



Richardson Olmsted PTA Meeting Minutes

March 18, 2026 at 7:00 PM

RO Staff Lounge

14 Attendees

Discussion Topics

- Principal Report – Mr. Getchell
 - MCAS Update
 - Start next week- Thursday and following Tuesday ELA; early May is Math; end of April is Science for Grade 5 only
 - Helpful for us to see across grade levels which standards our students are successful in and which ones need improvement
 - Make adjustments as a staff based on the information we gather
 - For example, last year the majority of our students did well with answering multiple choice questions, but did not do as well with writing, specifically expanding on ideas. So we have really focused this year on working on writing skills with the students, which will continue to be important in their learning moving forward
 - Hoping to see improvement in that area on the tests this year
 - Majority of students are done within 90 mins/2 hours; 3rd graders sometimes take longer because it takes them longer to type, first time they are experiencing the test, etc
 - Try to keep it business as usual throughout the day, try not to put too much emphasis on the test
 - The students are taking some practice tests this week so they'll know what to expect next week
 - Playground equipment needs to be replenished, especially red kickballs, Nerf footballs, soccer balls, wiffle ball bats, balls, bases
 - PTA will order new items

- o Starting RO Cafe- turning the old indoor recess room to be a “private” lunch room for ROAR Leaders
 - Will decorate it and make it a special privilege to be able to have lunch in there
 - Come out of the ROAR initiative budget line item
 - o Banners for front circle- Crystal is in the process of working with a graphic designer to come up with different options
 - Using some of the same sayings as are on the yard signs that Mr. Beck’s class created
 - o 5th Grade Wellness Day created a large banner about kindness that will be hung in the center staircase
- Budget / Treasurer’s Update – Trisha Hellen
 - o Heading into the busiest time of the year
 - o About \$70,000 in the accounts, not including what we brought in from the book fair
- Citizen of the Month Award Ceremony Planning
 - o New way of celebrating the recipients, instead of monthly gatherings, one large inclusive celebration at the end of the year (September-April recipients)
 - o One celebration for each grade level
 - Grade 3- May 20 8:50-9:50 AM
 - Grade 4- May 20 10:00-11:00 AM
 - Grade 5- May 21 8:50-9:50 AM
 - o Theme: Being a good citizen in the community
 - o Inviting: Families, Town Officials, State Reps, leaders of the student body at OA
 - o Still working on who will speak, etc.
 - Why/how they decided to go into service, what makes them a good citizen
 - o Refreshments?
- Spring Book Fair update
 - o Brought in about \$4,000
 - o Specialist teachers received \$50 to use at the fair, \$1,000 for the library/digital literacy class
 - o Every student was able to take home a book even if they weren’t financially able to bring in money
- Enrichment update- Dianna Abrams
 - o Zuzu Acrobats came for 3rd grade
 - o Rob Surette, speed painter with inspirational messaging, coming for 4th grade; planning to create an art piece to hang in the school
 - o 5th Grade still looking for something, ideally along the theme of the 250th celebration of the country, or 300th Easton celebration

- John Coe from the Easton Historical Society, possibly
 - 4th Grade field trip to Langwater- walking there/busing home
- Grant Update- as a part of Wellness Day, 5th grade would like to make a donation to Josh Peach, founder of Be Awesome, who is speaking to the entire grade in the afternoon
 - He is donating his time and speaking for free, but would like to donate \$1,000 (half paid for by Wellness Day sponsorships, half from PTA grant)
- Grade 5 ROAR for Wellness Day update
 - Entire 5th grade participating
 - Students are split up into groups of 15-18, will visit 5 stations in the morning with topics such as sleep & nutrition, yoga & movement, mindfulness, healthy social media, etc.
 - Local counselors, Sarah's Village volunteers, yoga instructors, Personal Best Karate instructors, OA Student Council members
 - Grade wide assembly with speaker Josh Peach after lunch
- Teacher Appreciation Week
 - Committee leaders: Meredith Goldberg, Jacqui Coheno, Katie Abramoske
 - Theme: unity/togetherness
 - Different ideas/treats each day- coffee truck, taco truck, ice cream, etc.
 - Looking for more volunteers and any other ideas for theme days
 - Reach out to one of the committee members or the PTA if interested in helping
 - Budget: \$5,000
- Memory Book Update- Kylie Carroll
 - Need teachers to send in pictures from events in the classroom, fieldtrips, etc.
 - Faculty reps will each email their team to have them send in pictures
 - Memory Books are currently on sale, link in Parent Square
- Ace of Clubs Update
 - 8 weeks, 1 hour+ after school one day a week
 - Hard to find parent volunteers because of the timing (3:05-4:15 PM)
 - Trying to find volunteers from the community
 - Waiting for nicer weather to take advantage of outside spaces
 - Would it be easier to find volunteers if we held it at recess?
 - Reach out to Stonehill students?
- 3rd & 4th Grade Field Day Volunteer update
 - Separating all the grades this year to improve the experience (4th grade class is the largest we've had)
 - Grade 3- May 22
 - Grade 4- May 29
 - Need to find chairs/co-chairs for each day
 - Set up, clean up, securing vendors, volunteer coordination

- Reach out to the PTA if interested in helping as a chair/co-chair
- o How is the budget impacted now that we'll be doing multiple days and set ups?
 - DJ x3
 - Enrichment x3
 - Is enrichment necessary? Longer time outside, and wind down back in the classrooms instead?
 - Only for Grade 5?
 - Drop off/pick up of Italian ice cart x3
- o Firetruck for every grade?
- o Sign ups for station volunteers will go out earlier this year
- o Meet with the PE team
- 5th Grade Farewell update- Crystal Mordas & Jenny Bestgen co-chairing
 - o June 8
- June 25- new last day of school
 - o Lip sync final- June 24
- Next meeting: Wednesday, April 15 at 7:00 PM

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