**Roy C. Ketcham High School**

**PTSA MINUTES**

**Location: via zoom**

**January 20, 2021**

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**In attendance:** Liz Vilato, Cynthia Salberg, Kim Bartholomew, Piedade Rodrigues, Lauren Zorilo, David Seipp, Janine McQueen, and Deborah Wright.

Meeting called to order 7:01 pm. No quorum

1. **Old business-** Minutes from November 22, 2020 tabled to next meeting due to lack of quorum
2. **Principal’s report-** Mr. Seipp thanked the PTSA for the Winter Wonderland event. He thanked the parents for their dedication, commitment and time spent. He said the event was much appreciated. The end of 2nd marking period is in two weeks. Beginning Jan. 11, class time will extend for all periods in one day. In-person student numbers are very low. There is a lot of dialogue with staff regarding failures and how to do better with students and how to engage them. He mentioned RCK received a tremendous accomplishment with having a high graduation rate which was mentioned in the Poughkeepsie Journal. It’s kudos to our school. Mr. Seipp is proud to be a part of that accomplishment. Credit also goes to the parents. Right now, attendance is not great with the students. A survey was sent to the students and teachers. The feedback was that students are not doing their work because they are not interested. Teachers have to engage our students and they need to change their ways of teaching too. Mr. Seipp mentioned that he added 2 new committees for staff - Beautification committee and Cultural Response committee. Once the committees are developed, they will have student involvement.
3. **President's report-**Liz thanked all who helped with the Winter Wonderland event. It was a great event. She thanked the New Hackensack fire department for their efforts. Liz was disappointed that there was not much staff turnout for the event. She reported that Foam and Wash coupon sales made $403. We are planning to run a Spring BJs membership drive and masks are still on sale. We were chosen by the National PTA as a school of excellence which recognized us for working toward specific goals of inclusion and making communication better with schools and parents. The PTA received a $1000 SmartTalk Conversation grant for internet safety. She mentioned that we also got chosen by the NYS PTA for having increased membership numbers for the 2020-2021 school year. They want to know to what we attribute our increase in memberships. We all think it was because of Liz promoting us on social media and we did a lot of events. A lot of parents who were involved in elementary school got carried over to the high school, so it made it more successful. Liz wants to set up google for non-profits and be recognized as a non-profit on Facebook. She would like to set up a permanent donor request site to solicit corporate donations and be able to offer donor match forms for employers. If anyone has experience with setting up, please let her know.
4. **Treasurer’s report-**Kim reported the bank balance is currently $12,832.00. Purchased fence cups and paid dues for the NYS PTA. She paid Foam and Wash and expenses for the Winter Wonderland event.
5. **New Business**
6. **Graduation-**Mr. Seipp is working with Mr. Lolkema on graduation. Mr. Seipp will get the conversation going with the class advisors and the principal of John Jay high school. This graduating class did not get a junior prom or homecoming so something needs to be done for them.
7. **PTA Board Elections-**Will be discussing at the next meeting.

**Meeting adjourned at 7:42pm**