



### **MEETING AGENDA**

**January 9, 2025 Membership Meeting  
6:30-7:30pm Virtual**

- 1. Call to Order at 6:36pm - Elise Bortz, Chair -**
  - a. Review and approval of the agenda- Jenna made a motion to approve the agenda. Richard seconded. Agenda approved
  - b. Review and approval of the minutes from the previous meeting. Ms. Carr made a motion to approve minutes. Richard seconded. Minutes approved.
- 2. Principal Updates – Tony Widder, Principal (5 min.)**
  - Reviewed that there will be a 3 hour early dismissal due to inclement weather tomorrow.
  - The lower playground has its new playground equipment installed and is now open and ready to be used.
  - New math coach-Megan Leonard started this week
  - Mr. Widder thanked the PTGO for all the support given over the holidays to the staff including the luncheon, dessert bar and staff party.
- 3. Teacher Updates – Ms. Duke, Ms. McCurdy, Ms. Carr, Ms. Wilson PTGO Teacher Reps (5 min.)**
  - a. K-2nd Ms. Duke
    - K- Students seem to be happy to be back at school. They are in the middle of mid-year assessments. They are working on learning about winter.
    - 1- Students are also excited to be back to school. They are completing mid-year assessments. They are learning about the earth, moon and sun in science and integrating that into reading.
  - b. 3rd-5th Ms. McCurdy + Ms. Wilson

- Children are easing back into the routine after break. They are enjoying the new key chains that the specials teachers are handing out for showing RPES. The students are enjoying short trips to play on the new playground. The teachers are appreciative of all the support from the PTGO.

**4. Parent Informational Presentation - Hope Carr, K-2 RPES School Counselor and PTGO Teacher Rep. (10-15 min.)**

- a. Presentation on [Independence Therapy](https://letgrow.org/program/independence-therapy/)
- Independence therapy is not an actual therapy but a concept. It originated from Let Grow and Dr. Camilo Ortiz (Human Flourishing Lab). <https://letgrow.org/program/independence-therapy/>
  - Developed after seeing a drastic increase in anxious children
  - Explored reasons for how we got here- tendency for parents to focus too much on safety, being careful and parents doing for children because its easier and they are often in a rush. Also an increase in screen time and social media usage and less free play.
  - You can order an Independence Kit from Let Grow with activities, project ideas and Bored Bingo. The idea is to encourage children to play more independently and for parents to allow it.
  - Additional bonus materials on grief, school refusal and school avoidance available through the website.

**5. Treasurer's Report – Richard Brandon, Treasurer (5 min.)**

- a. November deposits- \$6,458    December deposits- \$522
- b. November/December expenses (\$4116+\$4850)= \$8966
- Teacher reimbursements-\$900
  - Specials reimbursements- \$600
  - Staff appreciation-\$1000
  - Admin discretionary-\$2400 (meal and party)
  - Grants- \$1550
  - Fundraiser expenses- \$2770
  - Pending expenses- teacher reimbursements <\$100
- c. Upcoming expenses
- Teacher/specials reimbursements- \$3K
  - Teacher appreciation- \$3.5K
  - PebbleGo Renewal- \$1.4K
  - Grants: Possible mural/whiteboards
- D. Closing balance 2024: \$54K +16K YTD      Paypal closing balance \$500

If Spring Auction under performs, we are still in a good position financially.

**6. Fundraising (10 min.)**

- a. Color Run - **Kat Murray, Web\Social Media\Comm. Member-at-Large**

- We are in the early planning process. Looking to do it on a Saturday this Spring at RPES. Will need lots of Volunteers. There is an initial planning meeting on January 13 at 7:30pm via Zoom.
- b. Spirit Nights, proposed dates - **Jenna Hickey, Fundraising Member-at-Large**
    - Feb 18- Moe's Take Home Taco Box
    - March 20- Chick Fila
    - May 14- Jersey Mikes
  - c. Spring Auction - **Jenna Hickey, Fundraising Member-at-Large**
    - Looking to incorporate a Silent Auction into the Carnival and continue it for 2 weeks afterwards.
    - Grade level baskets which will be raffled off at the Carnival.
    - We will need lots of volunteers to help.
- 7. Teacher Appreciation -Elise Bortz, Chair for Whitney Busse, TA Member-at-Large (5 min.)**
- a. January/February Stock the Fridge  
January hosted by PTGO and February will be 3rd grades turn
  - b. February Teacher Appreciation - School Supply Bar
    - In January they are looking to do some small treats for teachers . In February, they will look at bringing back the popular school supply bar. Initially they had not received a lot of feedback on it so were considering other options but input from the PTGO teacher representatives and administration at the meeting was that this is something that the teachers enjoy.
  - c. February Staff Appreciation - Bus Driver Appreciation
- 8. PTGO Grant Criteria Discussion Cont. - Elise Bortz, Chair (7 min.)**
- a. Carryover considerations include: number of students impacted, longevity of project, can the project be funded elsewhere, how to compare requests against each other
  - b. New proposed Grant Criteria document to discuss. Amelia made motion to approve the new criteria and Richard Brandon seconded. All members presented voted yes. (Bortz, Brandon, Widder, McCurdy, Duke, Hickey, Murray, King, Aria Wilson, Howard).
- 9. New Grant Proposal (8 min.)** - RPES parent's Rebekah Wrenn and Whitney Mallalieu propose to hire a local artist (Max Dowdle) to paint a mural in the school hallway.
- a. Discussion was had around the mural and examples of mural ideas presented by RPES parents were reviewed. PTGO Board is in favor of this idea but would like to explore other quotes to be good stewards of PTGO money and resources and see if the Grant Committee could help. Discussed that we would also like to get the students involved in designing and voting

on the mural design. Discussed having several designs available at the Spring Carnival for review and voting. The board decided to hold off on voting for further discussion.

**10. Adjourn 7:40pm**