

City-wide PTA Meeting

October 7, 2015 4:30 – 5:30

East Wing Conference Room

Goals:

- 1) Open communication lines between school department and parents
- 2) Set focus for the coming year
- 3) Identify parent participants for RELB

Agenda:

Introductions (5 min)

Dr. Kelly's Entry Plan (15 min)

- See attached.
- Dr. Kelly will be sending information on parent forums soon. There will be at least one during the day, in the early evening, and later at night. All parents will be invited register for one of the meetings via School Messenger

Common Core, MCAS, and PARCC (20 min)

- Dr. Kelly shared the school district's perception that the new standards which are based on Common Core are much more rigorous than the old standards
- We discussed how this is a challenge for parents who learned differently. Our instruction was based on following procedures to solve problems where the kids now learn the concepts behind the procedures. This is much better for the kids in the long run
- Common core focuses on critical thinking and applying knowledge – the skills kids need to do well in college and life. Our old standards just focused on content skills
- Parents suggested we hold informational meetings so they can learn more about the new standards and how to help their kids with homework

- We discussed how the new standards meant that we needed a new test. That is why Massachusetts is considering moving from MCAS to PARCC. Even if we don't go with PARCC, we will need to change the MCAS to match the new standards

- We looked at data about student perception of PARCC (see attached)
- Teachers talked about how the assessments like ANet allow them to customize instruction for each student. Instead of “guessing” what kids know, we can actually measure it and then address any gaps that individual students have
- PARCC takes significantly less time for students to complete. Instead of up to 7 full days of MCAS testing (42-49 hours) kids take seven 45min – 110 min* tests (5.5 – 13 hours)
- We expect PARCC scores this year to be lower than our past MCAS scores because PARCC is more rigorous than MCAS and because it is new

RELB (15 min)

- Dr. Kelly shared that parents will be asked to join Revere Educator’s Leadership Board (RELB) councils. She shared the RPS Constitution (see attached) which describes the RELB and the Councils that accompany the RELB
- This conversation was tabled until the November meeting due to time

Future meeting times and topics (5 min)

- To notify parents of these meetings, Dr. Kelly will tweet a reminder the day before, post in RPS calendar, and School PTA presidents will send a reminder to everyone on their email lists
- The group decided to alternate meeting times every other month between a 4:30 start and a 7:00 start so that more parents can participate
- Each month, the group will discuss what should be on the agenda for the next month’s meeting

Next Meeting: November 4th, 7:00pm – 8:00pm,
 East Wing Conference Room at Revere High School
 Topics: School Year Calendar, RELB, RHS Dual enrollment