

## RISING TIDE PARENT GROUP

October 4, 2023

### MEETING NOTES

Head of School Mr. O'Keefe opened the meeting at 6:30pm with Middle School Asst Principal Papillo, School receptionist (and parent) Ms. Carlucci, and several parents in person and on zoom.

#### Old Business

Parent Wendy Marshall asked for a Treasurer update and parent Martha Dennison reported that the Group has \$1100 on account from last year.

#### New Business

##### Administration Update

Mr. O'Keefe provided an update on the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary events that took place in late September.

- **9/28 – Gala.** Organized by the Board, the adults-only event was well-received with 4 of the original 7 Board members in attendance. Several new families were represented and about 1/3 of the staff was able to attend. The student band, made up of seniors, was a big hit.
- **9/30 – Family Event.** The Family Event held on the field at school was significantly affected by the rainy weather, which nearly ruined the fun. But the student government members were amazing leaders – overseeing the obstacle course bounce house and the face painting. Everyone who did come out really enjoyed themselves. The school is interested in seeing the Parent Group and student government partner to make this an annual event to engage families and make connections early in the school year.

**Grade Push-out Update** - Mr. O'Keefe also offered an update on the new bi-weekly practice of 'Grade Push-out,' which was introduced on 9/25. The grade portal information was kept linked to the family portal for the week and was very well-received. There are concerns that one week is too long, as the data becomes slightly flawed as time goes on. The administration is reviewing to find the optimal window of time to make this grade 'snapshot' available for families every other week. Updates on the process will be posted in the Monday Memo.

#### First Semester Potential Volunteer Opportunities

- **Spirit Week (10/16-10/20) and Homecoming (10/21).** Interim Athletic Director Thom Holdgate is working with parents to generate interest in a new Booster Club for sports teams; more to come.
  - Homecoming is scheduled for the afternoon of Saturday, Oct 21 with soccer and volleyball games.
  - School is looking at providing opportunities – Food Truck? Games?

- Instead of parents decorating the atrium this year, Student Govt will be encouraged to do the decorating. Parent Group is willing to provide supplies for the students to do the decorating.
- **Muffins in the Morning for Middle School Families (10/26).** Each Middle School student is encouraged to invite a special adult to school to experience how students' school day starts. The Parent Group will seek donations and volunteers to support this fun event; Cory Mace ([corymace@hotmail.com](mailto:corymace@hotmail.com)) is coordinating for the third year.
  - A [Sign-up Genius](#) has been posted to solicit donations of cash or refreshments for the event.
  - The location for the event is still TBD, as school leaders pursue different options.
  - Parent Wendy Marshall was tasked with reaching out to see if we can find a coffee shop sponsor for the coffee, which is the most expensive part of the event.
- **Staff Appreciation / Stock the Staff Breakroom, week of 11/13.** Parent Group will solicit donations and volunteers to stock the staff breakroom for the week of Term1 conferences. A Sign-Up Genius will be shared to get donations of snacks and treats. Anyone who wants to help can reach out to Martha Dennison at [mmdennison@standishshore.com](mailto:mmdennison@standishshore.com).
- **Landscaping, Fall.** Parent Wendy Marshall has reached out to local resources to get help cleaning up the center medians in the school driveway. We're looking for landscapers, tree experts and/or folks with experience removing small trees. The town of Plymouth has recommended we get Dig Safe to come out before we do any work. Contact Wendy Marshall at [wemar17@yahoo.com](mailto:wemar17@yahoo.com) if you can help.
- **Senior Activities.** Letters have gone out to families with various information and deadlines for seniors. The class leaders are trying to do some special activities but have been running into some obstacles; Dr. Campbell is working with them to flesh out their ideas for approval and next steps.

### **Class Parent Ambassadors**

Mr. O'Keefe is identifying nominees to be appointed Class Ambassadors. Parent Joe Amorelli asked for more info on what the Class Ambassadors will do and Mr. O'Keefe explained that it's a new parent role at Rising Tide, created to work with the Deans of Community to assist in communication and support for parents. Parent Ambassadors will be assigned for each grade (e.g., senior class, class of 2024) and will:

- Look for opportunities to bring people together within the grade level
- Communicate with administration on questions, ideas, and concerns from grade level families
- Reinforce information on events, initiatives, and processes

- Support RTCPS' marketing by sharing grade-level stories that celebrate and honor the diversity and experiences of families in our community.
- Provide coordination assistance with grade-level enrichment opportunities

Mr. O'Keefe plans to have Ambassadors identified by Nov. 1.

### Other Discussion

- Ms. Carlucci announced that the school is doing some fundraising this year by partnering with local restaurants like Red Robin. If you have any ideas for more opportunities, reach out to Ms. Carlucci at [acarlucci@risingtide.org](mailto:acarlucci@risingtide.org).
- Parent Joe Amorelli asked about Halloween activities at school. There will be MS social activities in October, but US will not really acknowledge Halloween.
- Clubs Updates – Clubs are being finalized and the club listing on the school website should be updated soon for both Middle School and Upper School.

### Next Meeting – TBD (likely early December)

The meeting ended at 7:40pm.