

EASTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
EASTON, MA

RICHARDSON OLMSTED SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, January 17, 2023

Minutes of the Richardson Olmsted School Council Meeting, January 17, 2023, Virtual meeting convened at 6:10 p.m. Present by roll call: Chris Getchell (principal), Kristen Maffeo, Jennifer Gilabert, Rita Pastore, Amy Cormier, Lauren Loomis, Meredith Lamb, Johanna Silverman

Call Meeting to Order: Chris Getchell called the meeting to order at 6:10 pm

Vote to Approve Minutes of November 15, 2022 - Vote was called to order to approve the minutes, seconded, and approved by all members in attendance.

1. RO EL Potluck Dinner Reflection

- a. Held on Thursday, January 12th. Beth Riquinha, our EL teacher, did an excellent job helping to organize this event. An email was at first sent to attend the event, but then with the limited response, Beth sent home information to each family in their own language and the attendance was great. There were about 50 people who attended the event. It was a potluck with dishes from a variety of cultures, as well as pizza. There was a very positive response to the event, with hopes for future events.
- b. Jennifer Gilabert mentioned that maybe for future events there can be an outreach to other families in the school community who would like to meet others from similar cultures, even if English is their first language. Chris Getchell would like to extend it out to those families not identified at EL, and also looking to have an event earlier in the year as a welcome, as well as additional events.

2. RO Playground Plan Update

- a. A meeting was scheduled for 1/12/23, but needed to be rescheduled to February. The timeline is still similar. The next meeting will be presenting the cost of each item to elected officials in the town. There is another big ticket item being presented in the district, the OAHs tennis court, so both of these projects are in need of funding. The OA project may take precedence because it is a safety concern. If the RO Playground is approved, it may need to be done in stages. Chris will keep us updated after the next meeting. We may need to do some direct fundraising to help with this project.

3. Feedback Regarding Traffic During Pick Up and Drop Off

- a. With Blanche Ames School coming on board, Chris wanted feedback about how it impacts our school drop off and pick up. Lauren Loomis said she felt our system was efficient, but the line appears to be longer than ever. This may be due to the fact that parents were parked at EMS formerly, but now are in line for pick up. The dismissal never goes past 3:10 pm, so it's about a ten minute process. Meredith Lamb also mentioned that the number of students crossing over to the High School was a lot, and with all the car traffic, it can be dangerous. Chris concurred and said it would be beneficial to get a crossing guard at that intersection. The top of Columbus, and the intersection at Lothrop is in need of supervision with

the amount of students at dismissal time. With the entire district in one space, this needs to be a top priority. Our school is always looking for ways to be safe and effective with dismissal procedures.

4. Potential SIP Goal Next Year - Implementation of New Literacy Program at RO - What do our students need to grow as readers and writers?

- a. We're going to be adopting a new literacy program K-6. Professional development for teachers will be in the spring once the program is selected. That will be one of our School Council goals - looking at what are really important pieces of a literacy program.

5. Brainstorm Other Possible Goals for School Improvement Plan

- a. Chris mentioned looking at other areas for our future school improvement goals. Jennifer Gilabert asked about whether, before Covid, our school had more club offerings and after school programs. Social/Emotional learning is something we still need to focus on. Kristen Maffeo mentioned seeing the true social needs of students on how to interact with each other in class settings, hallways, unstructured time, etc. Joanna Silverman said she feels like from a mental health perspective, it is necessary to identify those social needs so that it doesn't become an issue later on. Students are receiving some of these lessons in Health this year. There was also a voiced need to have more adjustment counselors at our school, and always remains a top priority in our budget.
- b. There was mention of continuing to educate all 3-5 students about online safety, particularly with the increase in their access to technology. This fall, the fifth grade students had a presentation from Katie Greer from the DA's office, who had extensive knowledge in online safety and law enforcement. The hope is to continue and expand this next year. Another resource was mentioned, Common Sense Media - a resource for educating students about online safety.

6. Other - open discussion

Adjournment:

On a motion by Chris Getchell, seconded by Lauren Loomis, with a roll call vote of 8 -0, the Committee adjourned at 7:02p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Kristen Maffeo