

- 1) Opening/Greeting – 6:32 pm
- 2) Kelly Nicastro –
 - Communication - Trying to improve parent communication – morning announcements are on YouTube – being done at period 4 – link will be on Facebook and hopefully tweeted. Goal is for the announcements to be on line – group of seniors being led by Ms. Sapir. 83 people came for first day of auditions seems that this is working. Only has one camera right now – plan to do staff interviews; info about seniors and sports
 - Communication Make sure to follow Facebook and twitter – RCSDSOTA
 - Communication - YouTube channel – SOTAStream
 - Communication - RCSDLINK on google store – free app that will allow you to see calendar, with notifications; menus; transportation; teacher email address; there was a tab for student concerns off right need she will find out why off
 - Schedule – kids are clear on their major; at orientation kids asked to wear their color for orientation; all kids are with their advisement will get info for their majors
 - Building fully staffed – additional reading teacher 2 new; Spanish teacher; 2 new health; .7 athletic being shared with east;
 - Waiting for info from Michaelson on pairing for sports for school
 - Enrollment for sports is really far down
 - 1155 kids – graduated 81.5% in June; 86% in August
 - Application may have been down but no one was able to be moved off of the waiting list and the self-contained rooms are full and the district placed students in the school in the incoming 7th grade – students with special needs in the school. Net result is that 12 students who did not audition were placed. Central office originally slated 23 additional special needs students to be here and Nicastro was able to prove that there was no room for 23. Belculfine will work with the parents of other students to try to audition at the end of 7th and end of 8th . The goal is to keep the students at SOTA, but if any do not successfully audition after 8th grade they will be transferred out. For some, SOTA was not at all a first choice. There are 27 total self contained (12:1:1 and 15:1) classroom spots at SOTA. 15 were filled through audition spots and then 12 were sent here by the district. Next year admin will be more actively recruit special needs students and be sure they get a chance to audition
 - A parent asked about suspension rate – seems to have been high last year, will restorative practices be used. – Miss Feorella will attend restorative

justice training to work with the students and the middle school counselor will give strategies on coping during advisement;

- Mr. Jones (CASE) is no longer at school. There is a district wide CASE administrator who comes 3x per month. Building designee will be at CSE hearings ; CASE will only do any more restrictive or new plan;
- A parent asked about Advisement classes – 12th graders have multiple advisements – at high school level kids picked their classes – if child did not choose some classes then there may have been more advisement – new electives being offered – statistics; online classes; computer science; virtual psychology; virtual classes
- Students can also seek early dismissal if they want to work in the afternoon – must be approved by parents
- Photography can be taken by anyone that has room in their schedule probably not until 11th or 12th grade – is in rotation for visual arts major for 11th and 12th and will roll down for 9th and 10th
- AP's per grade is on line – updated this summer or call counselor
- Naviance is being rolled out – the counselors are working on getting it out to the parents hoping that RCSD will work it out quickly – all grade levels have been introduced
- National honor society – website information might be wrong and the letters will go out in the fall; being revised bc of students not wanting to do honor society – will review with Siriano

3) Introductions

4) Student Leadership

- No report

5) SOTA Friends

- Lawrence Jones – Treasures; Daniel Janeen – President
- Friends raises money and gives it away to enrich students
- 25th year
- Used to do gala's; used to get money from outside of the community; parents and alums on board;
- Receive allocation requests from teachers, staff and administrators and the principal reviews and must agree and then given to friends; then they have a meeting and money always given occasionally there is tweaking and clarifying; 7th graders sent to see Wicked (60); kids interested in sports sent to Frontier Field; AP US History student sent to Strong; Books; Arrendale

7th grade with students and dads; about 2 dozen events per year; sometimes individual for dance shoes or winter jacket

- One other big thing scholarship money – in June, 2017 \$400 to \$500 for 12 students; Allen Memorial Arts Awards \$500 per year for 4 years; some of the scholarships are endowments and that is where the money comes from
- Raise money through 2 parties for adults with music provided by kids; grants are written; letter sent for money from parents
- How can you help? Get on mailing list; email and paper; come to fundraising party; help write grants; volunteer to help at events; need board members
- Meeting on 09/21 at 5 Roosevelt Street Danika's House

