

RJMMS PTO Meeting Minutes-September

September 1, 2026

At Maracuya at 6:30pm

Members present: Cristy Downie, Danie Waler, Brenda Kelley, Christel Bates, Patience CDebaca, Allison Dempsey, Sherria Joy, Brigitt Carmichael, Ronald Greene, Taylor Byrd, Caroline Campbell, Samoya Ogden, Jeannie Capitelli

Meeting called to order: 6:39pm

WELCOME: President Cristy Downie

- a. Introductions of attendees and children

APPROVE MINUTES from April 2026 Meeting

- a. Minutes are on the website for public viewing

PRINCIPAL NOTES: Dr. Seward sent notes to President Cristy Downie to share.

- a. Attachment in the Bulldog Bulletin regarding Title I lunch (Annual Meeting). All are invited to attend and enjoy lunch. It will help bridge the home-school connection. Next Friday at school, it is free (noon-1pm). This annual meeting is a Title I requirement. It will answer questions and allow for information gathering.
- b. 1st page of the bulletin-the format of our bulletin is the same each month, but the information changes each time. Check the calendar of events and
- c. High school showcase is coming soon! 8th grade families should attend to check out the academies offered (December 9th in World Golf Village). 7th graders are always welcome
- d. Thank you for the microwaves. PTO purchased two new microwaves for the teacher's lounge for our staff.
- e. Importance of students listening to announcements and following deadlines

FINANCIAL REPORT-Patience CDebaca

- a. Financial report is posted online on the RJMMS website and available at any time.
- b. Copies of the financial report were printed and passed around
- c. August balance \$2, 228
- d. Deposits: Business partnerships (\$5, 451.62)
- e. Withdrawals: Microwaves (approved by board via text vote quorum) and Stock the lounge (over \$600 raised for this event). We were able to stock the lounge twice

- f. We have a remaining balance, though it is small. We need to fundraise for each activity that we plan to pay for
- g. We will not ask students to fundraise and we, as a PTO, will try to fundraise so that the students do not have to
- h. Our only source of funding is business partnerships and donations
- i. Current balance: \$7, 054.13

Motion to approve: Patience CDebaca; Seconded by Cristy Downie: **Motion carried with 100% of vote; zero opposed**

UPCOMING EVENTS

- a. Spirit wear is on sale now and throughout the year with the online store. There are many different designs available. It is customizable and will deliver directly to you. The school will get a percentage of the orders.
 - a. Are we able to send home a one sheet of choices to send home? This may make it easier for ordering so it is not overwhelming. We also want to make sure that the logos and shirts all say "RJ Murray" and not just "Murray"
- b. Friday is Jersey Day at School (opening day for NFL) and a lunch for teachers and staff is one of our goals (9/13). We are planning a tailgate style lunch. PTO funds it and will need a few volunteers. Mr. Velsor, the AP, will grill the food. During school lunch periods (10:30-12:00 noon). There will be a sign-up genius shared to get volunteers. Set-up will start at 9am. Title 1 lunch will be right afterwards (so that funding and volunteers will be at ONE EVENT, but (really) two). Popsicles available for those who participate in jersey spirit day.
- c. Red Ribbon Week in October will have a week of dress-up days

RECENT EVENTS

- a. Stock the lounge was very successful!
- b. Follow us on Facebook and Instagram for updates and pictures

NEW IDEAS/REQUESTS

- a. Teacher Reward Gift Cards (4 per month) during the staff meeting (once monthly)
 - a. \$25 each card (we have September covered already)
 - b. \$100 cost to us each month (or for a business sponsorship)
 - c. Let's try to get restaurants to donate the gift cards and leave parent donations for Teacher Appreciation Week
 - d. Panache gift card donations-Reserved for Teacher Appreciation Week
 - e. Let's have people donate money and we buy them ourselves

Cristy Downie: Motion to approve \$800 for gift cards (if donations are NOT received) with an expectation of a potential \$100 per month: Seconded by Jamie (All in favor with 100% of the vote-none were opposed. **MOTION CARRIED**)

- b. Let do Teacher Appreciation Week the last week of April (not in May as is traditional)
 - a. We can also ask for gift cards donations for TAW in March
 - b. Theme will be the same as the testing theme for the school.
 - c. Should we do a lottery? Should we show what the cards are? Should we keep the gift cards sealed? We will have a committee later

BUSINESS SPONSOR UPDATE

- A. Brenda encourages us to speak directly to businesses and ask those we know first (or to give them a heads up) so that when she calls, they are more likely to connect and sponsor
- B. 10 sponsors renewed for \$4,500 for the 2026-2027
 - a. Glenos Ortho, Salt and Stone (would like to sponsor a breakfast-12 days of Christmas breakfast for 100), Mowry, Town center dermatology, Shores Animal Hospital, all about, Peace Love Little Donuts (they do 12 days of Christmas too), Panache (gift cards for Teacher Appreciation)
 - b. Advent Health-not ready to renew until the Spring
 - c. Trinity Roofing –funded the Honors Breakfast
- C. You can be a business partner who does in-kind donations
- D. Zeffy is our donation platform
- E. Google Form on Parent Square-Do you know someone who owns a business? Do you think they would donate? Is it okay if we mention you? The connection to the child helps!
- F. Plinko Board idea to give away gift cards (100 staff members).

SPIRIT NIGHTS

- A. Hilary Soto is our coordinator and has already scheduled us throughout the year. There has already been a list/save-the date online for each month. Shout-out to Hilary for scheduling our nights throughout the year!!!
 - a. 9/30 Chipotle-use code and order online (on US1)
 - b. 10/22 Chick-fil-a-use code and order online (on US1). TWO volunteers have to be there the whole night to greet people and wipe tables. 5-8pm. We can respond via email.
 - c. 11/17 Culver's-a portion of ALL sales will be donated back (on US1)
 - d. There will be no spirit nights in December-such a busy month
 - e. Brenda-let's set up an Outback Steakhouse Spirit DAY in December (they donate baked potatoes and this is a way we can “thank” them :-)

- B. PBIS-positive Behavior Interventions and Supports
- a. Bark Bucks are paper cash that will be used
 - b. They don't rollover
 - c. Use them in the PBIS store
 - d. They will not be online, only in paper
 - e. They will open up once per month during lunch for a concession stand, store, and games. Students can cash in their bucks at those times.
 - f. PBIS events throughout the year. The first event will be in October-date and details coming.
 - g. Last year they did a raffle with Bark Bucks for Jaguar Football game tickets!
 - h. November staff-student volleyball game
 - i. It may be a movie too-dates coming in the future. The movie is a great alternative for students who want something more quiet/chill
 - j. Mr. Velsor requested PTO funds to help supply the Bark Buck Store.
 - i. Motion to approve funding for the PBIS store of \$500 donations by Cristy Downie; Seconded by Jamie. **Motion carried with 100% of the vote**; zero opposed. Carries Unanimously.

OPEN FLOOR

Cristel Bates: **Do we have book fairs?**

Mrs. Byrd brought back book fairs twice per year. We always love to have volunteers and can put it on the calendar. Middle School they shop online and for themselves. Just one or two people help with credit cards. She is running the library by herself. How can we help?

Patience CDebaca: **When is our next meeting?**

Tuesday, October 6th is our next meeting (the first Tuesday of the month) and we will plan to do it in-person again. We can discuss how it goes. Most people prefer in person meetings. We may switch to virtual in the future if it is needed.

Special thank you to Maracuya for hosting us.

MEETING CALLED TO A CLOSE: 7:45pm.