

ROTH PARENT GROUP
MINUTES OF MAY 7, 2018 MEETING
Roth Middle School - Conference Room

I. Welcome & Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 6:36pm. There were 7 parents in attendance, with RH Board of Education representative Diane McBride and Roth Principal Kerry Macko.

II. Approval of April Minutes

The following changes were discussed:

- Change Principal's Report from Mike Sweeney to Kerry Macko
- Correct last day of school to June 11th for 8th & 9th graders & June 15th for 7th graders

Renee Zanghi motioned to accept; Angela Zanghi seconded.

III. Vote on Parent Group Board for 2018-19

All present voted in favor of Laura Borate remaining as Chair, Mark Tanner remaining as Treasurer, and Carrie Giambra stepping into the open Secretary position.

IV. Principal's report

- There were reports from some students that the bathrooms were not locking. Ms. Macko verified every single bathroom stall and confirmed that they all lock. On further investigation, the issue the students were reporting was that the bathroom locks were replaced by locks at the top of the door and where the old lock used to be is open so people can peep through it. Ms. Macko reported that this is being addressed; only the unisex bathroom locks.
- Students have reported that when the new doors open, it sounds like a gun being loaded. People are working to resolve this right now; Ms. Macko wants to make sure we demonstrate that we are responding to student concerns.
- Nice things happening at Roth in near future – redoing carpeting in Library; updating furniture that is not compliant with new codes; updating weight room so it is ready for the next wave of fitness; replacing mats on the wall in the gym. As part of the upgrades to the library, they are considering getting a green screen; if we have this, students can make a video announcement, for example.
 - There was a question raised by parents about upgrading the brick on the front of the building; there have been efforts to sand blast the brick, etc. but that has not fixed the issue; new bushes have been planted that will help cover some of the problem areas.
- Last day for all grades is June 11th; 7th grade is June 15th. ½ days for 7th graders has been approved; they will be splitting up periods. Finals will occur as scheduled; last day of exams is June 19th (Geometry exam). Regents exams from the 12th – 19th.
- Trying to align Burger and Roth a little more
 - May 24th @ 3pm – ceremony for Academic Champions; 95 kids will get recognized; High Honor Roll Quarters 1-3 combined; families will be invited
 - May 31st @ 3pm – Character Champions; students being nominated by a teacher; each teacher nominating 2-4 kids; just for students

- Planning to create more of a “campus experience” between Roth and Sherman with an effort keep Roth and Burger somewhat in sync
- Kids in high school come to Roth Technology classes to help kids; parents had an interest in STEAM clubs, such as Robotics, etc.
 - At the high school, RH First Robotics combines with HFL
 - There was some discussion about whether RIT students get credit to coach an RH team; this is possible but we would still need to find an RH teacher who was willing to supervise the club. Parents asked if with the help of an RIT student if there was a Business teacher that might be interested in supporting the club; Diane McBride reported that this has been tried before at the SHS and it has not been successful.
 - Laura Borate reported on the Diversity Committee that there has been discussion about hiring not just diverse staff and teachers but those who are open to diversity.
- Mrs. Macko asked parents to help manage some of the energy on Facebook and to make sure that any individual teacher concerns are reported to the administration.
- Parents reported that with Roth’s change to a 7-9 building, there has been a change in expectations for students. In the past, kids were held accountable with respect to homework, etc. For instance, if the students didn’t do their homework after repeated reminders, they had to stay during lunch or after school. Now the students (even in 8th grade) just get a zero on their grades. Similarly, there are more expectations of students from a digital citizenship standpoint than what students are capable of. For instance, they are allowed to play games during study hall if they want.
- There was lot of discussion about the pros / cons of moving away from the paper agenda. Ms. Macko reported that they are reviewing different options. Kids should use whatever tools work for them.
 - On a related note, in discussions with students, they would rather not have their phones during the day.
- For awareness, there continue to be issues with eNews that the district is working through. For instance, only one email address is allowed per family.
- There are some changes to the school start / end times being proposed to the Board at their upcoming meeting. The Junior High pick-up will be ~10 min later; will arrive at 6:55am; less unsupervised time; 7th Graders will go to cafeteria; late bus will run at 3:20pm; late bus run will transfer at the high school; Burger kids will go to Vollmer
 - 5 minutes will be taken out of home room to accommodate this new schedule
 - Options would be to have home room at the beginning of the day (shift lunch later) or have home room at end of the day (lunches would be 13-15 min earlier and more in line with the High School lunch schedule); lunch period is required to be a ½ hour, cannot start before 10am and has to be done by 1pm

- Ms. Macko thanked parents for all their efforts for staff appreciation – Roth Rocks; including the staff, massages, etc.
- Meetings for 2018-19 – September 17, October 15, January 14, March 18, & May 13.
- According to the teacher’s contracts, there will be no RH events on Monday nights.
- Visiting authors are coming May 17th & 18th
- Considering moving the Washington DC trip to early 9th Grade to give families a couple of years to fundraise and to make it a culminating experience

V. 2018-19 RH School Budget – Diane McBride

- Community invited to participate in reception for Dr. Graham; entertainment provided by SHS kids
- New and old Superintendent already working through transition; Dr. Graham staying on as a Consultant through July and mentoring through budget process in the fall
- Rush-Henrietta Vote on May 15th
 - Budget Vote
 - Detailed information provided in mailer
 - Reserve fund utilization reduced from \$1M to \$700K due to an increase in state aid
 - Pilot reduction came out better than we could have hoped
 - Our taxes in Rush-Henrietta are still the lowest in Monroe County
 - Includes a budget resolution to purchase the Good Shepherd property
 - There are 7 candidates running for 3 positions on the RH Board of Education

VI. Treasurer’s Report – Laura Borate on behalf of Mark Tanner

Only change was expenditure of \$369 on Staff Appreciation.

VII. End of the Year Recap

- Committee representatives for RHMPA, SIT (School Improvement Team – formerly SDM), MPAC, Space
 - Kim Tanner is a SIT rep; could accept another rep
- This Friday, May 11th at 6-7:30pm is a Multi-cultural experience night at Sherman; open to RH community

Meeting adjourned @8:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Samantha Singhal, Secretary

Attachments:

Minutes of April, 2018 Meeting