**RRTA Meeting**

**May 2, 2019**

**Attendance:**  R. Allen, D. Altobelli,K. Barkley,M. Barnum, C. Bonsignore-Kitchen, P. Brody, B. Buckingham, C. Dean, K. Evans, K. Fager,M. Ferenchak, K. Huey, W. Humphrey, A. Johnson, B. Jones, L. Rapkin, K. Schultz, G. Shakes, S. Silvio, A. Smith, B. Swan, F. Valente, D. Voellinger, M. Zimmer

**Absent:** Z. Artson-Crichlow, M. Jenkins-Cox, M. Keating, F. Macek, E. Robinson, D. Sullivan, G. Sweeney, Y. Wooten

**Also in attendance**: B. Gerace, S. Raymond

The meeting was called to order at 10:06.

1. A moment of silence was observed for teachers who have passed away in the past month: Deroller Nixon, Ed Barkley, and Bob Sadick. A $25 donation is made to Books for Kids in memory of any RRTA member.

2. The April 4, 2019 minutes were approved as written.

3. Melanie Mroz and Henry Padron came to speak to the group to introduce and seek volunteers for a program called **Generation 2**. (G2) Melanie spoke and said that the group is already in Schools 3, 45 and RISE and next year will expand to #44. They also are in Fairport and East Rochester schools. She said it is similar to the Primary Projects program that many are familiar with. She said that all students are welcome in the program and not just children with IEPs. The program provides social and emotional support for students in grades k - 2. The volunteers work in a group (of 4 or 5 volunteers) setting in the morning or the afternoon with a toy filled suitcase to play with the students (one adult for each student). You would commit to 2 hours a week (30 minutes with each student) from October to May. There is training for each volunteer, 1/2 day conference in November, and a weekly discussion with the site based coordinator to discuss any questions or issues with a student. Melanie said that students have excellent outcomes, liking coming to school, have less discipline problems and good social behaviors. A motion was proposed and passed that she write an article for the August newspaper to send out a call for volunteers. If you are interested in knowing more contact: Melanie Mroz, executive director at [mmrozroch@gmail.com](mailto:mmrozroch@gmail.com); [g2rochester.org](http://g2rochester.org); (585)442-6043 or 315-3412; PO Box 18626, Rochester, NY 14618.

4. **Vote Cope** — Dave Altobelli thanked those who worked on preparing the materials for the Vote Cope campaign: Aimee Rinere (and her daughter), Mary Barnum, Barbara Buckingham, Kathy Evans, Debbi Jackett, Mary Zimmer, Jim Kraus, and George Grevin.

Contributor’s names will be entered into the yearly raffle at the June 18 RA with a minimum yearly contribution of $40.

Dave asked everyone to review your contribution and consider joining through pension deduction and increase your contribution to continue protecting your union.

4. b. **Political information**: Mary Barnum wanted to remind everyone that the Primary elections for November are now held on June 25. She discussed the RTA endorsed School Board members: Willa Powell (present member), Amy Maloy (teacher in Brighton and with children in School 58), Beatrice LeBron (present member), and Ricardo Adams (husband of past member, Mary Adams). All candidates were invited to a meeting but several chose not to attend. These are not all part of the Democratic Committee endorsed candidates, but are good choices to best help the district and need to be elected to get on the November ballot. There will be a phone bank during the week of June 17 - 20 from 12 to 5 calling NYSUT, democratic, city members. Please join us in calling our NYSUT members.

City Council RTA endorsed candidates are Michael Gerace and LaShay Harris.

RTA is also endorsing Adam Bello and Sandra Doorley in the November elections.

5. **Dress A Girl/Savvy Sewers**: Gaya Shakes reported that the group in April made 33 dresses, 14 dolls, and 4 blankets (made for hurricane victims at the Hart St. Bilingual Academy who are still needy). If you have any twin beds, linens, etc. contact Gaya.) Their next meeting is May 20 and all are welcome. They are looking for places to send the dresses, so if you know of anyone traveling, contact a member of the group.

6. **Books for Kids** — In April the group went to Hart St’s Bilingual Academy’s first grade. The whole committee turned out to work with the Spanish dominant children individually. In May the group is going to School 4 (at Freddie Thomas building). May 9 they are going to Barnes and Noble and May 17 to the class.

7. **Newspaper** — On Thursday, May 9 the newspaper will be prepared and mailed to members only. Mary Barnum thanked everyone who contributed articles and pictures. July 11 will be the next deadline for the August newspaper. Send her any articles or pictures you would like to share.

8. **Calendar** — There is a correction of the September picnic date in the newspaper. The correct date is September 20. There will be an additional activity to Joe Rizzo’s Apple Farm, but the date is determined on the harvest.

9. Adam Urbanski referred Anne Tartarsky to come and speak to the RRTA group about looking for retired teachers to be Peace Corps volunteers. There was a motion that passed to ask her to come and speak to the group at the June meeting.

10. Gaya Shakes reported that the memorial service for Paula Maywalt will be May 17 at Georgetown Manor Clubhouse from 3:30 to 5:30. She was a Spanish teacher at several high schools and mentor.

11. Health Care info — you do not need to have a Costco membership to use the Costco pharmacy. You just mention that you are going to the pharmacy at the door and they will let you in.

12. Al Smith said that last Saturday his Lion’s Club awarded a service award to School 22’s para, Matt McCray (also had been at #36). He is a leader in the community for youth and had turned his life around in getting a job in the district and working with kids.

May 19 there will be a Memorial ceremony for the 1,450 vets in Monroe County who have passed away in one year between April 1, 2018 and March 31, 2019. It will be held at the War Memorial on Broad Street and is open to all vets, spouses and family.

13. The Red Wing game for RTA and RRTA members and the buffet will be June 1. Look for the information in the RRTA newspaper that is being sent out in May. There will also be a separate mailing to remind everyone.

The meeting adjourned at 11:15.

Mary Zimmer

RRTA Secretary