



GROW-PROUD-STRONG

Richardson Olmsted PTA Meeting Minutes

September 17, 2025

7:00 PM, RO Library (2nd floor, center staircase)

13 Attendees

Discussion Topics

- Principal Report- Mr. Getchell
 - Good start to the year- kids from BA have transitioned over to RO well
 - coming from a big school to another big school seems to help the transition
 - Consistency between BA and RO helps as well
 - Beginning to get into our normal every day learning routines
 - New initiatives for this year:
 - Revamped entire library and how we do library for the students (more to come on that later in meeting)
 - Many new staff due to retirements
 - Good balance between veteran staff and newer staff
 - New slant on a School Constitution this year: ROAR Together (Respect, Ownership and Resilience)
 - Similar to the Cub Code at BA
 - Common language and common expectations across the building
 - Each week focusing on each of the three themes
 - After the third week, culminates in The Boosterthon Fun Run
 - Mr. Getchell and Mr. Aries will then meet with each pod of classrooms to introduce the wristbands
 - Teachers can award wristbands to student/group of students who are modeling the themes
 - More tangible reminder
- Budget Review/Treasurer's Update- Trisha Hellen

- o Really base our budget on what we raise from Boosterthon- drives our entire budget all year long
 - o Draft budget is ready, but until we know what the amount raised is it's hard to know how we're going to spend our money
 - o Large chunk dedicated to the new ROAR initiative- banners, wristbands, etc.
 - o Changes- Proposing each grade only doing one field trip instead of two, and taking the money that would be used on second field trip to put towards bringing in more enrichment opportunities
 - Cost of buses has made field trips much more expensive
 - Can be flexible with grades if they opt to still do a second field trip (pull some funds from the enrichment line item to help cover cost/do less enrichment)
- Enrichment Ideas
 - o 3rd Grade: Ocean Unit- Giant Whale; Space Unit- Mobile Planetarium
- Back to School Nights debrief
 - o Three wonderful Back to School Nights- classroom visits followed by freezepops and music on the playgrounds
 - o Classrooms did get crowded, parents having to wait awhile to actually meet the teachers, etc.- considering assigning shifts to try to break it up a bit next year
 - o Definitely keep the format for 3rd Grade, but want more feedback for 4th and 5th grades
 - New format brought in more people, but lose the teacher presentation aspect
 - More difficult to ask questions with this format
 - Think about doing glow necklaces instead of leis- it got dark fast!
- Volunteer Opportunities
 - o RO Calendar already has all the events for the year- mark your calendar for these events and keep your eye out for Sign Up Geniuses for volunteers needed
 - o Upcoming:
 - Picture Day- Sign up full, thank you to volunteers!
 - Trunk or Treat- October 24
 - Book Fair- November 10-17
- CORI Forms
 - o MUST have an updated CORI form on file in order to volunteer
 - o Takes five minutes- have to go in person to Central Administration Offices located on the side of Blanche Ames (Office Hours: 8:00-11:00 am; 3:00-4:30 pm)
- Boosterthon Fundraiser
 - o Official kickoff is Wednesday, September 24 (informational)
 - o Fun Run: Friday, October 3 (parents are invited!)
- Trunk or Treat Planning with BA
 - o New event! One big Trunk or Treat for both elementary schools
 - o Friday, October 24 at 6:30 pm- please bring flashlights!
 - o 50 Trunks, 4 tables

- o We are going to need at least 10 volunteers per school to help with candy stocking and flow, etc.
 - o Call for candy donations over the next few weeks!
- Retractable Fence for Playgrounds
 - o Need a fence to block off an area of the back playground where balls tend to roll into the street
 - o Will either add to recess equipment Amazon Wishlist, or use Boosterthon funds
- Guest Speaker: Jessica Garbowski, RO Digital Literacy Teacher and Librarian
 - o Taught at the Middle School for the past 17 years
 - o Doing a lot of work on the library over the summer
 - o Physical library has changed- moved a lot of the books around, making them more accessible for the students, organizing them in a new way
 - Dynamic Shelving- new way of shelving books where they are facing out, which makes it easier for students who may not be as strong readers vs. Dewy Decimal System where only the spine is showing
 - o Goal is in the next few weeks to get the students used to checking their own books in/out and spending the first few minutes of class on that and spend the rest of the class on digital literacy
 - o Students are coming into 6th grade with very little digital literacy knowledge- online research, Google skills, citing sources, online safety, etc.
 - o Spiral curriculum- starting in 3rd grade with basics and each year building upon that and also diving a little deeper into other topics each of the subsequent years
 - Students have Digital Literacy once a week, all year
 - o Volunteer Opportunities: in the past the library was just checking books in/out and putting books away, but it is now a teaching position and challenging to find the time to get the books reshelfed so they can be ready for other students/classes
 - Looking for parents/grandparents who would be willing to come in and help reshelve books.
 - Please contact Jessica Garbowski (jgarbowski@easton.k12.ma.us) if interested in volunteering some time!
- New Business
 - o This year's PTA Teacher Reps:
 - Erin Johnson- 5th Grade Teacher Rep
 - Mal Cunha- 4th Grade Rep
 - Diane Skehan- 3rd Grade Rep
 - o Will be creating an Amazon Wishlist for recess equipment
- Next Meeting: Wednesday, October 22 at 7:00 PM in the Staff Lounge

To become a voting member of the RO PTA you must pay annual dues of \$10. 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