6) SBPT Report

- Brian Haak; Allison Bosworth and Martin Pressburg – on SBPT
- 2 alternate parent reps are needed Will be voted on at next PTSO meeting
- Focus is curriculum and education; can't do much with anything nor curriculum or education based
- Met 09/12 – need to know if this is PTO or PTSO we are a PTSO – need 3 parent reps and 2 alternates – reps and filled and alternates are needed; alternates can come to all meetings but cannot really vote; there needs to be a nomination and voting for alternates; alternate takes the place for the particular meeting or can fill in position if a rep cannot be there; everyone including alternates are allowed to speak at meeting– let Allison, Brian or Vicki know if interested
- Dress Code cannot be addressed by SBPT
- SBPT has asked if we will be involved in the hiring process – SBPT can and will be involved in hiring
- RTA must have one more vote than all other members; RAP -; BENTE; ACE -; student rep; votes are by constituency and then they vote based on what their constituency wants
- Meetings once a month on Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday 4:15-6:00 pm
- Parent feedback – flyers will be brought to first events for September and October to reach out to more parents so that they can get more input

7) PTSO Update

- Change from PTA to PTSO – officers last year felt that all that happened was PTA was sucking up money because friends was the fundraising group
- Communication, Community and Advocacy
- Monthly newsletter for communication – Becca Hack organizing

- Mary Starpoli doing Sports
- Deb Wachspress doing Counseling
- doing Academics -- OPEN POSITION
- doing Arts – contact Susan Roody -- OPEN POSITION
- Clubs -- OPEN POSITION
- Student Column – Allison will find someone for us because need someone in charge of this
- Mary compiled information from the web-site and put it into a blurb for newsletter with links to documents and webpages
- Exec board Secretary Janine Rella, Vicki Robertson – president, Becca Haak --Communications, Walida Monroe-Sims, LaShunda Leslie -Smith
- Need someone to man table to 9/19
- Next meeting – there were a lot of questions about arts – we will invite Mr. Belcufine for next meeting – send questions ahead of time; try to get administrator for every meeting

8) Advocacy

- Next month Mary Starpoli will put together a survey to see what parents needs from us – will be a survey that will be sent and then we as PTSO will review if and when we will address
- Aria Camione- – Central Office will push Dress Code back on the school rather than it being from central; work with the school community to create a new dress code – try and use the Evanston Code be a bit of a model; try to get rid of the punitive nature of the dress code; how is it enforced; inconsistently enforced; bus pass being confiscated as punishment for clothing violations; Chandler stated girls will be singled out because they are the biggest offenders;
 - First offense – given a pair of pants; bus pass not given back because
 - Dress code has been a huge issue for years – a lot of examples of how it is bad; One administrator has been the enforcer;
 - The board indicated that there is a basic outline and all school need a new dress code ASAP that is a committee with students, administration, parents, etc.
 - Some people might not agree with a change
 - In June 2016 the RCSD voted on a very basic dress code – page 55 of
 - SOTA has its own handbook and they have gone beyond
 - As of now the school is required to create a new plan
 - New dress code is part of the district restorative practice
 - Punitive piece of policy needs to be addressed

- Code needs to be updated
- School needs to start enforcing more consistently
- Kids of color more dinged than white kids
- Staff needs to be involved
- We need to ask administration to allow us on the board
- Kelsy and Tavon are supposed to be at the meetings
- Aspenlighter needs to be part of committee
- Dress Code versus school culture – are girls being improperly singled out

- School Climate Walk Through – watch how the school runs; look at how things in the school run and how things work – get a group of parents together to see how the school is running – Vicki will ask for

- School start time is being advocated – update from SBPT – looking into tardy for kids and how this time change is affecting kids – the change was made because of RTS contract issues

- Saturday detention is still being given for 3 or more tardies; the kids who rides buses are always on time;

9) Future Topics/Speakers

- Mail in to Vicki Robertson: sotaptso@gmail.com

CURRICULUM NIGHT 6 -8 PM NOT 6:30-8:00 PM

Ms. Goodwine is home school assistant