

RPES PTA
Meeting Minutes
October 9, 2019

Sign In and Document Pickup

6:06 Meeting Called to Order by Jill Manupella

Treasurer's Report—Elisa Ackerley

We will need to order more Spirit Wear to sell, with long sleeves in the next order. We were close on budget for 3rd Grade Orientation with just \$1.30 over budget. We were \$114 over on Open House Pizza. Next year we will need to be clearer on RSVPs for pizza numbers, as we had 3 pizzas left over. The funds are in for the Fall fundraiser and we have to pay the supplier. We are a few thousand less in sales than last year, with only 2-3 students from each class participating. While it's a different fundraiser from Turnpike's, it does go home at the same time, so it could be a case of competing fundraisers. We have begun purchases for Pumpkin Fest, Elaine is providing many supplies. PTA memberships are still needed. Only 25 teachers have purchased memberships, which is less than 50% participation. We do have more parent memberships (about 30) than in previous years. The administration promised to recruit more teacher participation and to promote on district social media, as parents still believe a membership equals promised volunteering, which is not the case.

Motion to approve monthly budget by Mr. White, seconded by Mr. Hopkins.

Secretary's Report—Elaine Garrett

Review of September Minutes. It's hoped we can post them as a PDF on the RPES website. Mr. Hopkins advised emailing IT for approval to do so. PTA newsletters will go out before the monthly PTA meeting to prompt attendance.

Motion to approve September minutes by Mrs. Breton, seconded by Mr. Hamilton.

Principal's Report—Mr. Hopkins

Mr. Gregoire has a meeting scheduled for Thursday for the 5th grade volunteers for Haunted Hallway. Thanks to the building staff and volunteers for the rack installation for Clothe A Child. Choir is now meeting Tuesday and Thursday afternoons, and Band starts in two weeks on Mondays and Wednesdays. Homework Club started on Oct. 1, and meets Mondays through Thursday. Today Mr. Tacelli and Ms. Sacco led the Peaceful school Bus talk. Noon aides assisted in the first Golden Tablecloth awards, and Food Services donated 550 cookies. The weekly cafeteria report for lunch behaviors show that the zones have helped out with effective discipline, lowering behavioral issues. Mentors have been matched in the High school partnership program. They will help at 2pm Mondays on school projects with kids who need positive mentors. Last week saw pride in your environment with a playground weeding activity, which also helps as a positive corrective behavior tool. Mr. Shuttleworth of the high school brought up the possibility of a shed and tools donation to continue such programs, and perhaps this could eventually turn into another high school service/internship opportunity.

A Shared Decision/Parental Advisory Committee will start with the first meeting at 8AM on 10/16. This will be the first of 4 meetings. These meetings will focus on school planning, with discussion of topics like the practice lockdowns/lockouts. The first lockdown will take place 10/15 at 10AM.

Teachers' Reports

3rd Grade—Mr. Hamilton and Mr. White

Hamilton: Just Run has two more practices, and the meet date has now changed to 10/29. STEM club started with 24 participants. There will be two more sessions this year, with 25 different students rotating in each. This will result in about half of the 3rd grade participating by year's end. In Math, we are reviewing place value and number sense, and multiplication starts next week. In science, we are learning about the life cycle of plants.

White: ELA Common Planning Time with all ELA teachers is Mondays at 9AM. The students are engaged in reading partnerships and working on printing and decoding words in individual texts. In Writing they are learning about paragraphs.

4th Grade—Mr. White for Mr. Allen

Students are working on personal narratives in ELA. In Science the current focus is "becoming a scientist", and in Social Studies they are working on NYS geography.

5th Grade—Mr. White for Mr. Gregoire

Haunted hallway planning is commencing. In Math students are learning decimals, place value and multiplication. Tomorrow, the Roman/Simson classes will be going on their nature hike, to which everyone is looking forward. In preparation, the students have engineered lean-tos and water filters which will be used on the hike. Ms. Simson's ELA sections are reading Hatchet, by Gary Paulsen. Ms. Usher's class made cards for an 100 year old World War II veteran. Ms. Komazenski and Ms. Walzer's classes created the Respect video. Mr. Gregoire's students are studying matter and working in station labs in Science.

Old and New Business—Jill Manupella

Old Business was discussed during the Treasurer's Report. In New Business, Spirit Wear order forms are out and next up will be long sleeves and hoodies for purchase. Pumpkin Fest has a Mad Scientist theme. Teachers have signed up for various stations, but extra help is needed to provide additional coverage. There was a pricing change of \$1 admission, and \$1 for food items. The Book Fair will be at RPES on Oct 24th and 25th. Thank you to the Bretons and the Mary Fund for their generous donation of books, ensuring every student can go home with a chosen book.

The Northeastern Region PTA Officers and Administrators' Dinner (formerly Presidents' and Principals') is on Monday, October 28th at the Franklin Terrace. Mr. Tacelli will be in attendance. Mrs. Delaney and Ms. Juliano received the state PARP award and will be recognized both there and at the state convention November 8th in Tarrytown, NY. PTA officers are budgeted for the dinner, but anyone can pay to go to either. It is \$35 for the Regional and \$61 for the State dinners.

Open Comment—Jill Manupella

Mr. Hamilton noted that the first 3rd grade field trip to Fiver Rivers was yesterday and went very well. The trips were funded by a generous grant.

6:32 Meeting Adjourned by Jill Manupella