

City-wide PTA Meeting

December 2, 2015 4:30 – 6:00

East Wing Conference Room

Goals:

- 1) Open communication lines between school department and parents
- 2) Clarify current school enrollments, assignments, and projections

Agenda:

Introductions (5 min)

UPDATES: (10 min)

Parent Information Nights

- Topic for January will be: **Open Circle and PBIS**
- We are going to ask Parents to pre-register so we can plan for the right number of attendees
- January 13, 2016 7:00 – 8:00 at RMA lecture hall unless we have too many RSVPs

Our next PTA meeting is scheduled for 1/6/16 at 7:00. Some parents wondered if it would be tough for people to come out two Wednesday's in a row. Some suggested we do a short, regular PTA meeting preceding the 1/13/16 Parent Information Night.

Please click this link to give your preference: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/5RDL5LD>

School Year Calendar

- Religious Holydays; Half days next year
- Central Office and RTA talks

Central Office and the Teacher's union continue to work on this. We will continue to give monthly updates as promised.

Findings from Organizational Structure Committee regarding Middle School Selections (20 min)

We look a look at the power point presented to the School Committee by the RELB council and talked about the pros and cons they identified from the research on different middle school structures including a 6th Grade Academy ay one school, and 8th grade academy at one school, 5th-8th grade model,

and a model that has 5th and 6th grade schools separate from 7th and 8th grade schools. The last two options would mean closing one of the current neighborhood elementary schools which most agreed would be hard on any one of the Revere neighborhoods.

We spoke about the idea of a central middle school in the current high school which seems to be the best option for the long run.

Elementary enrollment numbers (20 min)

Enrollment numbers show overcrowding in all elementary and middle schools. The worst situations are at grades 2 and 3 where we have placed future teachers to assist with large numbers of students in each class. One of the problems is that some schools like Paul Revere and Garfield have no place to put additional classrooms. So even if we could afford additional teachers, there would still be no place to put them. Building a new high school so the current high school becomes a central middle school would enable us to convert one or two of the current middle schools into elementary school which would also alleviate this problem at the elementary level.

District uniforms and spirit wear (20 min)

We talked about the origins of the uniform policies which began separately at each school through their School Improvement Councils. Each picked their own color scheme which supports individuality but there are some commonalities. For example, all schools include white shirts and Khaki pants. We talked about making a dark color pant uniform but agreed these are decisions that should be made by the individual schools and parents who wish to do so will broach this topic at their building based PTA meetings.

We talked about uniforms at the HS level and how that could create a lot of problems if we have to start sending kids home for wearing a wrong color shirt etc. We did agree that the Spirit Wear is a great option for the HS kids. The School store is open daily during lunch and after school which gives the kids the option to but what they like.

Other:

Dr. Kelly will find out if parents should be speaking to their reps about increasing ELT funding. The teachers union and central office are working with ELT principals to look at shifting models that might enable us to keep ELT past the current school year. This topic will be updated in January.

There was a question about recent events involving Twitter at RHS. Dr. Kelly shared that the high school administration worked very hard to deescalate the situation – a goal they believe they have achieved. The most important thing is that the High School has a safe learning environment that is supportive of all students. Due to the negative impact on the school climate, they will continue, as planned, to have a student/teacher team develop a cultural awareness class to include safe and effective use of social media and ways to express opinions and engage in dialogue with others who have differing opinions.