

**RIS PTA Meeting Minutes**  
**December 5, 2013 9:30 AM**

Present: Linda Gejda, Anne Uberti, Rena Estes, Cathy Filiato, Sarah Findley, Tracey Jaeger, Kristin Larson, Kate Mayer, Kim O'Rourke, Heather Smith, Lisa Wallace.

1. **Reed PTA Financial Review** (Kim O'Rourke, Treasurer)
  - \$11,620 less revenue than projected. Expenses are lower as well. Currently 35,477.38 on hand.
  - Membership is lower - 20 families less than prior years. \$700 less in membership.
  - Kim recommends that Scholastic Book Fair proceeds be taken in cash, rather than all Scholastic dollars - which will add \$3,000 revenue. Jeanine Parsons will change the invoice with Scholastic.
  - Motion by Kim O'Rourke to move \$4,000 from budget to spending committee. Motion passed unanimously.
2. **Meeting Minutes** (Kristin Larson, Secretary) Review of minutes from October 3, 2013. Minutes approved.
3. **Common Core State Standards/Smarter Balance Update** (Linda Gejda, Assistant Superintendent)
  - There is a District Common Core Committee (includes parents, teachers and administrators)
  - CT adopted common core standards in 2010 for English and math - but impacts other subject areas. Focus is now on incorporating standards into the curriculum
  - 45 states have adopted the standards. Advantages - aids students moving from state to state. Also helps determine preparedness of students nationwide.
  - Educators are involved in developing assessment program (including teachers from Newtown - Gail Pagano is state lead for Connecticut). CT looked to as example nationally - based on experience with CMT/CAPT
  - CMT no longer tests for what we're teaching - aligned with old state standards. Newtown did not take CMT last spring. High school did take CAPT. High school was recognized as an excellent high school based on CAPT scores.
  - The new CT assessment program will be Smarter Balanced - which is online, summative, and adaptive (if answer all questions right, students are given additional questions).
  - The spring 2015 state assessments will be online Smarter Balanced assessments. Newtown will participate in the field test, in spring 2014, for grades 3-8 and 11.
  - Practice tests are now available online on <http://www.smarterbalanced.org>
4. **Principal Report (Anne Uberti)**
  - Parent-teacher conferences in November- conferences were held with every parent.
  - Parent forums - 10-11 parents during the day. Only a handful of parents at night. Parent forums are now listed on the school websites.
  - New SRO, Officer Scott Smith. Degree in elementary education. Taught at Sandy Hook.
  - Received a Sandy Hook School Foundation Grant for Homework Club. From 2-4 days a week. Also adding tutoring with certified staff.
  - Assembly - Rob, Speed painter. Hero. December 19<sup>th</sup> at 1:30.
5. **Other Business**
  - *Town Security Planning.* (Kate Mayer) At a recent town-wide Security Forum, there was discussion of having crisis prevention drills, including a mass casualty drill at the high school on a weekend. PTA presidents plan to discuss concerns at the next PTA presidents meeting with Superintendent John Reed