

September 29, 2022

Rowe School PTO Meeting, 6:30-7:30

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; Audrey Bartholomew; Abe Schafermeyer; Angela King; Maya Lena; Damen Takorleff; Laura Paul; Julianne Opperman; John Opperman; Molly Henkins; Vanessa Levesque; Leah Gifford; Maria Nelson; Kyle Warren; Amy Hayes

I. Welcome and Introductions

Rita called the meeting to order and participants introduced themselves.

Rita introduced the PTO and its mission to support and encourage communication between families, teachers, staff and students at Amada C Rowe elementary school, support valuable programs and resources for our school, and to provide opportunities for families to come together as a community.

II. Treasurer's Report & Budget Approval

Treasurer Stephanie Walsh presented the treasurer's report and plan for the 2022/2023 Budget. The total budget is \$28,000 for the 2022/2023 school year.

A. Expenses

- a. Classroom enrichment - \$14000 - largest expense - called PBL in the past
 - \$1300 - \$3000 - Home/ school math program - Ms Winship
 - \$1000 - Garden/ Outdoor learning
 - \$500 - Rowe Rewilding
 - \$500 Breathe
 - \$8700 - \$10,400 to allocate to each grade level (\$19.12-\$22.12/ student)
 1. Enrichment funds can be used to enhance classroom materials for specific projects during the year
 2. Field trips
- b. Teacher stipends - \$100/ teacher
- c. Community Events
- d. Teacher appreciation
- e. PTO administrative
 - Newsletter - S'more subscription
 - Paper
 - Website
- f. Ruth's reusables
- g. Slush fund

- h. Library
- i. Clubs or teams
- j. Other supplies

B. Fundraising Budget

- a. Walk-a-thon - largest fundraiser - 42% of revenue raised
- b. Springfest
- c. Other fundraising event - the PTO is looking for one more fundraising event this year. Please complete the volunteer survey. Paper forms were provided by PTO officers and information was given to access the online survey:
<https://roweschoolpto.org/volunteer>
- d. Spiritwear
- e. Clynk
- f. Restaurant fundraisers
- g. Misc
- h. Amazon Smile

C. 2022/2023 Budget Vote

The group voted unanimously to approve the proposed PTO budget for the 2022/2023 school year.

III. Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety

Angela King of the Bicycle Safety Coalition of Maine presented about her organization and the ways that her organization teams with schools and communities to establish safe routes to school for bikers and walkers.

A. Problem areas for Rowe Bikers and Walkers

Angela identified problems with the Rowe campus that contribute to unsafe situations for walker and bikers. Concerns include:

- No signage to direct walkers and bikers when entering the campus
- Tools could be used to slow auto traffic entering the campus
- The sidewalk on Warwick St ends abruptly.
 - A participant shared about an accident that occurred in this location on National Bike/ Walk to School Day last year.
 - The school speed limit sign is not illuminated until 8:30 am and is difficult to see

B. Potential Solutions

- Advocate to public officials for change
- Join/ support the Portland Bike and Pedestrian committee
- Use of “sharrows” - visual reminder of shared lanes for bikers and drivers

- Organize safe routes to school can be parent led or accessing funds/ support through the DOT
- Teach bike safety at school - some schools have this in their curriculum or hold community events that teach bike safety such as “bike rodeos”
- Use of walking school busses (this exists at Rowe but could be expanded)

C. Next Steps

- People can sign up to participate in the bike safety committee at Rowe through the volunteer survey.
- Jesseca could access PPS resources to look at potential redesign of the parking lot
- Bike safety committee will meet and create action items for how the Rowe PTO can support bike and pedestrian safety at Rowe.

IV. Update from Jesseca Steele (Rowe Principal) and Q&A

Jesseca Steele, Rowe Interim Principal, presented about the beginning of the school year.

A. Rowe Population

- Rowe is 10% larger than last year
- Multilingual population has increased to 25% with 60% being “newcomers” requiring additional language support.
- Additionally there are 1-2 new students entering Rowe per week through McKinney Vento (students who are classified as homeless)
- Grades 1 and 2 are closed to new students due to maximum capacity

B. New dismissal plan is in place for a smoother transition at the end of the day.

C. Open positions

- Social Worker
- 1 breathe teacher
- Need volunteers for lunch and recess 11:15-12:45 - email Jesseca if you are able to help.
 - New volunteers need to complete screening prior to volunteering.

D. Questions

How are ed techs doing?

They are overburdened - staff is wearing red this Wednesday to show support and chalking outside the school.

V. “Rapid Fire” PTO Updates

A. Room parents

- We need 1-2 room parents per classroom.
- Room parents will help classroom teachers with various tasks including communication, classroom directory, call to action for teacher classroom needs, foster community.
- Currently need volunteers for Westscott, Bronzini, Forrest, Chirpley

B. The group agreed to table the rest of the items from this section of the meeting in the interest of time. The items tabled were: PTO calendar, Upcoming Events, teacher appreciation, fundraising survey and Springfest planning.

VI. Approve By Laws and May 2022 PTO Meeting Minutes

A. Approve Bylaws

Updated bylaws were approved unanimously.

B. Approve May 2022 Meeting Minutes

May 2022 PTO meeting minutes were approved unanimously.

VII. Wrap up and Adjournment

- Rita called attention to the PTO calendar that was tabled from a previous part of the meeting.
- A reminder of the Event “Rewild Rowe” community plant off was provided. Saturday, October 1, 9 am-12 pm (rain date Sunday October 2.)
- Question posed to the group: Are we interested in restaurant fundraisers?
Answer: Yes

Rita adjourned the meeting at 7:38 pm.