

# Parents Association RKA MS/HS 141

## General PA Meeting

01/04/16, 7:00pm

Principal's Report: Discussing local school overcrowding and potential impact on RKA for 2016-2017 school year.

Many PS24 5<sup>th</sup> grade parents were in attendance. Per DOE, two classrooms in the RKA basement level were being looked at for several of the PS24 5<sup>th</sup> graders. The lease at the Whitehall Annex where the current 5<sup>th</sup> graders are housed has ended. They would be "co-locating". It was thought as ideal as the location has exit doors on 236<sup>th</sup> street (facing PS24). They surveyed our space and came up that these classes were being underutilized at RKA. Marvin Shelton, parent of a 6<sup>th</sup> grader at RKA and president of the District 10 CEC, was also present at the general pa meeting and shared how PS24 administrators were looking at keeping all 5<sup>th</sup> graders self contained by creating classrooms in their lunchroom and gymnasium. This was not definite and DOE was surveying their space as well. No decisions have been made. There will be an SLT meeting first, a Town Hall meeting and then a panel at the DOE department will be making their decision.

Lori O'Mara's concern was potential growth years from now with the incoming 6<sup>th</sup> graders. The numbers range every year. Presently there are 1,406 students in the 6-12<sup>th</sup> grades. RKA is bursting at the seams. She is also concerned whether it'll be just for the 2016-2017 school year or ongoing. Her other concern was her "floater" teachers. These are teachers who have free time in between their schedules and are able to provide students with extra help in a classroom. If we lose the classrooms in the basement level, all classrooms will be occupied at all times not allowing the "floater" teachers to keep their rooms while they are not teaching. She will have to figure out where she will put them. This is a big issue. Ms. O'Mara wishes she would have been included from the beginning.

What can parents do? RKA parents were advised to write their own personal letters to the DOE. As a whole, the parent's opinion should be known and heard. In the interim, a copy of the letter the present and past RKA executive board members sent to the DOE plus several elected officials was printed and all in attendance signed off on it as well. Extra copies were made and asked to be distributed to the rest of the parent body.

On the calendar:

Homecoming Week - January 4<sup>th</sup>- 8<sup>th</sup>

No School – Monday, January 18<sup>th</sup> – Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

HS Finals and MS Midterms – January 18<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup>

"You Make a Difference" breakfast – Friday, January 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7:15am

Regents week (no school for HS students NOT taking exams) – January 25<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup>

SAT Registration deadline for March 5<sup>th</sup> test date – Friday, January 29<sup>th</sup>