



Roosevelt Elementary School PTO Public Meeting Minutes



Wednesday, September 14, 2022 | 7:00 -
8:00 p.m. | Hybrid [Zoom](#)/Teachers' Lounge

- **Welcome & Logistics (5 min)** – Rachel Smith
 - First attempt at hybrid meetings
 - Childcare in the cafeteria with some awesome High School volunteers
- **Open Q&A Session (10 min)** – All
 - Open forum to ask questions, or you may submit them ahead of time to the PTO [Here](#)
 - First attempt to do Q&A ahead of time with the intent of fielding questions either anonymously or for those unable to attend
 - Q: Open house is 9/22 – is that for adults only?
 - Not as easy a question as one thinks, goal is for information sharing, goal is for parents to be able to come in and have some social time together as parents and teachers, but if your need is to bring kids – do so.
 - Q: In light of mass shootings on the rise would love to think how to support teachers, staff and students, teachers need to enter the hall to lock doors if there is an active threat – other schools have worked around this with magnets. Can we fundraise to contribute to this for teachers to provide some safety?
 - Outside of MBM's realm, it's maintained by the DPW, but MBM will connect to see if there is an avenue. If not this, then what are other options, there was a safety summit at the beginning of the school year, hot topic of conversation and consideration. MBM will purchase a couple to try out/experiment and then be able to demonstrate to DPW
 - *In place in Reading, door is pre-locked and then a magnet is attached daily to prevent it from latching during class. In an emergency, magnet is quick to pop off and door is locked – easy way to bring some ease in to the teacher's life.
 - Q: There is a number drawn each day in the lunchroom, then that kid is responsible to clean up the table (grades 3-5) less concern about maintaining the space, more concerned about use of time during an already short time period. Is there no longer a lunch monitor?
 - It will be 2 students from each class for a week, they'll be responsible for wiping down the two tables, does not see it impacting their accessibility to recess, does not see any potential impact, there will be adult supervision in case any one is struggling/need help. There is no longer a lunch monitor, the position has been held for this point of time, even with the headcount being available – staffing is incredibly tough. An amazing volunteer mom who comes every day – for all three lunch periods – along with an additional paraprofessional. There will be no organized approach for lunch volunteers this year – if interested in volunteering reach out to MBM.
- **Guest Speaker (15 min)** – Lucy Friedman-Bell, Massachusetts Safe Routes to School

- SRS is a federally funded program through MA DOT – free to schools and municipalities, Lucy serves as a connection point, goal is to decrease traffic congestions, address safety concerns, increase physical activity, etc.
 - Equity is the overall umbrella to insure it benefits all students in the school, support school wellness strategies. Etc
 - Education – walking and biking lessons, professional development for teachers, training resources for crossing guards, as well as parent education
 - Encouragement – walking events and encouraging healthy commuting events, bike rodeos, crossing guard appreciation day, etc.
 - Engagement – partnerships with other community partners (local businesses, DPW, PTO, youth development programs, etc.) establishing safe routes to school task force
 - Evaluation – lots of tools schools can use to better understand safety, neighborhood walking maps, parent travel survey, walk audits and arrival and dismissal observations (observe and make recommendations to school)
 - Engineering – infrastructure grant program, signs and lines programs, project guides, etc.
- Safe routes to school @ Rosie in the past
 - Bike and pedi safety lessons
 - Last March an arrival/dismissal observation was done – schools are encouraged to have a plan and disseminate (where are cars allowed, where are pedestrians allowed)
 - Recos made: separation of transportation modes (i.e. parents out of school driveway and set locations) consider improving signage on school property (drop off spot), consider pedi safety (staff helping with arrival and dismissal wear reflective vests), parent guardian education (arrival/dismissal plan which school did execute on) and engineering recommendations (highlighting signage for cars, walkers and busses)
- Q: Who owns the hill next to the caf?
 - School owns it, has been floated in the past to be a walkway, it falls around the DPW realm, would take some significant movement of earth, would need stairs, etc. Has been lots of conversation – ongoing conversation with DPW and superintendent. City own the rocky part (from private drive) to behind dumpster – on the list with the city as well. SRS cannot lobby or advocate for any particular projects but can help facilities connections with city and parents, can also use SRS reports/findings to support case if it supports students safely walking, biking, or rolling to school. Melrose Bike and Pedi committee are a great resource. Could potentially apply to support the initiative as part of the SRS infrastructure grant – it's a co-application between the school and the city.
- Q: Why no rolling pick up but rolling drop off?
 - Has been discussed in the past but reality is it's much more challenging given lag in arrival to pick up spot – could potentially be a halfway pilot – there's static spots that you have to stay in your car
- Q: Have we ever considered marking out parking spaces on the adjoining streets?
 - MBM will address with DPW/City, SRS grants could not support that work as it's not tied to walking

