

September 13, 2018

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

Minutes

Attending Officers: Kayla Theriault and Caitlyn Watson, Co-Presidents; Amy Hayes, Vice President; Rita Sullivan King, Treasurer; Lory Davis, Community Building Chairperson; Jennifer Rent, Fundraising Chairperson; (absent: Kristin McCabe, Secretary)

Other Attendees: Gillian Poisson, Catherine Leyton, Emily Bishop, Sandy Illingworth, Amie LeGassey, Alicia Peters, Tara Cacciola, Maureen Best, Michael Best, Sandy Sherry, Fiona O'Grady, Heather Beggs, Jennifer Parker, Mara Sullivan, Jen Nelson, Kathie MacFarlane, Kathy St.Clair, Susan Baxter, Starr Soul-McDonald, Dawn Kenniston, Alan Schmitt, Bobby Shaddox, Hillary Deuben, Rheta Mering, Eglantine Bouddhou

Welcome and Introductions

Caitlyn Watson opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and thanking them for coming. The attendees (listed above) introduced themselves by giving their names and how they were affiliated with Rowe Elementary. Many were kindergarten parents.

Rowe Updates from Dawn Kenniston

Dawn Kenniston, Rowe Principal, explained many of the common spaces of the building were not furnished yet which is why we were having our meeting in a classroom instead of the library. The gym was not open yet due to a delay with the flooring but should open next week. The gym teacher has been using the modified playground with hula-hoops, basketball, and soccer in common spaces.

The 5th grade/Kindergarten partnership is working well. This is a program where the older kids show the younger kids the ropes. Both 5th graders and kindergarteners seem happy and invested in it. They have lunch and recess together and a book buddy mentorship.

The Rowe Grand Opening will be on Thursday, September 27th at 6:30. There will be a brief ceremony, tours, and spirit wear will be for sale.

First day packets have not gone out. Most things will be done electronically. There will be a form distributed for the Parent Portal. The school would like to do robo-texts instead of robo-calls this year because when parents see the missed a call from the school, they call back and unnecessarily tie up the staff in the office.

Vote on New Name

A motion was made and seconded that the name of the Corporation be changed from Hall School Parent Teacher Organization to Amanda C. Rowe School Parent Teacher Organization, effective on filing of the Articles of Amendment referenced below. A vote was taken and passed unanimously.

A motion was made and seconded that the Corporation authorizes PTO Treasurer Rita King or her designee to execute, and file or have filed, Articles of Amendment with the Maine Secretary of State to change the name of the Corporation.

Room Parent Discussion

Amy Hayes explained teachers will be selecting their own room parents this year. If a parent did express interest in being a room parent on the PTO volunteer sign up form that already went out, she would be informing the specific teachers. She stated each teacher will be letting room parents know what responsibilities they have for sharing class information with other parents.

The PTO expectation is room parents will pass along info from the PTO to the other class parents, especially for events. Our hope is every class is represented at every PTO meeting. If the room parent is unable to attend, we would like them to arrange for another parent to come in their place.

Jennifer Rent gave an example of what a room parent might do for a class: If Ms. Sherry's kindergarten class was making candy gingerbread houses and needed donations, the room parent would coordinate with the parents to determine who brings what in for the project.

Events Discussion

Lory Davis explained the Community Building Chairperson and Fundraising Chairperson positions were created to take pressure and responsibilities off the co-presidents who were previously responsible for all the events. Community building is when kids, families, and friends come together to build community. They are usually free, and we have had 3 so far, the Pre-K/Kindergarten Playdate, Popsicle Social, and Kindergarten Coffee which all went well.

Discussion of Future Events

1. Bingo Night--10/12

We will be doing a 50/50 raffle, pizza, and drinks. We may have a dance party afterward because the kids were wound up and running around after last year's bingo games.

2. Walk-A-Thon--10/31

Jennifer Rent stated there are 2-3 Rowe staff members who are leading the walk-a-thon and they have done so before. The event is during the school day we will need volunteers. There will be music, water, and prizes. Typically, the kids walk around the school. Dawn stated they will figure out the logistics of the walking path with the construction.

