

**PAUL REVERE MIDDLE SCHOOL
GENERAL MEETING MINUTES
March 16, 2016**

Welcome

PRIDE Update – Mary Wlodek

- **Revere Cares** – Donate gift cards for food for those students needing assistance when away from school, especially with Spring Break coming up. Buy SCRIP cards from Dori to donate and Revere gets a percentage of the face value.
- **Ready. Set. Revere** – May 14, 2 sessions. Please volunteer!

PTSA Update

- **Fun Run** – Look for the Sign-up Genius link in the eblast to volunteer.
- **Teacher Appreciation Week** – First week of May; request and volunteering will be announced in the eblast.

English Department Overview – Ms. Taiesha Flenaugh, Department Chair

- Curriculum – follows Common Core State Standards
 - What is Common Core State Standards?
 - Students were graduating from high school with inconsistent skills and had to take remedial classes in college. States came together to define consistent proficient standards across the US. Initially, 46-47 states adopted it; some have dropped out.
 - Includes a technology standard. Global perspective for student standards.
 - Literacy is supposed to be incorporated into other subjects – where a lot of the non-fiction falls. Overall student experience is that literature has shifted away from fiction.
 - Reading, writing & speaking standards are defined.
 - Technology standards –
 - Interacting on-line, creating content.
 - iPads – online discussions and content creation. Kids need to know how to do this in life and for college.
 - Text-based questions – students go back numerous times to find information. Common Core – teachers provide a broad overview of text, students read the text, then talk about it. Previously, teachers dissected the text before kids read it, which put the students at a disadvantage.
- Spirit Series – supports Common Core goals - reading, writing, listening, speaking skills in 6th grade. ***Paid for by PRIDE***
- Humanities – combining English and History (6th Grade)
- Yearbook and Newspaper – electives for 7th and 8th graders.

- IXL – technology program individualized for each student (English and Math). Skill-building. Reading, grammar. ***Paid for by PRIDE***
- Choice of literature – lots of flexibility at Revere for teachers to choose texts. A lot of focus on “argument” in Common Core. Example: based on history, was Alexander the Great “great,” or not. No right or wrong. What makes it wrong is lack of support for the thesis.
- Google classroom – teachers can post information and document on-line. Jupiter Grades does the same way.

Questions for Administration – Mr. Koretz

- Can we stream / record the meeting and post online? Will try next month.
- Now in the last 10 weeks of school: have past make-or-break point on performance.
- What is the best way to communicate concerns about teachers? Students are encouraged to report discretely. Parents should speak with counsellors. Examples – homework – what is standard vs. too much?
- Class syllabus – required by district and school for teachers to provide one.
- 6th to 7th grade classes – totally mixed up – Mysis automates class assignments based on honors/proficient by class.
- Requirements to be in an honors class – GATE qualified students are in honors. Other students are recommended by teachers. Math – assessment. Parents can opt out of honors.
- Some iPads issues. District won’t be providing new iPad resources.
- Psychologist Social Worker – Zhila Ross’s tutor suggested. Could PRMS have one? Counselors handle acute situations and outside resources may be contacted. Have discussed having a PSA to go to students homes when necessary. Some programs exist on campus – grief groups, Counsel – for students. Discussion to add a peer court for next year.

Adjourned 9:00 am

Next Parent Meeting – Wednesday, April 20 @ 7:45 AM

Please consider volunteering with PRIDE/PTSA!
There are many opportunities, small and large

Contact KeriKraft - RevereOutreach@gmail.com