- **Action Items (10 min)**
 - Reminder of [PTO Bylaws](#) - Rachel Smith, PTO President
 - Require by the bylaws to remind of the bylaws annually, covers roles of the Exec board, committees, elections, etc. Updated last year and needs to be reviewed every 3-5 years
 - Vote on [PTO 2022-2023 Budget](#) – Andrew Nagel & Amanda Caney, PTO Treasurers
 - Budget is included for review, nothing drastically changed from last year, grounded in realistic estimates, biggest funding is from parents (i.e. move-a-thons, PTO appeal). PTO newsletter that goes out monthly that highlights spend and income from recent fundraisers.
 - Budget approved
- **Principal's Report (10 min) – Mary Beth Maranto**
 - Fantastic school opening, acknowledging consciousness around health and keeping each other safe, but happy to have a great handle on it.
 - Biggest challenge right now is staffing and employment, 6 para openings – these are individuals who work with a student or students on IEP, or in a para supported classroom, School psychologist, special ed teach opening. District has gotten creative with recruiting but still largely getting zero candidates, doing college reach out. Teachers are feeling great, students are happy.
 - Q: How are we managing students who do need paraprofessionals?
 - Getting creative i.e. using some special need teachers are also doing double duty as paras
- **Committee Report-outs (10 min)**
 - City-wide PTO update
 - City wide PTO update: Lisa Lewis facilitates a meeting with representation from every school, Dr. K attends and fields question, school committee and union representation. Mostly housekeeping this month. Lisa Lewis is hoping to get around to every school to help with CORI, there will be another round of Parent University in November.
 - Room Parents
 - 28 volunteers so far for room parents, ideally every class has 2, for K & 1 shoot for 3-4. Room parents coordinate class gift, coordinate events (winter and valentines day), also support PTO messaging
 - Harvest Festival
 - Harvest Festival – seven people on the committee – lots of new ideas coming in, plan will likely still be outside, share any feedback with Erin Brashear, there will be a big push for volunteers for the day of (October 29th)
 - Other
 - Once we wrap Harvest festival, we'll focus on Winter Wonderland
- **Additional Questions / Open Discussion (10 min) – All**
 - Open PTO board – need co-president, co-secretary, co-DEI rep – an ideal board is 12 people with 2 people in each position

- HS students are volunteering for childcare during PTO meetings to make it easier for parents to attend
- Welcome feedback – what makes it challenging to attend, what would make it easier, etc.

Upcoming Events/Save the Dates

- School Picture Day – September 22, 2022
- Open House – September 22, 2022
- Early Release – September 28, 2022
- Early Release – October 5, 2022
- No School – October 10, 2022
- Harvest Festival – October 29, 2022

PTO Executive Board

- Rachel Smith, President, PTORosie@gmail.com
- **VACANT**, Co-President
- Tamara Nedjar, Co-Vice President
- Richard Visconte, Co-Vice President
- Amanda Caney, Co-Treasurer, PTOTreasurer@gmail.com
- Andrew Nagel, Co-Treasurer, PTOTreasurer@gmail.com
- Kerri Jensen, Secretary
- **VACANT**, Co-Secretary
- Meghan Robbins, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Representative
- **VACANT**, Co-DEI Representative
- April Opoliner, Co-Enrichment Coordinator, PTORosie+enrichment@gmail.com
- Michael Botelho, Co-Enrichment Coordinator, PTORosie+enrichment@gmail.com