Dear RMSEL Parent Community,

On Tuesday, October 8, 2019, we closed on $7,920,187 of proceeds with a true interest cost of 4.272% for a 30-year maturity. The “Trustee” US BANK will hold the bond proceeds and final maturity will be 2050. The bonds do have ten year call features that the school could use in the event revenues were available to buy down the debt prior to the final maturity. RMSEL is now required to retain a budget line item for debt service of $484,000 annually. The proceeds represent 63% of the total building renovation and expansion and the Building Excellent Schools Today (BEST) Grant provides the remaining 37% for a total building project with a budget of $11,900,000.

While financing was a significant milestone of this project, the architect team has completed the Schematic Design of the Building Renovation and Expansion. The team will now take the Schematic Design to construct specific Design Drawings for construction. We will hang some of the large scale plans in the building in the next few weeks for parents and students to see the location of classrooms, new facility options, etc. Finally, we will have contractors beginning work on campus Friday, October 11, 2019 for surveying and civil engineers to begin site preparation. This is all very exciting for our entire community!

Q1 & Conferences

The first quarter concluded for grades K-8 on Friday, October 4, 2019; progress reports have been distributed to crew leaders to send home to families prior to Conferences. We look forward to the opportunity to share first quarter progress and goals with parents at conferences this Thursday and Friday. Student progress is always available online through your Parent Portal Infinite Campus account. If your account is not active or you have yet to acquire your unique ID please check in with Cris Veteto for support during conferences.

Fitness T-Shirts

The Fitness T-Shirts for the 2019-2020 school year have arrived. We understand the timeline is different from last year as this school year we collected sizes from families at registration. We plan to distribute the shirts next Tuesday by Crew so please expect your son/daughter to come home with a new Fitness T-Shirt. Crew Leaders will begin fitness assessment and distribute patches to students as they reach personal milestones or standards of achievement in each tested exercise.
We appreciate your patience with the order process, as we wanted to ensure every child received a shirt that fits this year.

**Fall Break**

Fall Break is scheduled for October 21-25, 2019, and a Professional Development Day for teaching staff is scheduled for Monday, October 28, 2019. All students will return to class on Tuesday, October 29, 2019. We wish everyone a restful and rejuvenating week away from campus.

**Social Media – Instagram**

Over the years our families have come to learn about our school’s philosophy regarding Social Media. As an organization we have also surveyed parents and found that approximately half of our parent community actively use social media to access information. We have refrained from the use of social media in past years as countless research articles and studies have been conducted describing the negative effects on socialization and child development, in short we felt that it was not our place to be active with social media while at the same time telling our students that they should refrain from use. I will personally share that this is a “blind spot” for me as a leader because I refrain from the use of social media.

Yesterday, our Leadership Team convened, consisting of our administrators, instructional coaches, and teacher leaders. One item on the agenda was “Social Media.” At RMSEL, we have so much to share that is happening every day, in classrooms, the field, fitness, crew trips, etc. Social Media is an additional platform to share these celebrations with a broader audience. The team reviewed all major platforms and felt that if we are to establish a social media platform that Instagram best aligns with our mission and vision. The team agreed that Facebook and Twitter lean toward a negative connotation and is a platform for more interaction, which is not our purpose for use. We want to share with our local community celebrations of learning from our amazing school and the team felt that this would be best done through Instagram. In the spirit of shared decision making and collaboration, the team also would like to use this as an opportunity to learn safe digital practices for students. Our platform will be managed by the administration but operated by a different crew each week. Each crew will be responsible for taking photographs and posting messages that celebrate learning across our K-12 community. The students will schedule the posts and they will be reviewed by administration prior to posting. This shared ownership provides students with the responsibility of content creation. The official school account can be found at (rmsel_denver)!

We will ensure the integrity of parent requests regarding photo usage and no child with media exemptions will be included in any post. Also, the comment feature will not be active, as this is a tool to share a message from the school, not a place for digital conversation.

**Halloween Parade – October 31, 2019**

Our students have requested the opportunity to share in a school-wide celebration on Thursday, October 31, 2019. While we have refrained from this in past years we also understand that this something fun that builds community as a school. On Halloween this year we will begin with a parade together across the street at Ash Grove Park. Students may come to school in their costumes. Costumes must meet school dress code and may not include a mask or toy props. Students will need to bring a change of clothes or wear school appropriate attire under their costume for when the parade concludes. With the support of our high school students from 7:50 to
8:50 am we will take a few laps around Ash Grove and circle up so students can see one another’s costumes. The leadership team felt this was a fun way to share in the spirit of the day with minimal disruption. This time is optional and if a family would elect for a student not to participate for the hour, this would be an excused tardy.

**Stio Outdoor Industry Support**

I want to extend a huge thank you to one of our Outdoor Industry Partners located in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, Stio ([www.stio.com](http://www.stio.com)), for their sponsorship and support of our school staff apparel this year! The team at Stio was phenomenal to work with and they make amazing products. If you are in the market for new outdoor apparel this season, they are definitely worth exploring.

Sincerely,

Chad