

# MINUTES

## Potter Road Elementary School PTO

*Date | time* 3/14/2019 6:30 PM | *Meeting called to order by* SaRaH BowerS

### Administrator's Report – Larry Wolpe

- Staff reviewed iready assessments in February.
- The two-way program recently began using Imagine Learning and Reasoning Mind, which offer multilingual instructions.
- PRS recently hosted a two-way program info night for incoming K families.
- K tours taking place on Thursday, March 14.
- Teachers had professional development days on 2/15 and 3/7. On 3/7, it was held at PRS and the topics were selected by the teachers. This format got great reviews and fostered a lot of terrific discussions and ideas.
- Framingham recently participated in a district review by the state of MA. The state randomly selects around 20 districts per year to do these assessments. We had a lot of visitors in the building, symposia, etc. It was informative for everyone involved to hear about what is going on district-wide and went very smoothly.
- PBIS continues – in the month of February, kids made a “kindness tree” which is still on display, and contains kind messages written by students about each other and the school community.
- Upcoming March field trips: PRS 5<sup>th</sup> graders are going to the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, and the 4<sup>th</sup> grade is going to the Boston Symphony Orchestra as part of the new city-wide 4<sup>th</sup> grade field trip.
- Students and teachers are preparing for the Spring MCAS.

### “Stress Kits” Proposal by 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Students – Larry Wolpe

- A group of 5<sup>th</sup> grade boys were recently having lunch with our guidance counselor, Mrs. Coates, and expressed that they are feeling stressed. They proposed an idea to create and distribute “stress kits” and act as ambassadors to help fellow 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders deal with feelings of stress in a positive way.
- They researched the items they would like to include (things like stress balls, fidget toys, timers, coloring sheets, bins for storage, etc.) and estimate that it would cost around \$147 total to create these kits for 8 classrooms.
- There were questions raised about how to clean these items, and also the need for a protocol to prevent contact allergen contamination to ensure safety for students with allergies.
- PTO unanimously supported the idea, and a staff member said teachers are generally supportive of positive interventions to help students regulate emotions within the classroom.
- The questions about cleaning and allergy prevention will be answered before next PTO meeting, and then we will vote formally on whether to fund the project.

### Gabrielle Oliveira - Preliminary Research Update on Two-Way Immersion Program (TWIP)

- Gabby Oliveira is an Assistant Professor of Education at the Lynch School of Education at Boston College. She is studying our new two-way program to understand the implementation process, and the socio-cultural experience of bilingualism. Her research methods include classroom observation, meetings, surveys, etc. Earlier this year she completed a survey of parents/faculty and staff, and is sharing preliminary findings of that survey.
- Survey was based on similar survey developed at NYU, because there are many similar programs in NY
- Parent Perceptions:
  - Parents are engaged at home (at an extremely high level); and that engagement was the same even when broken apart by language group.

- Parents are engaged with supplemental education items, but was more variation between English and Portuguese speaking households.
- School engagement is inconsistent. There may be cultural reasons for this, for example there is nothing similar to a PTO in Brazil, so for many parents it is an unfamiliar concept. There is an opportunity and need for improved communication about what the PTO does and why.
- Parents and students feel they are treated equally – scored very high
- Parents generally support the TWIP, but there was some distribution, and when broken apart by group there was more variation.
- Staff Perceptions
  - 48% of staff felt that advance training and information was insufficient
  - Staff is supportive but there is some distribution (up to a third are neutral or not supportive). This mirrors the parent responses.
  - Some teachers feel they have received inadequate support following implementation.
  - Workload has changed for some.
  - Communication and involvement scored low for teachers – this implies that they don't feel represented.
  - Most teachers are somewhat or very confident that this will be a permanent feature of PRS.
- Comparisons to Similar Programs
  - Our preliminary data is not very similar to other programs. Our data indicates more parent engagement and community support for this program. (The NY data had very low engagement and the CA program had good support but also lower engagement than we have.)
- Comments from Parents and Staff
  - Pros and Cons were parallel between parents and faculty/staff

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### General Updates – SaRah Bowers, Kevin Harris

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- There are safety issues behind the school at drop-off and pick-up (speeding, cars in pedestrian-only areas, wrong-way drivers, people turning around or passing unsafely, etc.). There are also people who park improperly or do not abide by the rolling drop-off system. To address these concerns, the district gave us permission to put up cones and deploy traffic volunteers to help resolve these issues. This has been successful and we are planning to continue the program as long as we continue to have enough volunteers. If you have any questions about drop-off/pick-up procedures, [please refer to the handbook](#).
- Robotics Club will be participating in a Robotics Challenge on April 6 at 1 PM. It will take place at Walsh Middle School and there will be many schools participating. All are welcome to come watch the teams in action and cheer for PRS. (Admission is free.)

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### Fundraising Report – Jaime Cesar

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- We will be hosting a fundraiser at MOOYAH in Sudbury on Tuesday, April 9 from 4-9 PM.
- The Boosterthon is set for June 4. We are getting custom t-shirts made, and are offering sponsorships to offset the cost so that hopefully the shirts will be free for students. There are several sponsorship levels still available. Most include logos on the shirts. Please refer to the email or contact [President@PotterRoadPTO.org](mailto:President@PotterRoadPTO.org) if you are interested or need more information.
- At our April PTO meeting, we will have a potluck dinner, book swap, and a raffle. The raffle will hopefully generate \$3,000 or more. If you have any items to donate or connections to help us get some amazing prizes donated, please help! Raffle prizes are needed by about April 1.
  - The PTO voted to approve spending up to \$200 to purchase a grand prize for the auction. This has been very successful for other schools.
  - Tickets will be \$5 each, or 5 for \$20.

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## Committees Report – Jasmine Laffin

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- The Pumpkin Fair still needs a new Chair (or Co-Chairs) to run it next year. A few things need to be booked in August, so volunteers need to come forward by the end of this year to ensure everything can be done on schedule. Please contact [VicePresident@PotterRoadPTO.org](mailto:VicePresident@PotterRoadPTO.org) if you are interested or would like more info.

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## Motion to Approve Minutes – SaRah Bowers

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- The February 2019 PTO meeting minutes were reviewed and approved by the Board.

The meeting was called to a close at 8:35 PM by SaRah Bowers.

The next PTO meeting will take place on Wednesday, April 10 at 6:30 PM in the cafeteria. The meeting will include a potluck supper, book exchange and auction.