

May 10, 2022
Rowe School PTO Meeting, 6:30-7:30
Approved Minutes

Officers Present: Rita King, PTO Co-President; Starr Soul-McDonald, PTO vice-president; Emily Bishop, Community Building Co-Chair; Steph Walsh, Treasurer; Bianca MacDonald, Secretary
Other Attendees: Barbara Fletcher, Rowe Principal; Jen Evans; Meghan Torrieri; Jennifer Rent

I. Welcome and Introductions

Rita called the meeting to order and participants introduced themselves.

II. SpringFest Questions and Answers with Principal

The SpringFest Planning committee directed several questions to Principal Barbara Fletcher.

- 1) Can the school mic system be utilized? Yes
- 2) Is there a water source for filling kiddie pool for games? Yes, a spigot outside.
- 3) Where can cakes be stored? Walk-in refrigerator in cafeteria
- 4) Can the school walkies be used? Yes
- 5) Can teachers be recruited as volunteers? Yes, send a reminder email
- 6) Can the FLS room be used for basket assembly? Yes
- 7) Can the building be accessed for set up? Yes, Barb will let custodial staff know.

III. Approve Meeting Minutes

An electronic link to the April 2022 PTO meeting minutes was previously provided to participants. The minutes were unanimously approved.

IV. Vote to Push Back Vote on By Laws

The group unanimously voted to push back the vote on the revised bylaws to the September meeting. Rita explained that this will provide time to adjust the bylaws to reflect the new plan to decentralize the planning process for events to allow volunteers to take on smaller projects throughout the year.

V. Treasurer's Report Highlights

PTO treasurer, Steph Walsh, presented an overview of the current PTO budget and recent activity.

A. Revenue

- a. **Boxtops** - \$32
- b. **Clynk** - \$68
- c. **Spirit Wear** - \$315 (\$225 from Jump into Math Night)

d. Sponsorships - \$2,200

(We are still anticipating proceeds from the Elsmere Restaurant Night)

B. Expenses

- a. SpringFest - \$2,534** (prizes, tickets, STEAM materials, inflatables, stickers)
- b. Hip-Hop for 2nd grade - \$640**
- c. 5th Grade Bowling - \$100**
- d. 5th Grade Farewell - \$250**

C. Questions

a. Can PBL funds be used to purchase books?

Yes, Barb explained that access to quality reading materials is integral to the foundation of providing project based learning.

The group discussed a potential PTO initiative to partner with a local bookstore to purchase books for classrooms directly.

VI. Updates from Principal

Principal Barbara Fletcher provided updates about Rowe.

A. Audubon Visits

All students visited Audubon this month through a grant reintroduce native plant species to the Rowe School grounds and neighboring Sagamore Village.

B. School Mask Policy

Students will return to masking on Thursday, May 13th. The decision was based on wastewater data. The district will continue to monitor and reconsider the mask Mandate based on the data and COVID infection rates.

C. Lead in School Drinking Water

The school department identified lead in drinking water at several of the Portland Schools. They have released a very detailed report about which water sources are affected. All effected fountains are covered to prevent use. Rowe water sources that are effected are: the makers space, Ms Wescott's room, the OT Space, Librarian's office, Ms William's room, and the FLS room.

They believe that the schools being closed may have contributed to a build up of lead in the system.

D. Summer Programming

Rowe will host Summer school for Presumpscot and Longfellow schools. 6 Learning Works classrooms will also operate in the school. Special Education extended school year will take place at Rowe. Rec camp will also be onsite at Rowe.

Programming is currently being offered for rising 1st-5th graders.

The District is working to develop programming for rising 6th graders as this has been identified as a need. The programming will potentially have a leadership focus.

Barb expressed thanks for free massages that were offered to teachers and will be coming to school on Friday.

VII. Upcoming Events

- **Saturday, 5/14/22 - SpringFest**
- **Thursday, 5/19/22 - Day of Greening at Rowe**
- **Friday, 5/20/22 - Rowe Night at the Sea Dogs - Tickets \$5**

Please visit the Rowe PTO page to find links to information regarding all events.

VIII. PTO Board Vote

Rita presented the board nominations for the 2022-2023 school year. All officers were voted in unanimously by the membership. The 2022-2023 PTO Board are:

- President - Rita King
- Vice President - Cathay Cogan
- Fundraising Chair - Jennifer Rent
- Community Building Chair - Kayla Theriault
- Treasurer - Stephanie Walsh
- Secretary - Bianca MacDonald

IX. Rita adjourned the meeting at 7:24 pm.