

**RMHS PTO Fall Meeting Agenda  
10/6/2020 (Virtual Meeting via Zoom)**

**Meeting Start: 7:00pm**

**Virtual Attendees:**

Principal: Kate Boynton

PTO Board: Marianne Tompkins, Kathy Kinney, Christine Strack and Rebecca Schromm

Geoffrey Coram

Julie O'Shea

Kate Grant

Erin Gaffen

Ann Cruickshank

Marianne Downing

Christine Parks

Eileen Manning

Julie Valentino

Mary Flaherty

Susan Tucker

Meredith Duross

Betsy Henneberry

Carlyn Louis

Dana Santucci

Diane Naczas

Liz Witham

Michelle McKenna

Patricia Lloyd

Connie DiMeo

Meg Belezos

Tim Mathieu

Victoria Lydon Ruelos

Heather Clish

Kathy Drummey

Yiheng Zhang

Kristen Granara

Priti Patel

Diana Koster

Kerri Martell

Kate Goldlust

Melissa Rivera

**Welcome & Introductions:**

PTO Board Welcome

PTO Board brief introductions

Reminders to check portal and social media (i.e. Facebook) for PTO updates

**Reports:**

Secretary: Minutes from May 2020 Meeting-- posted on PTO page on Portal

Treasurer:

- Report link posted in chat and posted on PTO page on Portal
- \$21,000 in account from last year
- \$3500 dues collected so far this school year
- Expenses this fall: paying for Remind subscription (\$9000) for all staff to use and sponsored teacher luncheon during professional development

**Additional Board Member Updates:**

Teacher Welcome Back Luncheon (during professional development):

- Pizza Goddess food truck
- Staff able to get "grab and go" lunches while socially distanced
- Much appreciated by staff

Spiritwear:

- Ann Cruickshank (Liam `22) is heading efforts
- Champion's Choice from Wilmington is vendor
- Storefront ready to go-- we will share link to store via email, PTO page on portal and social media
- Company advised mark up \$3-5 per item
- Items will be delivered to RMHS or Ann's house for distribution
- Store open until midnight on 10/25-- 3 weeks for delivery
- May do 2nd store closer to holidays

Scrip:

- Updated information will be posted on PTO page
- Can use through mobile access site-- app on phone and Ecard goes into apple wallet or phone wallet
- OR desktop access shopwithscrip.com-- can order ecard or physical gift card
- PTO board members will distribute gift cards as number of people entering HS limited by COVID-19 precautions

### **Volunteer Requests/Announcements:**

PTO Board welcomes any additional ideas on how to support staff and students during this unique school year

### **Featured Speakers: Kathleen Boynton, Principal RMHS Updates**

Remote Learning:

- Staff has really embraced this new normal
- 10 day PD before school with focus on remote instruction
- Teachers have landing pages and using technology during instruction
- Mrs. Boynton very appreciative and proud of the teachers for their hard work and willingness to try new technology
- Feedback that Reading has done great job with remote instruction
- Some hiccups:
  - Racist zoom "bombing" which is being actively investigated
  - Additional safety protocols in place-- i.e. waiting room

Guidance Dept: Hosted successful virtual college admissions panel and senior night

Meet and Greets for Students/Teachers:

- Nice weather for them
- Well attended but not overwhelming crowds

Community Time:

- Working out kinks-- teams is tricky to coordinate
- One example of problem was Student Council video-- internally could hear it but students unable to hear externally
- Want to celebrate students and highlight students involvement and successes (ie: sports, arts) during community time

When will in-person hybrid start?

- Hopefully by end of October
- May be a few changes to model as Dr. Doherty has alluded to

SATS and PSATS in person:

- At RMHS for RMHS students
- Socially distanced, no more than 10/classroom, following all COVID-19 precautions
- SATs (seniors only) on October 14 (School day)
- PSATs (juniors only) on October 17

## **Question and Answer Session (answers from Mrs. Boynton bulleted points):**

1. Question related to a newspaper quote from Dr. Doherty-- do we need 5 more teachers at RMHS? Will positions be posted?
  - Interactive process where staff talks to central office re considerations including leave or accommodations needed-- initial outreach was at start of summer and now follow up conversations happening
  - Once leave finalized, district will post positions
  - Staff can change minds at any time so will post as needed
  - Will not stop hybrid process for 1 teacher needed-- would cover in-house for those situations
  - Districts statewide are having staffing issues
  - RMHS down number of paraeducators prior to COVID pandemic
2. Follow-up question: what is the tipping point for not moving to hybrid?
  - Mrs. Boynton not able to say
  - She thinks we will be fine
  - Not holding hybrid off if paraeducator positions remain vacant
3. Mrs. Boynton asking parents: What is the experience of students being remote/online for a large chunk of the day? Parent feedback?
  - One parent reported that it seems to be going pretty well, kids seem to be learning, 80 min periods seemed long but kids have adjusted, 20 min blocks too short on Friday
4. What metrics will be used to determine if we go back to full remote?
  - District-wide decisions, using state guidelines
  - Current recommendations use 3 week time frame-- of elevated level in red or increasing numbers over 3 week period
  - Must be in consultation with DOE
5. Parent comment: great plan having SATs/PSATs at RMHS for Reading students only
6. What is the plan to fill the Math position posted?
  - Had candidate that was being considered but that candidate took another position
  - Math teachers covering in-house right now-- trying to make it as consistent as possible for students
7. During remote weeks of hybrid will students use zoom for classes?
  - Yes-- similar to what they are doing now
8. Any chance that PSATs can't happen?
  - Probably not because we need 3 weeks of trending metrics-- it's 2 weeks away and we are in good shape in Reading
  - All safety measures in place, ample proctors to keep numbers down, supervision in hallways
9. What is happening with school trips (abroad) for next year?
  - Right now all trips are on hold for this year and moving forward
  - Mrs. Boynton having conversation with Dr. Doherty because of interested staff who would like to propose some trips
  - Spring trip will not be allowed to happen-- we have to get through COVID crisis before we reevaluate trips
10. What will happen to funds already paid for trips?
  - Mr. D'Entremont will be in touch
11. Will PSATs be offered to sophomores?
  - Probably not per Mrs. Boynton

