



GROW-PROUD-STRONG

Richardson Olmsted PTA Meeting Minutes

May 20, 2026 at 7:00 PM

RO Staff Lounge

14 Attendees

Discussion Topics

- Farewell to Jenny Bestgen, Vice President
 - Saying goodbye and thank you to Jenny after her many years of service to the school
- Principal Report – Mr. Getchell
 - Echo Crystal's remarks about Jenny- so grateful for her service
 - Our school is great for many reasons- great staff and faculty- but combing that talent with the hard work of the PTA really makes it great
 - Would love to provide a list for parents of all the things the PTA is able to do/fund each year because of donations made to Boosterthon
 - Increased enrichment program
 - Amazing field trips
 - Faculty lunches on conference days
 - Playground equipment
 - Subsidizing books during Book Fair
 - Field Days
 - Wellness Day
 - So much more
 - Give staff and kids a lot of credit- practiced resilience these last few days because the classrooms were very warm
 - We are currently on day 156 of school, need to spice things up to keep kids engaged- looking around at all the classrooms it's clear how our staff really does that naturally with their learning plans for the year
 - Nice to see kids working more independently

- Teachers create opportunities for kids to stay engaged right to the end of the year
- Teacher Appreciation Week review- Meredith Goldberg
 - Everything went really well, everyone seemed to enjoy everything
 - Theme was fun
 - Puzzle piece messages from the kids on the wall are really personal and sweet
 - We will be giving them to the teachers
 - Kids were excited to take part in it
 - Teacher feedback- all the details were so great
 - Concern- trying to make sure everyone is included (dietary restrictions, etc.)
- Enrichment update- Stacy Friedrich
 - 3rd grade just had an Abigail Adams assembly, which was very popular
 - 5th grade has reached out about a 3D printing workshop- in the planning stage
 - Need to make sure there is time and money in their budget
 - Could be a fall opportunity
- Review of Citizen of the Month Ceremonies
 - 3rd and 5th grade happened today and 4th grade is happening tomorrow
 - Recognition of students for being good citizens and role models
 - It is on ECAT and viewable for the next few weeks
 - Happy with the amount of families who were there and to explain and show parents our daily routines and how we reiterate the ROAR pledge
 - Emphasize to the students that this is a recognition that was voted on by their peers
 - Senator Driscoll presented each student with a signed citation
 - Representative Lisa Field is attending the ceremony tomorrow
 - Aramark food services did a wonderful job
 - Mr. Getchell is happy to hear feedback
 - Should teachers be present next year?
 - Livestream to the classrooms?
- Field Days/5th Grade Farewell update
 - All Field Days are at Frothingham Park
 - Big thanks to Kristen Coe
 - Need to make sure the students stay off the baseball diamond and we monitor the bathrooms, playgrounds, and entrances/exits
 - Can always use setup help- tents, tables, signs, etc.
 - Moving Firetruck spray for the 5th grade to the last week of school during their volleyball tournament
- Ace of Clubs update
 - Next year trying to move it to recess time instead of after school

- o Will hope to get it off the ground in the fall
- Memory Book Update- Kylie Carroll
 - o All ordered and shipped on May 15
 - o Process went well, lots of pictures
 - o Did not order extras- there were many, many reminders
 - o Possibly look into a website that orders them in bulk and ships them to the school, but if someone wants one after the fact they can be shipped to their home over the summer
- Placement for 2026-2027 School Year
 - o Remind parents to fill out the Parent Input Survey that has been sent to them- due by the last day of school
 - o Helps keep things organized (instead of parents sending individual emails)
 - o Placement will be communicated on August 14
 - o Switch class question: How do you decide which students are in a switch class and which ones aren't?
 - Pros and cons to both a switch class and self-contained classroom. Some students do better in a self contained class with less transitions, student relationship with the teacher is slightly stronger in a self-contained class, some students benefit from breaking up the day. Sometimes it's just balancing out the class because a lot of kids can do fine in either. Will sometimes ask the parents
 - All 3rd grade classrooms are self contained
 - 4th and 5th grade will each have 3 self contained, the rest team teachers
- Summer Reading and Math Options
 - o Feedback?
 - o Working with literacy and math coaches to give students and parents options for summer, nothing mandated
 - Recommended reading list that is connected to their ELA curriculum
 - Logging minutes
 - Promote the summer reading program at Ames Free Library
- Planning for 2026-2027 PTA
 - o Vice President position open, can have multiple people as co-Vice Presidents
 - o Treasurer position will be open in 2027-2028 so are looking for someone to shadow our current treasurer next year
 - Booking experience helpful and preferred
- Budget Update- Trisha Hellen
 - o Lots of moving parts right now

- o Will most likely have less in the bank to start off next year than we did last year, but we are ok with that (\$15,000 instead of \$25,000)
- Feedback from teachers- let us know how else we can support you.
- Next year- Boosterthon is still happening, Square One Art will be coming back
- See you in September!

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

Become a voting member: <http://ropta.3dcartstores.com>

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