


**Robbinsdale Middle School PTAC Meeting Minutes, January 26, 2016**

**Attendees:** Julie Kula, Joy Bartness, Julie Pinomaki, Anita Stenson, Andrea Lundahl, Matt Smith, Katy Nelson, Marna Gisvold, Abbie Leshar, Toni Herbst, Heidi Wolberson, Bridget Stewart, Karen Andler, Tegan Andler, Lorry Borisevich, Teresa Bertossi, Becky DeGroot, Gwen Rouleau, Greg Heigel, Cindy Heigel, Beth Benedict, Jennifer Hollander, Daniel Ofori-Som

Matt Smith was voted in as our Vice-President of Communications, replacing Co-Chairs Marna Gisvold and Aileen White.

**A very special thank you to Marna and Aileen for all of their leadership in getting the RMS PTAC established and operating!** 

The Board voted to approve \$840 to purchase 14 programmable robots that will be used by the RMS Coding teachers. The robots will be split among the coding teachers to use as an enrichment/extension for any student that shows they are ready to challenge themselves in the development of their coding skills. All students will benefit from this project because all students are taking either graphic arts or design coding classes at RMS.

Andrea Lundahl announced that the RMS PTAC application for 501c(3) status has been approved! This designation will greatly help us in our fundraising efforts.

Anita Stenson is coordinating a fundraiser at Big Louies. The date is yet to be determined. Anita will also be coordinating the Scholastic Book Fair at RMS.

Treasurer Julie Kula gave a brief update on the budget. She estimates that the fall fundraiser raised over \$4,600. Box Tops for Education provided \$540 in revenue from Spring 2015, and \$340 from Fall 2016. We are seeking a new Treasurer for the RMS PTAC. Please contact Joy Bartness at [joy.bartness@gmail.com](mailto:joy.bartness@gmail.com) if you are interested in learning more about this opportunity.

Dr. Nolan, Katie Nelson, and Abbie Leshar (Reading Specialist at RMS) gave a summary of the Excellence for All initiative at RMS. This new initiative fits seamlessly into the IBMYP framework and our students are already experiencing classrooms filled with learners of all levels. Teachers at RMS have received intensive training on how to work effectively with integrated classrooms. For example, they have been trained on how to differentiate between student achievement levels and effectively use rubrics to guide students who are ready for additional challenges. Research by John Hattie also shows that students of all levels achieve more when in learning environments with diverse groups of skills. Middle school students in particular benefit from class offerings which avoid labeling only certain youth as “Honor Students.”

In case you couldn't attend one of the recent Info Sessions about Excellence for All, you can take a look at the powerpoint presentation which described the program in detail:

[http://rms.rdale.org/UserFiles/Servers/Server\\_232188/File/5th%20grade%20family%20night%202016.pdf](http://rms.rdale.org/UserFiles/Servers/Server_232188/File/5th%20grade%20family%20night%202016.pdf)

**or the district video:**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=om3AL9BS\\_MQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=om3AL9BS_MQ)

Also, be sure to check out Channel 12's report about RMS's reading program at:

<http://twelve.tv/news/newsitem.aspx?newsid=324&newsitemid=29504>

**PLEASE NOTE A BIG CHANGE IN OUR MEETING DATES!**

Tuesday nights were difficult for many people, so we have decided to change our meeting back to Monday nights. These are the dates for upcoming PTAC Meetings which are held at 6pm in the RMS Choir Room. Hope to see you there!

~~Monday, February 15~~ CANCELLED due to Excellence For All Meeting on Feb 17, per Dr. Nolan

Monday, March 21

Monday, April 18

Monday, May 16