- Per Julie O'Shea (former PTO president, Solana '22)-- some schools have January date for sophomores but Reading has not
12. If a student has to quarantine for any reason can they zoom into classes if they are in person that week?
    - Yes according to Mrs. Boynton
    - If student too sick, teachers are recording their sessions and can make them available for students if they are too sick to watch live
    - Marianne Downing (Patrick '23) quoted MOU-- "discretion of teacher if classes live streamed"-- sounds like this could be an individual teacher decision? What if a teacher does not want to live stream class?
      - Unable to comment due to currently in bargaining process with RTA
  13. What is happening to fully remote students?
    - They are integrated into classroom/cohorts now and Mrs. Boynton hoping they can remain in these cohorts when we move to hybrid
    - Edgenuity is online platform that can be used to supplement as needed
    - Mrs. Boynton reported logistics still being figured out
    - There are some special ed teachers who are currently doing this-- teaching live and to remote students who are remoting into classroom
    - RMHS parent reported that this is a change from what we heard before-- will this be an exception for only sick students who are quarantining?
      - Mrs. Boynton answered yes
  14. Will teachers have to monitor classroom, satellite classroom and remote students?
    - Staff member will be in satellite rooms-- kids will never be alone in room
    - Mrs. Boynton has not seen cameras to see how this will work for group work between class students and remote students
    - Some teachers are experimenting with this right now
  15. Can students play a sport all 4 seasons?
    - Yes per Athletic Director, Tom Zaya
    - Currently for fall sporting events--one attendee per player-- Middlesex League rule
  16. Is there a date set that we'd cancel hybrid by?
    - No as it is a fluid situation
  17. When will we know the actual start date for hybrid?
    - Hopefully within the next week
  18. How will students move between classes?
    - Likely by alphabet, small groups, no bell schedule-- office will announce each group, 8 minutes of passing time
    - 4 entry ways in AM-- first class will dictate which door to enter
      - Staff administrators at each door-- with hand sanitizer and reminding students of health questionnaire
    - Similar movement between lunches, 3 lunches and assigned lunch locations
    - Same thing for dismissal at end of date
      - Students will leave by the closest exit
  19. Will we know changes to the plan before hybrid begins?
    - Yes- will be communicated to community by Dr. Doherty
  20. Is 9/10 Cohort A and 11/12 Cohort B?
    - Yes
  21. Mrs. Boynton talked about front-loading student education re being in school during COVID time-- reminders of social distancing, masks, hallway traffic

- One way traffic flow-- considering one way stairwells
  - Reviewing these protocols with students so they are familiar when they get to school
22. Will desks be cleaned between students? Will students be cleaning desks?
- Teachers will be cleaning desks between students-- opportunities for students to help but not required
  - Staff using wipes to clean desks/surfaces
23. What is arrival time?
- Right now start time of 8:15-- but can move it earlier if needed
  - Cafeteria can be opened at 8am, students will wait outside if earlier than 8am
  - Classes start at 8:40 (community time from 8:30-8:40)
24. What about 11/12 grade students that must drive 9/10 grade siblings during hybrid weeks? Will they have time to return home for remote learning?
- Please contact assistant principal so they can provide support if needed
25. Where will students go who have open B or C block?
- They can go home or may be study hall available
  - If students have A or D block open-- they can arrive later or leave earlier due to open campus
  - Is there provision for METCO students or students with transportation on IEPs?
    - Yes
26. What about flex block? Do students have to be at school during flex?
- Flex block is an opportunity for extra help, to meet with teachers-- currently happening virtually but can happen in person
  - Students do not have to be in the building for flex block
  - Also a time where assemblies and guidance seminars can be scheduled
27. Do students have to be there for community time?
- Community time is to focus on SEL and equity work
  - Beneficial for students to be present

**Meeting Conclusion:**

Mrs. Boynton said please feel free to email her with any other questions we have or if new questions come up

Look for future communications about when in-person hybrid will start

Next meeting is Jan 5-- hopefully will be in person

Meeting Adjourned: 7:55pm

***Save the Dates in 2020: PTO Meetings Jan 5, March 2, May 4***

2020-2021PTO Board

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