



GROW-PROUD-STRONG

Richardson Olmsted PTA Meeting Minutes

January 28, 2026 at 7:00 PM

RO Staff Lounge

12 Attendees

Discussion Topics

- Principal Report – Mr. Getchell
 - Concerning recess- we try to be as consistent as possible, if the “feels like” temperature is above 20 degrees, and if the playground is safe, the students will have outdoor recess
 - Unfortunately the corkeen on the playground is slippery so even on some more mild days recently the students have stayed inside
 - Want the kids to go outside as much as possible
 - Hopefully next week the temperature will allow for it- as long as students are dressed appropriately
 - Have been impressed with what we’ve been seeing during indoor recess- students playing with other students they may not necessarily play with outside
 - Mr. Aries has started an indoor recess “gym” time for students who really need to move during the day (by invitation only- teachers identify who they think need it)
 - Midpoint of the year- teachers doing a lot of screenings, check-ins
 - As a school really working on student writing, which is one of the weaker areas of our school- how to assess and improve upon the program
 - Mr. Getchell will be giving an MCAS presentation with the other school principals at the School Committee Meeting tomorrow night to go over the school’s scores
 - Also highlighting Devin Beck’s yard sign project at the School Committee Meeting

- Budget / Treasurer's Update – Trisha Hellen
 - Currently have \$70,000 in cash
 - If we stay on budget we'll be able to have the \$25,000 we typically try to keep to roll over for the next year
 - Would be comfortable letting that number dip below \$25,000 if we want to support more/new initiatives
 - Going to come up with with a detailed list of what we spend the money we raise on that we can present to parents
- Memory Book Update- Kylie Carroll
 - Cost will be \$22
 - Order by April 10
 - Cover will be the same as new ROAR poster
 - Two yearbook posters will hang in the school to remind students and parents to order
 - Need to encourage parents to send in pictures- info is in current News Flash
- Enrichment Programming Update- Stacy Frierich and Diana Abrams
 - JR Spencer has rescheduled multiple times and is no longer going to work out
 - 3rd Grade- Whale Mobile ended up being more expensive than last year (over \$3,000)
 - 3rd Grade- Zuzu Acrobats, out of New York and originally from Tanzania, coming on February 11, to kick off Black History Month
 - Still looking for 4th and 5th grade opportunities
 - Mad Science?
 - Something for the 250th- 3rd & 5th study the Revolution
- 5th Grade Wellness Day- Friday, March 20
 - Co-chair Marci Dacamara with Alicia Dorment
 - Address mental health awareness with the kids and help prepare them for Middle School
 - 5 stations on topics such as:
 - Acceptance, judgement, social media
 - How to handle when things are out of your control
 - Stress Management
 - Self Esteem
 - Sleep, exercise, yoga
 - Stations will be lead by people who are knowledgeable in those fields (not current parents)
 - Students asked to journal after each station to remember their main take aways

- Sarah's Village donated journals and \$1,000 to go towards tshirts, printing, etc.
- o Speaker: Josh Peach- runs a group called Be Awesome
- o Parent helper for each class chosen by teachers
- o \$500 from Gabby Prone's family's organization
- o Jess Garbowski, working with the students to create a mural in the middle stairway
- o Letter going out to 5th grade families and businesses asking for sponsorships and donations
- o Will wait to see how much they receive in donations before asking PTA for additional funds
- March Book Fair- March 9-13
 - o Chair, Amy Duffy
 - o Sign Up Genius is ready to go as soon as we have the teacher schedule
- March Parent/Teacher Conferences- March 12-13
 - o PTA sponsored lunch on Thursday, March 12
 - o Panera Catering?
- Update on recent events:
 - o Winter Concert (5th grade) report- January 21
 - Well-organized, well done- "props to the music department"
 - Spring concert will not combine 4th and 5th grade, they will be separate, because of space (4th grade is bigger)
 - o RO Parent Math Night- January 7
 - Well attended, teachers did a phenomenal job, had 5 teachers teaching adults
 - 5 different subjects and the adults could choose two sessions to attend
 - o Devin Beck's class' yard sign project with 5th Grade
 - received a grant from Sarah's Village and the PTA matched the grant (www.sarahsvillage.org)
 - Hoping to have it become a school-wide initiative going forward
 - More people have been asking for signs
 - More have been ordered- they will be sold and proceeds going back to Sarah's Village
- Ace of Clubs update
 - o Hoping to start the week after February vacation until the week before April vacation
 - Should we push it back a few weeks so that outside space would be available? Start in mid-March?
 - o Currently up to 12 club topics that people are interested in- now need 24 parents to help run the clubs
 - o Challenge is finding parents that are available directly after school

- Could ask if any teachers are interested
 - National Honor Society students can help, but need an adult to supervise as well
 - Community members
- o Student Sign ups- last time clubs filled up very quickly and waiting lists weren't managed well
 - How to handle sign ups better moving forward- lottery system?
- End of Year Events Committees-
 - o Sign ups will be going out in the upcoming weeks to recruit interested parents to chair these committees, or feel free to reach out to the PTA if anyone is interested
 - o Field Days- This year all grades will have their own Field Days- will need chairs for each grade and lots of volunteers
 - o Staff Appreciation Week- first full week in May- will need chairs and volunteers
- Next Meeting: Wednesday, February 25

Yearbook pictures can be sent to richardsonolmstedyearbook@gmail.com.

To become a voting member of the RO PTA you must pay annual dues of \$6 per year. Please pay via Venmo (@RO-PTA). Thank you!

Meeting minutes are posted on the school website, the Class of 20XX Facebook Pages and on the RichardsonOlmsted Families FB Page