

December 5, 2022
Rowe School PTO Meeting, 6:30-8 PM
Approved Minutes

Officers Present: Rita King, PTO President; Kathy Cogan, PTO vice-president; Stephanie Walsh, Treasurer; Jennifer Rent, Fundraising Chair; Bianca MacDonald, Secretary

Other Attendees: Jesseca Steele, Rowe Principal; Elizabeth Spinney, Literacy Coach; Tina Mikkelson, Community Coordinator; Sarah Swensen, Kindergarten teacher; Bianca Winship, Math Coach; Renee Orcutt, 3rd Grade Teacher; Susan Mercier, Special Education Teacher; Beth Becker, Special Education Teacher; Jenna Figenbaum, 5th Grade Teacher; Sydney Levesque, Kindergarten Teacher; Manuel Yia; Alicia Peters; Carrie Strick; Molly Hemkens; Jodi (last name not recorded); Meghan Torrieri; Jen Evans; Bill Anderson; Nicole Nguyen; Abby A; Laura Paul; Alicia Peters; Audrey Bartholomew; Janna; Michelle Waring

I. **Welcome and Introductions**

Rita called the meeting to order and participants introduced themselves. Rita introduced the focus of this meeting to learn more about academic curriculum at Rowe School.

II. **Literacy Curriculum Presentation - Beth Spinney**

Rowe School Literacy Coach, Beth Spinney, presented about Literacy Curriculum.

A. **K-2**

Lively Letters Kindergarten - 2nd graders district wide use Lively Letters programming to learn letters, letter sounds. These skills carry over and are applied to reading and writing skill development.

Haggerty Phonetic Awareness is a 30 week set of daily lessons that teachers utilize in their classrooms. This curriculum is 100% oral and requires no lesson prep by teachers.

Units of Study in Phonics. Students complete 5 phonics units that are used to help students to transfer phonics skills to reading and writing.

B. **Grades 3, 4, & 5**

Lexia Core 5. 3rd, 4th and 5th grade students utilize Lexia Core 5 to identify any learning gaps and continue to grow literacy skills. This learning takes place 100% on the computer and students exit Lexia once their end of year Lexia goals have been met.

Reading and Writing Principles are taught using an inquiry approach by asking questions of students and encouraging them to explore identities through reading. Literacy skills are applied across content areas.

Content Based Literacy is working to integrate literacy into Social Studies and Science Curriculum.

C. Parent Questions

Q: Where is the district in terms of progress in moving towards integrating science and social studies into literacy curriculum?

A: The district is focusing on strengthening foundational literacy in K-2 and identifying and addressing learning gaps in the 3-5 students.

Q: How is early bird dyslexia screening being implemented in the district? Early bird screening is a new screening offered to k and 1st grade students to screen for dyslexia or students at risk of dyslexia.

A: Prior to the early bird screening dyslexia schools used a variety of screening tools to identify students who are at risk for dyslexia. It takes a long time to implement new screenings and curriculum. The will continue to use old and new screening tools to identify students at risk for dyslexia. Interventions to support students with reading is Are often through the Response to Intervention (RTI) process which provides individualized support to students with learning gaps.

Q: Early bird is only for K and 1, how are we identifying students in 2-5 who may have Reading challenges?

A: Grade 2 will be added to the early bird in the near future. Teachers continue to utilize screening for high frequency words and reviewing records to identify learning challenges. Additionally, MWEA results identify students with a score of 40% or below receive follow up to identify where gaps are and to offer targeted support.

Q: Will parents be notified if students are receiving support services at school?

A: Parents are always notified.

3rd Grade Teacher, Renee Orcutt shared that while she sees gaps in student's learning she is also seeing a great deal of progress and resilience in our students.

Special Education Teacher, Beth Spinney shared about the hard work that our teachers are doing to learn all of the new screening tools and overall doing such a great job overall.

III. Math Curriculum Presentation - Bianca Winship

Rowe Elementary Math Coach, Bianca Winship, presented about math the illustrative math curriculum taught at Rowe School and throughout the district.

- A. Illustrative Math** is used at all grade levels k-12 in Portland Public Schools. Teachers collaborated and helped to develop this curriculum. It is a seamless, coherent and aligned math curriculum designed to support all learners to know, use and apply math concepts and skills.

