

December 4, 2023

Rowe School PTO Meeting, 6:30-8 PM

Final Minutes

Other Attendees: Stephanie Walsh, Janna Melanie Caldwell, Alicia Peters, Ashley Eiler, Kayla Theriault, Laura Paul, Dave Frick, Jen Evans, Adam Shepherd (Ripple Effect), Rachel K. (Kadal? Ollie's Mom), Kathy, Stephen Houdlette

I. Welcome and Introductions

A. Steph called the meeting to order and participants introduced themselves.

II. Rowe Updates from Assistant Principal, Melissa Richards

A. Slideshow about title 1. Linked on rowe website, will be shared in school newsletter, and PTO will post it also

B. Overview for parents which is a requirement for title 1 and what it is

1. Part a of the us Elementary and Secondary Education Act-federal law that provides funding for schools with high % of low income families to help students meet academic standards and have a high quality education

2. Background of law-see slide for specific information

3. Largest federal grant program for PreK-12

4. 7/17 PPS are title 1-elementary are prioritized to receive title 1 funds in PPS

a) Based on the # of students who qualify for free and reduced lunch-this is why it's important to get these-40%

5. General supports

a) Extra support and funding for students who need it the most

b) Set school goals

c) Measure and report progress

d) Identify students who need it the most

e) Support education

6. Targeted v. school-wide programs-see slide

7. Extended learning opportunities, additional teachers and other staff, additional training, extra time for instruction

8. Rowe specific supports

a) Weekly instructional meetings with coaches and district

b) Professional development

c) Review data and support high quality instruction

d) Monthly leadership meetings from across the school

e) Title 1 parent surveys-linked on school website

f) Math

(1) Tier 2 and 3 addressed through co-teaching and co-lanning with coaching

(2) Push in and pull out intervention groups

(3) See slide for specific percentage increase goal

g) Literacy

(1) Providing core foundational skills

- (2) Provide tier 2 and 3
- (3) See slide for specific goal
- h) Parent engagement
 - (1) Support child's learning
 - (2) Partner with teachers
 - (3) Advocating for school improvement
 - (4) Serve in decision making and leadership roles
 - (5) Parent engagement at Rowe-see slide for complete info
 - (a) Curriculum updates, family science night, shared space cafe, etc.
 - (b) Some dates are TBD

III. **Ripple Effect Update-Adam Shepherd (director of Ripple Effect)**

- A. Structure on other end of parking lot on Rowe property
- B. Goals: Trying to leverage outdoor experience to have positive effect on social emotional learning through the natural world. Equity and low barrier as possible. Outdoor center is a cornerstone for this. Responsive to young people and their families.
- C. Phase 1-through Spring: worked with high five out of VT: construction of ropes, climbing tower-done. Still need erosion ground cover (woodchips in process), initial pilot and activation with community (in process)
- D. Phase 2-optimistic if done by Fall of 2024: construction of city approved toilet (pit with stall), yurt platform and raise yurt, ADA compliant nature paths and curriculum
 - 1. Yurt will be classroom space-tent like structure-will be worked on this summer
 - 2. Working with stem coordinator Brooke Teller to develop curriculum
- E. See slides for drawings
 - 1. Dynamic course-8 different elements that can be done individually and belayed
 - 2. Static course (farther end of the property)-facilitators are up on the course as participants move through
 - 3. Alpine tower-can be both just to climb and have fun. Also used to help teach belaying, etc.
 - a) Hoping their will be community climbing days so families can learn from staff how to belay-goal is to help lower barriers to learning for families
- F. See slides for comparable projects-they have thought through all the liability and legality. Worked with various outward bound and other parks and rec. Programs.
 - 1. Process: talked with these programs-lawyers and insurance underwriters. Really heard that these sites can become galvanizing sites when community is engaged. Unauthorized access and vandalism occur hardly ever. Portland Parks and Rec went and visited sites
 - 2. Program Activation Overview
 - a) See specific slide for specific details

- (1) Now until May-pilot programming for students at Rowe as weather permits, hosting some community-based programs, teacher trainings, camp programs
- (2) Summer-2024/2025-expanding current programming
- 3. Rowe-already working with teachers to get some things going. Will end of going through PE most likely. Interested in developing more capacity as long as there is a site facilitator for classes to come out. If teachers can become more trained, it costs less to run. Will be soliciting ideas from Rowe
- 4. This will be an after school site programs-scholarships and sliding scale
 - a) Outdoor classroom space and trails will have open access and teachers can schedule time on that.
 - b) Summer programming with younger students
- 5. Portland wide-currently works with middle schools. Is looking to work with smaller groups
- 6. All insured and will have security cameras-added signs-will work on multi-lingual signage
- 7. Question-
 - a) Will there be an opportunity for community members to get training? Yes, eventually will be three day training
 - b) Open access-classroom and trails. There is the potential to build a fence for security reasons but they don't want to do that. No access to elements unless supervision is provided.
- 8. Final comment: keep lines of communication open and share concerns

IV. Budget Update-Janna

- A. Walkathon-\$17,800
- B. \$151 from Panera Night
- C. Sold \$800 of spiritwear
- D. \$1300 from Hannaford and Shaws?
- E. \$2500 for teachers-100 stiped per teacher
- F. Supported two fieldtrips
- G. Bought more spirit wear
- H. Greenhouse-\$2500 has been set aside

V. PPS Budget

- A. Working with *Foundation for Portland Public Schools* around budget
 - 1. COVID money going away-6-7% of total PPS budget
 - 2. Superintendent has asked PTOs to focus on "guardrails" what is essential for schools to operate? PTO has worked with Rowe admin and will try and engage parents to get the word out and solicit input
 - 3. Ask: share with other families about how the budget process will be complicated, attend board meetings, share your input, generally engage in process
 - 4. Audrey is the Rowe PTO person-email if you have any questions or want to get involved

VI. PTO Event Updates

- A. Check newsletter for events
- B. Bookfair is on-going-has been shared and the wishlists are still pretty full
 - 1. Suggestion-emphasize that it's in lieu of an in person bookfair as a different angle
 - 2. Suggestion-flyer sent home. It's hard for PTO to do this and not sure it's worth the work. Someone seconded in paper.
- C. Holiday gift drive-we have opted to not do specific wishlists and instead have built an amazon wishlist with crafts, sports equipment, and a few other items. Building a supply to keep at Rowe that kids can take home.
 - 1. Amazon wishlist in PTO newsletter that will be sent to Rowe
 - 2. Families can also send items in to the office
- D. Holiday PopUp
 - 1. 12/20 in the AM. Spirit wear will be out, holiday gift drive items, clynk bag
- E. Cookie exchange for teacher and staff-also open to bus drivers
 - 1. Families donate cookies and teachers can select 6-12 cookies
 - 2. Hot cocoa bar will be on Thursday
 - 3. Cookies are paired down this year due to too many last year
 - 4. Link in newsletter for donations and set up and clean up volunteers
 - 5. Suggestion to prepare a box for each driver
- F. **Rowe Night at the Mariners**
 - 1. We get \$5 for each ticket sold
 - 2. 12/17 teddy bear toss
 - 3. Check newsletter for additional dates
- G. **Winter playdate with hot chocolate**
 - 1. January
- H. **Note on Pokemon Night**-we realized we needed many more volunteers and we are using that as we plan future events
 - a) Question-how was pokemon funded. We gave 100-150 but Micheal Best and Kids Arcanum funded most of it.

VII. Next meeting in February

VIII. Wrap up and Adjournment

Adjourned at: 7:49