



### **MEETING MINUTES**

**March 6, 2025 – General Membership Meeting  
6:30 pm - 7:30 pm Virtual**

**1. Call to Order, 6:30pm**

Review and approval of the agenda and the minutes from the previous meeting. Jenna made a motion to approve the agenda and minutes. Richard seconded the motion. The Agenda and Minutes were approved.

**2. Principal Updates – Tony Widder, Principal**

Mr. Widder shared that we are now halfway through the 3rd quarter and they are preparing for the end of the school year. Mr. Widder shared that all the teachers are collaborating to make sure students are finishing out the year with the things they need.

Teacher appreciation- Bagels were really good, teacher baskets were well received as well as the gift cards.

Teacher of the Year- The staff and teachers voted today and Ms. McCurdy is the RPES teacher of the year.

**3. Teacher Updates - Ms. Duke, Ms. McCurdy Teacher Reps**

K-2nd- Ms. Duke gave an update from the lower grades.

- Kindergarten-In March, we will learn about weather, life cycles and will probably have a visit from that pesky leprechaun. Looking forward to our big field trip to the Life and Science Museum later this Spring
- 1- First grade is learning about natural resources, including soil to prepare for our upcoming field trip to Camp Chestnut Ridge.
- 2- Thank you all for the supply baskets and the staff meeting snacks! We have begun using our new Studies Weekly materials and the students love having content-rich texts in their hands for our social studies standards. We are counting down for our field trip to the zoo later this month!

- b. 3rd - 4th- Mrs. McCurdy gave an update from the upper grades. They also wanted to pass on a thank you for the Gluten Free bagels that the PTGO provided.
  - 3-We are excited to have Mad Science come to school on Friday. They will present a hands-on science experience about Solids, Liquids, and Gas.
  - 4-The fourth grade is gearing up for our annual beach field trip to the NC Outer Banks. This trip is the culmination of our study of NC Government, history, pirates, and lighthouses. We are beginning our opinion essays and working hard to apply multiplication and division concepts to tricky word problems.
  - 5th-The 5th graders are really looking forward to our sleep away field trip to Betsy Jeff-Penn 4-H center in April. Also, our math coach connected us with `Prism Design Lab, where students will learn the tools and process of architecture, art, and design. They're coming in April.

**4. Treasurer's Report – Richard Brandon, Treasurer**

- a. February end of month closeout summary  
Retail Promotions: \$128  
General Donations: \$400

February Expenses: (8K)

Spiritwear: \$500; Field Trip Fund: \$5400; Teacher Reimbursements: \$650  
PebbleGo: \$1400

Pending Expenses (\$2.2K)

Teacher Reimbursements- \$300; Specials/Literacy reimbursement- \$400; Mural Deposit- \$1000; Staff appreciation- \$500

Upcoming Expenses

Teachers/Specials Reimbursements (\$1.2K); Teacher Appreciation (\$2.5K); Mural (\$3K-remainder after deposit); Grants- Potentially digital whiteboards

Closing balance for February 2025: \$47K (+10k YTD)

Paypal Balance: \$50

- b. Deposit made on mural, will begin to start looking at next years budget next month
- c. Mrs. McCurdy asked if the support teachers knew about money available to them. There are some new teachers that have started after August and may not be aware of funds. Mr. Widder will provide update to Richard of new staff so we can reach out to them

**5. Balls on Playground During Recess, Jenna Hickey, Member at Large**

Is there a school wide policy/history of balls being allowed and or provided by the school during recess?

- Direct donations to teachers of balls, supplies would be very helpful. It would be best to supply each classroom vs. having a communal supply. Jenna will put together a Google document to survey what is needed and send to the teachers.

**6. Approved Mural Grant Update - Elise Bortz, Chair**

We conducted a vote amongst the Board for theme ideas and we had a total of 13 votes.