- B. Structure of a Lesson** - This format is consistent in all grades k-12. Lesson structure provides an introduction to the standards and concepts, a deep study of concepts and procedures, and finished with consolidating and applying learners.
- a. **Warm Up** - learning goal is presented and students are invited into the lesson
 - b. **Activity** - Includes discussion, small group work, hands on activity
 - c. **Activity** - Synthesis - process as a large group allows teacher to identify and misperceptions
 - d. **Lesson Synthesis** - Another activity to process the lesson
 - e. **Cool Down** - Centers in grades k-2; centers happen at a different part of the day in 3-5

- C. Addressing Pandemic Related Unfinished Learning** - The pandemic started during the first year of that illustrative math was used in the district. Teachers are using several strategies to get all students to grade level standards.
- a. Adaptation lessons are used as needed in grade 3-5
 - b. Reteaching content from the previous year at the beginning of a new unit.

D. Parent Questions

- a. How can we support our students with math at home?
A - Foster joy and curiosity. Use games, counting collections, everyday projects such as baking/ cooking, organizing, sorting, estimating, measuring.
Community newsletters provide information about each grade unit so parents are aware of current math lessons.
 1. Bianca suggested that a mock lesson could be offered to parents so they could see what it feels like to learn through this model.

IV. Feedback from Shared Space Cafe

People would like to feel more connected to their communities and classrooms and are looking to create smaller communities within the larger community. PTO would like to integrate feedback from this event into a PTO event, potentially the "Mini Winterfest" planned for January. The group discussed ideas to make the event accessible and welcoming.

A. Ideas for Mini Winterfest event

- Transportation is very important in making the event accessible
- Potluck? Potentially split into 2 events, by grade K-2 and 3-5
- Solicit potluck donations through PTO and ensure that offerings are culturally diverse.
- Could the school kitchen be used to prepare food? Jesseca is exploring this option.
- Develop a cookbook using recipes from the community as a way of celebrating diversity.
- Offer play spaces at the event.

V. PTO Event Updates

- A. **Room Parents** Kathy Cogan presented about progress towards integrating room parents into the community. The role of room parents is to foster community within the classrooms and help to meet teacher identified needs. She shared that it has been challenging to obtain classroom contact lists. Room parents have begun reaching out to teachers to try to increase participation in classroom directories.
- B. **Cookie Extravaganza** Kayla Theriault shared about the cookie extravaganza planning and identified a need for a lot more cookies - there are a total of 100 slots and only 27 people have signed up to participate.
- C. **Maine Celtics Night, February 11.** Families can purchase tickets to the game and see other Rowe families at the game.
- D. **PTO Popups.** The PTO is collecting donations for families in need during the holidays. There will be PTO popups to collect donations. Spirit wear sales will also happen during the popups.

VI. Fundraising Updates - Jennifer Rent

- A. **Slab Restaurant Night, 12/19.** Slab will donate 10% of all sales to Rowe PTO on 12/19. Matt Moran is a Rowe parent and owner of Slab.
- B. **Maine Celtics Game 50/50 raffle.** There will be a 50/50 raffle at the event to raise money for the PTO at the 2/11/23 game.
- C. **On-Line Book Fair at Print.** The online book fair at Print a Bookstore is now live. Teachers have wish lists for books that can be purchased by families for classrooms. Families can also shop for books for themselves or as holiday gifts. The PTO 20% of all sales in store credit to purchase additional books for the school.
- D. **Calendar Raffle, April.** Jennifer is in the beginning phases of planning a calendar raffle fundraiser for April. She is currently trying to develop a system for people to choose the specific items that they would like to be entered to win.

VII. Treasurer's Report - Stephanie Walsh

Treasurer Stephanie Walsh presented the treasurer's report.

A. Expenses

- a. **\$3500 teacher stipends** - the PTO gave \$100 to each teacher to cover miscellaneous

classroom supplies.

b. \$1275 Ruth's Reusables

B. Proceeds

a. Walk a Thon - \$16,097. The event cost \$1,101 so the net proceeds are \$14,996.

b. Spirit Wear - \$3,400. The PTO recently invested \$6,600 to restock inventory.
Sales are going very well so far.

VIII. Approve September 29, 2022 PTO Meeting Minutes

The group voted unanimously to approve the September 2022 Rowe School PTO Meeting Minutes.

IV. Wrap up and Adjournment

A participant raised a question about the location of the next PTO meeting in March. The group decided to hold the meeting virtually on Zoom.

Rita adjourned the meeting at 7:53 pm.