3. Auction Night—11/2 at DiMillo's

Jennifer said there will be a cash bar and appetizers with both silent and live auctions. We are looking into possibly arranging a babysitter and taxi services. An example of the services to be auctioned is a

6room deep cleaning from Green Clean Maine. We will send save the date invitations with more examples and information.

The community can also donate: professional services, labor, crafts, or nice items you no longer want. Classroom projects done by the students will also be for auction. These are specifically selected and organized classroom projects which are expected to be nice once completed. Volunteers are welcome.

4. Book Fair—11/19, 11/20

Kayla Theriault will run the Scholastic book fair in the library during parent/teacher conferences. The 5th graders typically have a bake sale during the event.

5. Happy Wheels—12/14

A skating party at Happy Wheels skating rink is a community building event that's a lot of fun! Skating is for all levels.

6. Winterfest—1/26

A winter celebration with carnival games, bounce houses, cake crawl, and more. Tickets are given to the children for games, food, and drink so everyone in the community can participate. We need LOTS of volunteers for Winterfest. We need people to run carnival games, do face paint, monitor the bounce house, etc. This can be done in 1 to 2 hour increments.

7. Calendar Raffle—April (all month)

Local businesses donate goods and services for the raffle prizes. Students sell the raffle tickets. Each day of April is assigned at least one prize and a winner is drawn every day.

8. Teacher Appreciation Week—May 6-10

A week-long celebration of our teachers where we do nice things for them. We will need volunteers.

9. 5K and Fun Run

This event is sponsored by local businesses. You can run or walk with a child and there is food at the end.

-Some events are pending like a movie night or an additional bingo or skate night. The Rowe School Sea Dogs night date has not been finalized.

-Volunteers only need to sign up once. There will be multiple opportunities to express interest in volunteering for specific events, but we are keeping track of who signs up for what, so signing up once is enough. We will be contacting you.

-Fundraising events that do not require volunteers: Gelato Fiasco, Flatbread Pizza, and Moe's BBQ. Simply go to these establishments on the designated days and say you are there for Rowe School. They will donate to the school based on these sales.

Ongoing Fundraisers

1. Clynk is a bottle and can redemption service offered at Hannaford. The PTO will have labeled bags available which can be filled with redeemable cans and bottles and dropped off at Hannaford.

2. "Box Tops" is a fundraiser offered by General Mills and can be cut from the packaging of their products. You can send the box tops to school with your child. We hope to have an envelope on the upcoming PTO bulletin board for them to be collected.

3. AmazonSmile is a fundraiser offered by Amazon. You must log in through smile.amazon.com and pick a charity. That will be Hall School until the name is official changed to Rowe. Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to the charitable organization of your choice. You cannot log in through the app to take advantage of this, you must use smile.amazon.com on a browser.

Playground Fundraiser—12/1

Dawn explained there will be a school fundraiser independent of the PTO to raise funds for the playground. Our playground will be unique, with 60-70% being natural play spaces. The construction is coming along, and the hoops are up for basketball now. \$45,000 needs to be raised to complete the playground and learning garden.

The band, The Ghost of Paul Revere, will be performing a benefit concert at the Elk's club which is 100% donated. Ticket prices are yet to be determined. Ask the school for more information.

Budget

Rita handed out copies of the budget and discussed how our previous budget was \$30,000 but this year we have committed \$10,000 to the learning garden, making our budget \$40,000. We have budgeted \$17,000 for enrichment and \$16,000 on school culture.

Caitlyn mentioned the after-school art club but stated it was tabled until we obtain more information.

Rowe-d to Success

Dawn discussed the principles of the Rowe-d to Success, formerly the "Hall Way": 1) I choose kindness, 2) I am ready to learn, 3) Keep Trying, 4) I am a collaborative problem solver.

Wrap-up

Dawn reminded everyone the PTO meeting childcare was for school aged children 4 and above. There were some infants and small children with their parents in the meeting and they were invited to come again. The PTO website, www.RoweSchoolPTO.org, is under construction and the PTO Facebook group is currently the best way to get information and contact us. The PTO newsletter will be sent out on

Fridays, meeting minutes will be included in the next newsletter. Caitlyn closed the meeting by thanking everyone for coming and encouraged them to come back next time and to attend our events.