

September 14,2021
Rowe School PTO Meeting, 6:30-7:30
Approved MInutes

Officers Present: Rita King, PTO Co-President; Mark Bower, PTO Co-President; Starr Soul-McDonald, PTO vice-president; Kayla Theriault, Community Building Co-Chair; Emily Bishop, Community Building Co-Chair; Kerrie LeClair, Fundraising Chair; Steph Walsh, Treasurer; Bianca MacDonald, Secretary

Other Attendees: Barbara Fletcher, Rowe Principal; Joanna Frankel, Rowe Assistant Principal; Bianca Winship; Susan Baxter; Jenna Feigenbaum; Meghan Torrieri; Luis Torrieri; Renee Orcutt; Jon Graffius; Tonya LaChance-Buffano; Sally Griffith

I. Welcome and Introductions

Rita called the meeting to order and most participants introduced themselves.

II. Approve MInutes

The most recent PTO meeting in June was video recorded so no minute approval was necessary. Moving forward, written minutes will be recorded.

III. PTO Presidents' Welcome and Message

PTO presidents welcomed participants. They shared a vision for this year's work for the PTO including a focus on community building and focused fundraising efforts. Presidents explained that every member of the Rowe School community is a PTO member and has a vote. PTO leadership sets the agenda for the PTO but all community members are welcome to approve or reject PTO direction and efforts.

IV. School Updates from Barbara Fletcher, Rowe Principal

A. Back to school transition update

The school is adjusting back to full time in person learning. The community is focusing on Social and Emotional Learning (SEL). They are also focusing on Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) and are utilizing "Mile Tiles" school wide. She reports that students are adjusting well to full time in person learning and have responded well to both SEL and PBIS interventions.

B. Health and Safety Precautions

Staff is working to maximize outdoor time as much as possible. Staff have been working to build upon current strengths in terms of precautions while looking for ways to address new health and safety needs moving forward.

Additions and Adjustments

- Universal Masking at all times
- Adjustments to classroom set ups including students ungrouped and facing forward when at desks

- Distancing as much as possible when at tables in classrooms
- Defining outdoor learning spaces and times
- All students eat breakfast outdoors (weather permitting)
- Essential staff only in classrooms including ELL and special education
- Non essential visits are limited to 15 minutes or less
- Limit combining classrooms indoors as much as possible and documenting times that classrooms are combined
- Indoor staff meetings are mostly held virtually
- Parent meetings held mostly virtually

New Additional Preparations

- Preparing remote learning plans for use in the event of large group quarantines
- Preparing devices for distribution
- Preparing on-line learning platforms and student log in information

C. Other Information

- 89% of Rowe Staff are currently vaccinated
- Pooled Testing will begin Monday, September 20, 2021 - 250 Rowe students are currently signed up to participate - students can opt in through completing paper forms or documents on line
- A COVID-19 FAQ document has been created and sent out to families it can be found by going to:
<https://reopeningplan.portlandschools.org/faq>

D. Parent Discussion and Questions

Parents asked question regarding student spacing at meal times and the school is working towards utilizing more outdoor space for meal times to maintain at least 3 foot distancing

Parents shared concerns that the opt in requirement for pooled testing may limit participation vs using an opt out system. The school department is working to educate parents about pooled testing and hopes to encourage parents to opt in. Parents can help by signing up for pooled testing and talking to others about the benefits. Parents can check with the school to make sure their child is registered. Pooled testing will reduce the need to quarantine.

V. Treasurer's Report and Budget Vote

Steph provided an update on the school budget. Participants were informed that the current year's budget is based on money raised the previous year and that the money that we raise this year will fund activities and initiatives for the 2022-2023 school year.

Budget Highlights:

Enrichment - \$15,000 (\$34.25/ student)

Spirit Wear - \$2,000 - to replenish the current stock

Total Expenses = \$27,000

Projected Fundraising Income:

Direct Appeal - \$10,000

Walk a Thon - \$9,000

There was a concern from some participants that the community building budget is too low at \$1000. Ideas to compensate for the low amount is to do focused direct requests for specific events or do a suggested donation for events.

It is also possible to review the budget quarterly.

The 2021-2022 PTO budget was passed unanimously.

VI. Community Building Update

The PTO held a successful back to school popsicle night on 8/29/2021 with free treats offered to all attendees.

The back to school breakfast was also a success with many treats donated from local businesses.

There will be a Scavenger Hunt and Meet up on 10/2/2021. Volunteers are needed for prep and to help out at the event.

V. Fundraising Update

The PTO is working to condense our fundraising efforts by letting parents know why the PTO needs money. We are working to share through social media and other communications what the PTO funds.

We are trying to set up an option for automatic monthly contributions as an alternative to giving a large one time donation.

The PTO is also going to hold donation drives a few times a year - teachers can reach out directly to the PTO with specific donation and fundraising needs. The donation drive item requests will mainly be based on recommendations from Nurse Wendy and Social Worker, Amy Leonard.

A question was asked from the community about immediate donation needs to support outdoor learning. Administrators will look into possible items coming from the district and the outdoor learning coordinator, Katie West.

The school staff were also reminded of the \$1000 "slush fund" that is in the budget to be used to meet student needs at the discretion of the principal.

VI. Wrap up and Adjournment

Rita thanked everyone for attending and adjourned the meeting.