-The designs with the most votes were Lean into Challenges, I can do hard things (6 votes) and Good Things Grow Here (5 votes)

Discussed that based on votes we would like a mural that had less words so it isn't too busy and the younger kids can read it; it should be vibrant and include characteristics specific to River Park Elementary School.

We will send the chosen theme ideas to Max and pay the \$1000 deposit and ask him to come up with 3 rough sketches at the Spring Carnival for people to vote on. Mr. Widder will reach out to Max to coordinate the timeline. We discussed having student artists but determined it might be easier for Max to just complete the mural and answer questions as students walk by.

#### **7. Spring Carnival Updates - Elise Bortz, Chair**

We still need a lot of volunteers. Amelia will gather book donations for the book walk. Jenna will be preparing the auction and raffle tables. Jessica will prepare the spirit wear table (work the table or get volunteers to help). The OHS Robotics team will join unless they make it the World Championship which is on the same date. We will have 2 face painters from Kathi's Clowns. Animal Park will have animals they will be exhibiting. Ms. Casey will be having an art show and sale in the gym. Ms. McCurdy will be having the Science Presentation inside as well.

-We still need to make a new map and confirm location of Plinko and ask if we can borrow Ms. Wilsons sound system. We will need chairs, tables and coolers from the school set up for the event.

#### **8. Grant Committee Updates - Elise Bortz, Chair**

- a. The committee currently has 4 members. They have compiled a list of available grants suitable for RPES. See link.  
[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1qiYFwXHC02VkOzk\\_R50VpKUpLXKu6hbF6gVK286yuFg/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1qiYFwXHC02VkOzk_R50VpKUpLXKu6hbF6gVK286yuFg/edit?usp=sharing)
- b. The committee met with administration in Mid-January.
- c. Some members may be able to help if needed for the Literacy Grant application-period ends 4/3/25.
- d. Bright Ideas Grant applications opens 4/1/25

#### **8. New Board Member Search '25-'26 - Elise Bortz, Chair**

- a. Several members have agreed to stay on or are expected to stay on. Current openings include Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer-Elect, Secretary, Spirit Wear Member at Large, Communications/Web/Social Media Member at Large
- b. Will set up at Kindergarten registration on 4/16, advertise board positions.

#### **9. Teacher Appreciation - Whitney Busse, Member at Large**

- a. Whitney shared that she was happy to hear good feedback about the TA event from this week- and welcomes continued feedback.
- b. Stock the Fridge- delayed due to the snow day so combining grade levels this month
- c. Teacher appreciation- looking forward to planning a big May TA Event, will have a smaller recognition for April

**10. Fundraising - Jenna Hickey, Member at Large**

- a. Auction- \$2300 worth of items donated so far-not including the grade level basket funds
- b. Spirit Nights- Moe's Spirit Night- \$150 raised- people did like it but some thought it was too expensive  
March 20- Chick Fil A  
May 14- Jersey Mikes

If classroom teachers can put Spirit Nights in their newsletters it is helpful!

c. Color Run update - **Kat Murray, Member at Large**

- Date changed to May 31- registration opens March 17. Trying to get sponsors for the event.
- T-shirt sponsor- 12 spots available at \$200 each
- Color stations sponsor- \$500 or you can split it with friends
- May promote individual purchase of color packets
- Committee meeting is scheduled for next week

**11. Other**

- a. Comments/input are welcome- no questions/comments

**12. Grant Request**

Mrs. McCurdy submitted a grant for funds for Items needed for the Science showcase at the School Carnival. Total Grant amount of \$153 to include (Butterfly hatching larva, owl pellets, laminator, black light, card stock, observation containers) and additional request for Science Tiger Stickers if possible.

-Jenna made a motion to approve the grant to purchase all items including the Science Tiger Stickers. Amelia seconded the motion.

-Board voted yes: Mr. Widder, Elise Bortz, Amelia Howard, Richard Brandon, Kat Murray, Jenna Hilkey, Whitney Busse, Heather King, Mrs. McCurdy, Mrs. Duke, Mrs. Aria Wilson

**13. Adjourn 7:32 pm**