

RISING TIDE PARENT GROUP

March 20, 2024

Meeting Notes

MEETING NOTES

We opened the meeting at 6:30pm with Head of School Mr. O'Keefe on zoom.

Old Business

- ❖ Treasurer Report - Parent Martha Dennison reported that the Group continues to have about \$1100 on account, as fall activities were all self-sustaining. The funds will be used as needed, if activities don't raise the money needed to operate them.
- ❖ Mr. O'Keefe commented that the Booster Club is working on recruiting parents to support the School's Sports Program. The Athletic Director will continue to work with family volunteers to encourage the Club's development.
- ❖ Mr. O'Keefe stated that the fall activities surrounding the 25th anniversary were successful. The 'challenge grant' of \$4000 attracted an additional \$4000+ for the school and so between all the events from the fall, the school was able to bank approximately \$10,000.

Mr. O'Keefe stated that there is a goal to cultivate a culture of giving among Rising Tide community to allow the school to continue to support extracurricular activities with no fee and/or to cover fees for families who need assistance. Mr. O'Keefe would love to be able to subsidize participation in international travel for students who couldn't otherwise attend these amazing opportunities. Access is the key reason for these fundraising efforts.

- ❖ Parent Wendy Marshall indicated that she believes additional enrichment opportunities would be welcomed by RT families and hopes that some funding would be placed toward that kind of programming.

Parent Melanie Dunn mentioned that the Showa Institute visit to the Middle School this week was a resounding success. Ms. Dunn commented that opportunities for enrichment that don't require major funding or participation from families are very welcome.

New Business

Administration Update

Mr. O'Keefe reminded the group that Ms. Zahra Williams had received a permanent appointment as Principal/Assistant Head of School for both the Middle School and the Upper School. Ms. Williams has been successful in her role to provide a single voice across both schools. There was discussion about the impact the move to one principal has had on other administrative roles; Mr. O'Keefe stated that the Asst Principals and Deans of Community for each school have been able to continue with their roles and responsibilities have not changed.

Mr. O'Keefe said that the school was trying some new engagement activities for new students. In addition to a special opportunity for new students during back to school events in late August, the School has been holding an Accepted Students Day on an early release day in March, which allows students and faculty to participate in showing potential students what RT is like.

Mr. O'Keefe asked meeting attendees if current families would be interested and willing to hold a social opportunity for new families sometime in June to encourage social connections among the new families. Parents expressed an interest in helping with a fun family social event.

Parent Wendy Marshall asked for an update on the Parent Ambassador program, which had been outlined last fall but hasn't been launched. A discussion about the role and the value of "Class Parents" or "Parent Ambassadors" ensued, with parents commenting on the value of building community among RT families and for family peer support. Parent Stephanie Teran agreed that building community among families, especially when new to the School, would be helpful.

Mr. O'Keefe provided an update on the Dual Enrollment program at SNHU and on the Aviation Program. Both are going well.

Mr. O'Keefe mentioned that the Class of 2024 Graduation Day will look different than previous years, as the graduation ceremony will take place at Memorial Hall in Plymouth. This is not yet a permanent change, but a celebration for this specific class.

The School will have an early release day on Friday, May 31. All families are encouraged to head to downtown Plymouth for the Graduation Ceremony that afternoon.

Other activities are planned for the week to keep/make Graduation special for the RT community.

Spring Engagement Opportunities

❖ **Student Government Support – Prom is May 10**

Student leaders are raising funds on their own to keep ticket prices low and encourage maximum participation among juniors and seniors. The Parent Group offered assistance. There was a discussion of potential support for outfits and preparations. Any resources should be shared with the administration so that they can notify students who may be seeking assistance.

❖ **5K Race – May 11**

RT students and family members are encouraged to participate in the 5K, which will take place around the RT neighborhood in the Plymouth Industrial Park. Everyone is invited to the post-race celebration at Mayflower Brewing.

Kelsey Kincade, RT Athletic Director, will be seeking donations and volunteers to support the event. Parent Martha Dennison asked if the Parent Group could help create a Sign Up Genius to make it easier for families to participate.

❖ **Staff Appreciation – National Teacher Appreciation Week is May 6-10**

Plans are starting for Staff Appreciation this spring. It was discussed that perhaps the Parent Group will spread its efforts across the months of April and May vs. putting all efforts into the one week in May.

Parent Martha Dennison mentioned the Stock the Breakroom has been welcome during Conference Week, which takes place after April break. Parent Wendy Marshall has reached out to parent Chef Steven Coe about helping out with a staff breakfast in May. It was discussed that funds on hand could help support a luncheon for staff. Other activities will likely include a recognition of our Lunch Support Staff, Custodians, Bus Drivers, and Traffic Guards. More information will be shared with RT families as plans take shape.

We did not discuss the scheduling of another meeting. We closed the meeting at 7:30pm.