



[www.rhs-pta.org](http://www.rhs-pta.org)  
[contact@rhs-pta.org](mailto:contact@rhs-pta.org)  
Facebook @RHSPTA

# MINUTES

## February 22, 2022 – Virtual Format

The February meeting of the Randolph Heights PTA was called to order at 7:30 pm by the president.

### **Welcome and Introduction:**

President Kristin Fischer Rosel welcomed all attendees. The following members of the PTA executive board were present:

Kristin Fischer Rosel, president  
Katie Russell, vice-president  
Katie Stromberg, treasurer  
Autumn Hubbell, secretary  
Tim Williams, principal  
Beth Tierney, teacher, third grade

### **School Start Time Change:**

#### *Recap*

The school district announced at the beginning of the month that Randolph Heights will shift to a 7:30am start time. The PTA hosted a forum with Chief Jackie Turner to ask questions about the time change. The forum can be viewed on the RHS PTA website.

A group of parents has organized a petition, unaffiliated with the PTA, to reverse the decision; and this petition was delivered to the district. No further information has been received from the district about this decision.

The PTA Board is:

- Committed to fostering a productive and respectful dialogue within our school community and with SPPS district leadership.
- Does not endorse or oppose the start time change announcement.
- Aims to support families, teachers and staff to the end that we're able.

#### *New RHS Parent Survey*

Principal Williams will be sending out a survey to help prepare for families' changing needs related to the start time. The survey will gauge need for after care (through Discovery Club or Rec Check), how many families are intending to stay at RHS or leave, as well as other questions that will help Principal Williams prepare for the upcoming school year.

This is different from the recent survey/questionnaire that helped inform the forum and the results of which were shared with the district.

### **Middle School Choice:**

Middle school information can be found at [www.rhs-pta.org](http://www.rhs-pta.org)

Forums were held with parents of RHS alumni currently in middle school, as well as middle school alumni themselves.

Applications due to SPPS Placement Office by Friday, March 4. Form and info at [www.spps.org/apply](http://www.spps.org/apply)

### **Read-a-thon Update:**

The Read-a-thon is going well, about 200 participants each week (about half of the students). We are on track to achieve our school wide reading goal of 150,000 minutes. Each classroom was given 4 board games this past week as part of the Read-a-thon activities and theme for this year. We are on target for financial goal (\$6,000 of \$10,000 goal has currently been received). Pledges are due in early March.

### **Financial Update:**

Katie Stromberg provided a financial update.

Recent purchases included accountant fees for tax preparation, games for classrooms (to support Read-a-thon).

Other fundraising opportunities, and recent revenue, includes Amazon Smile and Kowalskis.

Amazon smile gives .5% to RHS. The process to contribute is to enter Tax ID number: 41-6046747 (available on PTA website). Also able to search for Randolph Heights. See <https://smile.amazon.com/> for more information.

The Kowalskis fundraiser raised \$400. This is an ongoing fundraiser. After checkout, place your receipt in the fundraising cubby labeled "Randolph Heights Elementary". The cubby is still there – so for those shopping at Kowalskis, make sure to put your receipt in the cubby.

Treasurer's report can be viewed online at [www.rhs-pta.org](http://www.rhs-pta.org).

### **Principal's Update:**

Principal Williams shared the following updates:

#### *School Tours*

Schools have been given the go-ahead for in-person tours again. Principal Williams will be squeezing in a few tours before the school choice deadline.

#### *Teacher Strike Update*

Strike would likely start no earlier than March 8<sup>th</sup>, if negotiations fail between the teacher's union and the school district. In 2020, for the most recent strike, the district set up daycare options throughout district. They were not located at every school. Principals, TAs, other district personnel, non-striking

teachers staffed the care option. No transportation, but meals would be available. Likely be 1-2 days to set up, and then this care option might be available. Last strike was 3 days long, though pandemic likely played a role.

#### *COVID Update*

Numbers are going down. Quarantine policies have changed. RHS notifies families if child is a close contact, but class letters are not going out. Around 76% of students at RHS are vaccinated. Those children don't need to quarantine.

Contact tracing may stop. RHS stopped requiring masks at recess (it was a grade level decision to either stay isolated by class or mingle during recess, and masking occurred if classrooms mingled). No conversation yet about mask wearing and whether that would end at a district level.

#### *Parent Questions and Comments*

*How will Discovery Club be able to respond to shift in start time?*

Discovery Club will shift from before and after care to after care only from 2-6pm. April 25th is the date that Discovery Club opens for registration. Any current DC families likely guaranteed spots. After that Discovery Club will evaluate staffing and capacity to determine the need and if and how they can respond. Principal Williams has begun to have conversation with Language Sprouts – after school possibly 3x a week at 1.5 hours a day. It is fee based. Other options include Rec Check, which is a free program through St. Paul Parks and Rec. at Palace, Edgumbe, Linwood and transportation is covered.

*Could PTA cover fees if there is a barrier?* May not be a cost the PTA could take on. Discovery Club does have resources to cover fees for families where there is a need.

#### **Wrap-up:**

Kristin thanked members for attending and for their feedback and ideas. Next meeting will Tuesday, March 15 at 7pm in Zoom format.

Meeting adjourned at 8:13pm.