

The Mission of the Rock Creek PTC is to strengthen the relationship between school and community in order to enhance the educational experience of every student. The PTC will raise funds to support educational opportunities and supplement the needs of the school to promote academic, cultural, and enrichment activities.



2/15/2023 General Meeting at 7:00pm

President's Welcome

- *MT welcomed everyone to the Feb. **PTC meeting and called the meeting to order at 7:04PM PT.**
- MT reviewed the meeting agenda and noted that the topic of literacy was of interest in prior PTC meetings so we invited Hope Long to join today.
- JP motioned to approve providing abbreviated January meeting meetings due to a computer malfunction that resulted in the full meeting notes being deleted.
- MT read the abbreviated January meeting minutes.
- Abbreviated January minutes will be included in February meeting minutes.
- MT reviewed updates on “What’s Been Happening” recently including remainder of the year event planning, the PTC book-keeping audit, evaluating RC PTC operating systems, OBOB, and Friendship Day parties. MT provided an overview of the outdated/inefficiencies across PTC technology tools and noted that JP is leading an audit which we hope will identify opportunities to adopt new technologies and modernize PTC operations.
- MT also shared a reminder of the current Krispy Kreme fundraiser during which Krispy Kreme will donate 50% of proceeds from all orders for 1 dozen donuts ordered through the form to the Rock Creek PTC.

Financial Update

- Jamie provided an overview of the current PTC checkbook balance, which is \$77,146.

Jamie reviewed the details of the current budget, noting monies that are being reserved for anticipated projects, all funding streams, and unused funds carryover.

- Jamie noted that we currently have almost our full 2022-2023 budget and we will easily make or exceed our budget with the remaining passive fundraising events and funds that we will receive from recent fundraisers.
- Jamie shared a reminder that there is over \$8,000 remaining in the teacher/staff program expense line.
- MT noted that the PTC is evaluating current needs and/or activities we can add to our plans to spend the PTC budget responsibly.

Upcoming Events

- JP shared an overview of upcoming PTC events including the Movie Night on 2/24, which will include one free bag of popcorn per attendee. JP also noted that we are planning to have water available at this movie night.
- JP also shared that the PTC is calling for volunteer support on 3/8 when the full school will see the Frozen Musical at WHS.
- JP went on to share that the next PTC meeting will be on 3/15 in person. Childcare will be available in the gym during the meeting.
- JP also shared information on the Spring Dance on 3/17 noting the positive response to the fall dance.
- Finally, JP noted the planned potluck as part of Staff Appreciation week on 3/22.

Help Needed

- Allison provided an overview of volunteer opportunities for the upcoming events including the Movie Night, Frozen Musical day and Spring Dance.
- Allison noted that volunteer opportunities are posted in Better Impact.
- MT confirmed that Beth and MT will co-chair the Spring Dance and Allison shared that she will work with MT and Beth to post volunteer opportunities for the dance in Better Impact.
- MT noted that the pot-luck signup will be in a Google doc vs. Better Impact, similar to how we've coordinated similar staff appreciation activities.

Principal Chat

- David thanked Miss Long for joining the meeting today.
- David went on to recap how staff members are recognizing Black History Month and the newly developed staff committees and noted that they are planning upcoming assemblies and planning out through the next school year.
- David also referenced the Frozen musical outing, and how that will impact schedules for that day. David noted that Miss Long is helping to coordinate the schedule and thanked the PTC for providing snacks following the musical given lunches will be given earlier than normal that day. David also shared that Washington County police will help manage traffic and assist students in walking to WHS and back.
- David also shared information about the upcoming Zoo fieldtrip and is excited the whole School can attend that as well.
- David went on to note that state testing will be administered in the next few months. He shared his personal point of view that testing is not fun and can bring on anxiety for some kids. He also shared that testing does not give a full picture of the student but just a snapshot of one day. However, David noted that testing will happen as it is a state requirement. He noted that at the elementary level the state does use test findings to make certain decisions and he wants kids to practice and try their best. He noted that students will prepare for tests in advance and confirmed that testing is only for 3 rd , 4 th and 5 th graders.
- David also shared additional context on report cards, which were posted on February 8. He noted that the report card is not reflective of final grades and report cards are meant to provide feedback and demonstrate progress. David noted that a 2 is about right for where students are in the year and it's ok if they don't receive a 4 at the end of the year. David emphasized that the ratings are not equivalent of grades in high-school (i.e. A-F). Report cards for elementary students are really focused on learning and supporting student growth.
- Chanel asked a question about testing and opting out given the information shared from BSD. David noted that in the past (pre-COVID) it was against the law to encourage

families to opt-out. He noted that last year was the first year BSD advertised the opt-out form and doesn't know if they will or won't do the same this year. He believes they will share the opt-out form but not promote it as much. David emphasized that while testing is not fun and not the full picture it will continue to be a part of the education experience. He understands if students need to opt out but wants to encourage students who are taking the test that they can do it and that they see the positive support.

Guest Speaker on Rock Creek Literacy: Hope Long

- Hope introduced herself and shared that she has been at Rock Creek for 9 years this year. She shared her appreciation for joining the PTC meeting and for all the events the kids are experiencing this year that weren't available during COVID. She shared that activities like the 5 th grade fly-up is back, which is a big deal for those students.
- Hope shared that she previously taught 2 nd and 5 th grade and is currently the school's literacy coach.
- Hope provided an overview of the skills involved in reading development. Hope noted that reading is an acquired skill and not a natural function of the human brain. She shared a video on the brain processes involved with reading. The videos and information she shared in her presentation will be available in a handout.
- Hope shared that one of the most important skills that assists with reading is phonemic awareness, or the understanding that all words are made up of sounds. She went on to note that practice recognizing sounds is helpful in assisting with phonetic awareness. She recommended games like "I spy a letter that says /m/." Hope also recommended labelling household items, name the sounds of the food students eat each night, and looking for letters and sounds in books.
- Hope provided additional ideas for supporting reading development at home including writing words out and having students practice the sounds each letter makes. She noted that handwriting also helps solidify phonological knowledge.
- Hope went on to discuss word decoding and the excitement students feel when they begin decoding, or reading. She recommended starting with two-letter words, then

moving on to words like “cat” and rat.”

- She recommended showing students how you decode and sound-out words to provide them an example.
- Hope noted that for emerging readers, it may be better to focus on decoding a few words or sounds vs. reading an entire book. She also shared games like “find the words!” and “Reading Basketball” that helps keep students engaged.
- For more advanced readers, Hope encouraged parents/caregivers to help students engage with text and practice critical thinking. She recommended family book clubs and have family members read the same book and discuss it together.
- Hope also reviewed the IRLA, which is an assessment framework to help determine literacy instruction needs for all elementary students. The IRLA levels are assigned by color and may be shared with students and their families.
- Hope included links for more information about each level in the handout.

Wrap-up

- MT wrapped up the event thanking Hope for her time and what she shared, noting that it would be great to explore the right platform to share her presentation further.
- MT asked a question about how to think about progress in reading throughout the year. Hope noted that it is not uncommon for students to stay in a band for a full school year given the extensive skills students are acquiring in each band. Hope noted that the goal is to ensure students demonstrate a year’s worth of growth in literacy, even if they haven’t moved levels.
- MT noted that the PTC would like to publish the PDF Hope shared via the PTC channels and will work with Hope to do so.
- MT called the **February PTC meeting to close at 8:10PM PT.**