainstorming**
  - Reach out to Student Govt to see how Parent Group can support their activities
  - More social events, esp for Middle School, where student govt isn't as active
  - Like idea of family events – Pasta Night? – where NHS students can help and earn service hours
- **Next Meeting**
  - Monthly makes sense now while there's so much to discuss and do
  - Alternate to fully online meeting
  - Start at 6:30pm, to be consistent with Rising Tide events