



MEETING Minutes
October 10, 2024 – Executive Meeting
6:30-7:30 pm Virtual

1. Call to Order, 6:34pm

- a. Review and approval of the agenda
- b. Review and approval of the minutes from previous meeting

2. Principal Updates – Tony Widder, Principal

-Mr. Widder shared that the Read-A-Thon is going well. Everyone is excited and there is a lot of excitement each morning with the reading slips and daily drawings. Mr. Widder shared that the class and grade participation charts are a really big hit. Mr. Widder asked that we add the EC class to the tracking charts.

-Mr. Widder shared that the 4th Graders have really embraced the supply drive for the Mountains and have taken leadership of it. Mr. Widder shared that a parent helped arrange for a Blue Grass concert during their Mountain Day staycation field trip.

-Hispanic Heritage Night was a success. It was well done and a fun time by those who attended.

-Mr. Widder requested the PTGO's help with encouraging parents to sign up for Parent/Teacher conferences and asked if we could include it in this month's newsletter.

-Mr. Widder shared that we have several new students who were displaced by the Hurricane. He is not sure how long they will be at RPES but asked if the PTGO can assist in putting together info on the PTGO to include in a Welcome Packet.

3. Teacher Updates – Teacher Reps

-Counselors shared that they did their First Terrific Kid presentation in September. They will also begin use of the NC Portrait of a Graduate skills program.

-Kindergarten has had a good transition so far for teachers and students.

-2nd Grade has been participating in Swim for Charlie at the Orange County Sportsplex and that is going well. The children are learning a lot. The students loved the Read-A-Thon video- especially all the animal puns!

-3rd grade thought the Read-A-Thon video was amazing and were excited by the prizes available.

-4th grade- The 4th grade field trip to the Mountains was canceled due to the effects from Hurricane Helene. Instead, the teachers planned a fun day full of activities at the school. On October 18, students will get to hike to Occaneechi Village at River Park to learn about the village, listen to a reading of the Eno River Land Agreement and do drawings of the village on Buffalo Hides (brown paper bags). They will then get to make toiletry bags from items collected by the school wide supply drive for elementary school children in the mountains impacted by Hurricane Helene. They will enjoy a picnic lunch outside and a Blue Grass Concert during their Specials hour. RPES has partnered with the Orange County Sheriff's Office and Maple View Farms for the supply drive. They have a goal of packing 400 toiletry bags.

3. Treasurer's Report – Richard Brandon, Treasurer

- a. September Deposits: \$1619, Oct. MTD Deposits: \$415 (+\$292), General dues: \$50
- b. September Expenses: \$2387 (Teacher Reimbursement: \$800, Specials Reimbursement: \$850, Welcome Back: \$200, Spiritwear: \$385)
- c. Pending Expenses: Grant: around \$500, Teacher Reimbursement: around \$200, Appreciation/Events: around \$450
- d. Upcoming Expenses: Teacher/Specials Reimbursement: Around \$200, Teacher Appreciation: \$4.4K, Grants: ?
- e. Bank Sep. Closing Balance: \$25,609 (-4.5% August), Paypal September Closing Balance: \$50

4. Committee Updates

a. Fundraising- Read-a-Thon Update - Jenna Hickey

- General update: Read-A-Thon is going well. Everyone is helping out and it seems to be running smoothly. Theme was well received.
- Piedmont Wildlife: Mr. Widder recommended November 7 or 14th as good possible options. Jenna will check with Piedmont Wildlife to see if those dates are still available

- Bedtime Stories in the wild finale 11/14/2024- Ms. Hatheway will help organize. It will start at 6pm and students can travel to different classrooms to read bedtime stories. PTGO provided milk (from the cafeteria) and cookies last year.

b. Grounds/beautification- Amelia Howard

- Will work with Mr. Widder on getting some possible dates for a clean up of the outdoor classroom area.

5. Grant Requests - Elise Bortz, Chair (15 min.)

1. Grant Funding Overview:

- typically less than 10 teacher grant requests a year
- So far \$497.70 spent of 9k in budget for 2024 grant requests
- In the past few years we have spent around 6k of the 9k on teacher grant requests
- The remainder rolls into our "Long term Projects" fund which is currently earmarked for a batch of digital interactive whiteboards (this can change and would depend on read-a-thon).

2. Review and approval of grant requests

- a. The Board reviewed a grant request submitted by Ms. Hatheway to purchase 60 copies of new books to start up the 4th and 5th Grade Battle of the Books. The request was for \$497.90. This vote occurred on 9/27/24 via email and passed (yes: 13 no: 0 no vote received:1)
- b. The Board reviewed a grant request submitted by Ms. Overman to purchase a laptop cart and some pouches to store supplies to assist with teaching efficiency. The request was for \$126.67. The grant request was approved (yes: 7 no: 4 abstain: 1- due to arriving to meeting after discussion occurred)
- c. The Board reviewed a grant request submitted by Ms. Duke for a new 2nd Grade Curriculum for Science and Social Studies. The request was for \$1,824.34 for both subjects or \$959.93 for just social studies. Discussed starting with just Social Studies. Kat Murray made a motion to approve it for just Social Studies to start. Richard Brandon seconded. The grant request was approved (yes: 12 No: 0).
- d. The Board reviewed a grant request submitted by Hannah Bohlen to fund up to \$520 to ensure all 5th graders have a yearbook. It would allow the purchase of up to 28 yearbooks. The grant request was approved (yes: 12 No: 0).
- e. The Board discussed needing to provide further clarification on what can be submitted for grants. Discussed putting together guidelines for teachers, staff and the PTGO to reference. Suggestions for consideration include how many students would be impacted and is it providing any enrichment experiences for the students. The Board will discuss further outside of the meeting and bring it back for review.

7. Membership Meetings - Elise Bortz, Chair and Amelia Howard, Secretary (10 min.)

- a. Review results from the survey that was sent out to the school requesting feedback on PTGO Meetings. We had 16 responses from the school. Survey was sent out through the Tiger Call. From those responses- 50% of people wanted a 6pm meeting, 38% wanted a 6:30 meeting, 12.5 % wanted 7pm. There is interest in learning about what's going on at the school and with having presentations. The majority would like a zoom option or hybrid (in person with zoom). Due to Board members schedules, having the meeting at 6pm is not feasible for those leading the meetings. The Board decided to have meetings start at 6:30 via zoom instead of hybrid due to extremely low in person turnout at the September meeting which was held immediately after a well attended community event.
- b. Per bylaws, we need to have a membership vote (not executive committee vote) to approve the budget. We will do this at the November meeting.

8. Adjourn at 7:36pm