

## PTA Meeting Minutes- Wednesday March 2, 2016

### Agenda

#### Goals:

1. Open communication lines between school dept and parents
2. Share budget issues and scheduling information

#### Introductions:

19 people present

**ELT**-Dr. Kelly shared that we are close to an ELT agreement with the teacher's union which would allow us to continue ELT for next year. The restructuring of the compensation piece agreed to by the teacher's union would allow for this to happen barring any unforeseen changes in the proposed ELT budget at the state level.

**Budget**-Dr. Kelly shared information about the funding formula changes that are impacting us. Low income qualification used to be determined by % of students who receive free/reduced lunch. This year this percent is 78% of our students. Special populations (ELL, SPED, students who receive free/reduced lunch all get an increase in funding per pupil). Dr. Kelly shared the change in funding to the Economically Disadvantaged formula. Currently over 100,000 students who are considered poor are missing or not counted in this new formula. Revere is one of the 12-15 districts most impacted by this new funding formula. Dr. Kelly and other educators have been meeting with legislators to discuss this issue. The response is that there is an awareness of the problem. We are unsure of the actual impact this will have. There could be an impact on staffing. This is something we will have a more clear understanding of once the budget is finalized. We may be faced with difficult decisions. Our ideal situation is that the funding formula remains the same (based on the free /reduced lunch).

ELT question from parent- Funding comes from a grant from the state. The change in the compensation structure would allow the funding from the state to match the compensation structure.

**Calendar**- Letter in the journal from the RTA today. Dr. Kelly shared a proposal that she will bring forward to the School Committee that we attend school on all religious holidays next year. She shared her commitment to reviewing the data at the conclusion of the year. She would ask the School Committee to commit to reviewing the data on staff and student religious absences at the end of next school year before adopting attendance on holidays permanently.

From the floor: Paul Revere example was shared. Discussion on why Dec 23<sup>rd</sup> is a holiday. One parent asked: Why not have a March vacation?

**Middle School lottery-** Ms. Mokaba shared information about the middle school lottery. The return date for choice forms is Friday March 4<sup>th</sup>. More information will be shared at the March 8<sup>th</sup> School Committee meeting.

**Parent Information-** School based PTO's were going to ask their membership about their interest in future parent information night this spring.

### **Questions/Comments:**

Garfield School intercom-started work today. Should be ready by next week. Full replacement.

Class size update: Dr. Kelly shared average for each grade. She identified schools with a larger class size at each grade.

Summer vacation/vacation weeks: RPS afterschool for those students who are enrolled in the after school program. Summer program for identified students. We really don't have childcare services in that sense. Students in the After School Program do have the option to attend for the summer as well.

Flood in the lobby at GMS-roof is failing. We are in the middle of the design phase for an accelerated repair for the entire roof at the Garfield which is scheduled to begin this summer. There are some challenges with this design but we are hopeful that it will all be reimbursed.

Half days-We will be doing the half days once per month next year. They will be on Wednesdays (with the exception of the Election Day in November).

Jon Kingston shared that the Revere Credit Union will be making donations to the PTO's for their field day t-shirts.