

**RMHS PTO Winter Meeting**  
**March 2, 2021 (via virtual platform)**

**Meeting Start Time: 7:00pm**

**Virtual Attendees:**

Principal: Kate Boynton

PTO Board: Kathleen Kinney, Marianne Tompkins, Christine Strack, Rebecca Schromm

Presenter: Lynna Williams

Geoffrey Coram

Julie O'Shea

Betsy Henneberry

Christine Parks

Lindsey McCarthy

Eileen Manning

Erin Gaffen

Kristen Granada

Kate Grant

Katie McLaughlin

Mary Houghton

Michelle Greenwalt

Sharon Olivardia

Stefanie Walsh

Teresa Arent

Tom Wise

Kate Goldlust

Christine Lusk

Marianne McLaughlin Downing

\*\* Several other attendees with only first names or "Zoom User" identifiers

**Welcome & Introductions**

- PTO Information available on PlusPortals under PTO tab, FB page

**Reports**

- Secretary: Minutes from January 2021 Meeting posted on Portal
  - Minutes accepted and approved
- Treasurer:
  - Report comparing this fiscal year to last fiscal year
  - Taken in \$10k less this year primarily in dues but we have spent less money
  - Healthy checking account-- board would like to do something fun for students and appreciative for teachers
  - Mrs. Boynton will bring to staff to see if anyone has ideas for student enrichment activities
  - PTO Budget posted on Portal

**Additional Board Member Updates**

Teacher Appreciation: Lindsey McCarthy chairperson

- 1st week of May
- Brainstorming ideas for the week but definitely Grab and Go Breakfast one day
- Will send out more information/sign ups closer to date

**Featured Speaker #1: Lynna Williams, Director of Guidance**

RMHS transcript changes, handbook changes and schedules/scheduling

**Transcript/Handbook Changes:**

- Conversation over last few years about GPAs/Transcripts
- RMHS adopted transcript that is full year transcript to maximize student success (as opposed to semester-based)
- Change to how GPA is calculated
- Changes and unknown stressful especially for parents

Decile rank: being eliminated because not important in college admissions process

- RMHS administration's goal is to help students from social emotional perspective-- so many students racing to get higher GPA, take classes to increase GPA
- Academic competition is good but overall goal to help all students
- Removing decile rank may take away some pressure and help students take classes that they are interested in

Weighted GPA:

- A+ was introduced at RMHS to help students who were in CP level but it acted more to inflate GPA of students taking AP/Honors classes instead of helping CP level
- Keeping A+ grade on transcript but taking away "weighting" of A+ grade

Change to Full Year Transcript:

- Students will have one final grade on transcript instead of 2 semester grades
- Now students have opportunity to improve upon grade if they had a difficult start to school year-- still have opportunity to get full year credit (with semester grades, could not get full year credit if student failed one semester)

Questions:

1. What classes fulfill which graduation requirements? Are requirements going to change? i.e. Intro to Engineering listed as science but does it count as a business? Will guidance counselors go over requirements directly with students?
  - Lynna says Yes-- guidance meets with each student individually
  - Mrs. Boynton said department heads came together and made decisions about which classes should count towards which discipline as a group
2. Why is HS getting rid of the honors track for languages for Freshman? Are other districts also taking away honors languages for freshmen?
  - World Language Standards are undergoing an overhaul-- this change impacts teaching/learning of world languages-- new standards focus on mastery
  - This was a motivating factor
  - Middle School instruction is not the same across schools in Reading-- not same experience for all students entering HS
3. Is this full year transcript retroactive? Will everything look like pass/fail for last year?
  - Lynna: For student who is a junior this year: The transcript looks the same for freshman and sophomore years (semester grades) and then junior year has final, year end grade only
4. Question about how GPA calculated for Juniors:
  - Semester grades for past two years and A+ will be weighted differently until this year
  - This year there will be only one final grade and A+ weighted same as A

**Scheduling/Schedules**-- guidance meeting with students through March 15

- Started meeting with freshman on Monday
- Challenge to get students to respond to request for virtual meeting
- Emails/remind messages to click link and sign up for appointment

- The more students who can sign up in the allotted time frame, the better
- Please ask your student if they have signed up and encourage them to sign up
- Pass this message on to all of your friends who are not in the meeting
- Per Mrs. Boynton: this is one of the strengths of our guidance counselors-- committing to meet individually with every single student for scheduling does not happen in other places

#### Bell Schedule discussions:

- Block schedule vs old schedule
- What is beneficial for next year specifically? Considerations: Coming back after pandemic, new principal and NEASC accreditation
- Students have received survey link about scheduling for next year-- encourage students to fill out
- Supporting students' social emotional learning-- must be intentional and done with purpose for next year
- Frequent check-ins need to be part of next year
- Opportunities to foster community-- huge loss of pandemic
- Schedule to promote equity and opportunities for deeper learning

#### **Featured Speaker #2: Kate Boynton, Principal: Portrait of a Graduate**

- Entire district partnered in summer of 2019 to begin inclusive process of developing "portrait of a graduate" to reflect students from pre-k to grade 12
- Full district initiative and adoption
- This info will be shared with staff on Friday, SC on 3/9 to elicit feedback
- Main components:
  - "Humbly learn, grow, teach"
  - "Authentically listen, reflect, commit"
  - "Fully engage, communicate, thrive"
- This ideally becomes the compass/true north/North Star that all decisions at HS follow-- how do we measure if we've been successful in reaching/following?
  - Challenging because this portrait is more aspirational in nature
- Focus on growth and learning vs perfection
- This was a foundational element in getting NEASC accreditation
- We did not have one before and now we have a draft
- Portrait of a graduate mirrors language of Wellness department-- reflective of what's happening in that content area
- Representative team-- staff, students, parents, community members with diverse views-- rich conversations with multiple viewpoints/experiences/groups that came to create this aspirational draft

*Save the Dates in 2021: PTO Meeting May 4*

2020-2021 PTO Board

Marianne Tompkins, Co-President [mariannet45@yahoo.com](mailto:mariannet45@yahoo.com)  
 Kathy Kinney, Co-President [kathmkinney@aol.com](mailto:kathmkinney@aol.com)  
 Christine Strack, Treasurer [cpstrack@verizon.net](mailto:cpstrack@verizon.net)  
 Rebecca Schromm, Secretary [rebecca0620@yahoo.com](mailto:rebecca0620@yahoo.com)