

RPES PTA
Meeting Minutes
December 11, 2019

Sign in and Document Pickup

6PM Meeting Called to Order by Jill Manupella

Treasurer's Report—Elisa Ackerley

This past month we paid our council dues and gave money to purchase an ad in the Drama Program's playbill for "Guys and Dolls". The Just Run pizza bill was also paid. BINGO night had a great response. Save Around books did well and we have 5 bankers for School Banking. The monthly budget has projected prices for the Winter Dance, with the other columns blank for now. The Holiday Shop continues Thursday, and will also be open during the dance on Friday. The first day went very well. \$100 remains for character assembly funds. Mr. Hamilton asked if the reimbursement for the Five Rivers trip came in. It hasn't, and as it is for \$1000, \$100 more than the costs, that extra money will go back into the 3rd grade field trip budget.

Motion to approve Treasurer's Report—Mr. Allen
Seconded—Mr. White

Secretary's Report—Elaine Garrett

Motion to approve November minutes—Mr. Allen
Seconded—Mr. Hopkins

Principal's Report—Mr. Hopkins

The school years instructional time has changed from days to hours, so the 7 emergency days is reconfigured. 2.5 days might have to be moved to meet instructional hours. The requirement is 180 days plus 900 minutes. There is an inquiry into whether we will receive back the Snow Emergency Day, as that was declared by the Governor. We now have 96 PTA memberships, doubled from last year, but we still need to reach 100. 100% of the 3rd grade faculty are members, but the lowest rate is the 5th grade. The Character Education trait for December is Generosity. For discipline consequences, students will perform 20 acts of kindness. Friday is a half day. There has been a slip in half day attendance, so there is a movie incentive at KMS for those who have missed up to 1 day in December. To preserve instructional hours, bag lunches will now be provided on half days, per the Superintendent. This allows for 2.5 uninterrupted hours of instructional time. The 3rd Golden Tablecloth event took place and the lunch staff donated cookies. There have been much improved volume control and entrance and exit transitions in the hallways. The concert today was very enjoyable. The 4th grade had their NYS museum field trips this week and will also have a measurement activity (from CMOST) in March.

RPES had its second lockdown drill. There were 12 subs that day, but the decision was made to go ahead to test the response, and 11 substitutes complied. There is now a "Substitute Need to Know" checklist with emergency numbers and plan in place. Mr. White suggested we also add a universal login for substitutes to use with the computer system.

The winter Dance is Friday and the next Shared Decision Meeting is on 12/18 at 8am.

3rd Grade Report—Mr. White and Mr. Hamilton

2 classes (White and Winterbourne) are beginning the nonfiction unit. The classes will also be working on first person narratives. Mr. White's class just finished the affecting book "Stone Fox", and other teachers are reviewing engagement and decoding. In Math, the classes are finishing up multiplication and division and will start area and m/d fact fluency in January, as well as 2 step word problems. Science is claims and evidence per NGSS outlines. Students have been learning about inherited vs. acquired traits and the life cycle. The second STEM club rotation begins tomorrow. The next field trip will be to MiSci in Schenectady in February or March.

4th Grade Report—Mr. Allen

The classes are working on 2 digit by 2 digit multiplication, with new methods introduced. They are finishing up an earth science unit and studying Native American migration and society in Social Studies. The ELA focus this month is short responses and theme. The students enjoyed their trip to the NYS museum, and the scavenger hunt format keeps the students engaged and working together. For some students, it was their first trip there. The next Birthday Book ceremony will be before the holiday recess. To enact the character trait of generosity, the 4th graders packed up the Backpack Program bags today. They will present at the Character Education meeting. The iReady diagnostics are almost done and will be completed before the New year.

5th Grade—Mr. White presented Mr. Gregoire's emailed report, reproduced here.

Writing- Most classes are working on narrative writing projects or finishing them up right before the Holiday break.

ELA- Simson and Roman's classes are finishing up the novel, "Hatchet." Using the themes; perseverance, hope, and growth mindset from the book, we will be reflecting on where those themes are found in our own lives through a written piece.

Fasano and Gregoire's classes are listening to the realistic fiction story, "The Tiger Rising" by Kate Dicamillo. Readers are studying characters by walking in the shoes of characters, seeing events and other characters through the characters' eyes, empathizing and predicting. They are also working on strategies like visualizing and making connections to have a deeper understanding of the characters and their experiences throughout the story

Math- All Fifth Grade math teachers are moving through the curriculum and moving into whole number long division, which will eventually lead into decimal division. Due to breaks and snow days, some teachers are revisiting past topics.

Science- The teachers are working on an Earth's Spheres unit. One highlight was that Figiel's class finished up the biosphere part of the unit where some kids worked on posters and dioramas at home and presented to the class. They are on display in the library. There is a mini STEM/Inventions unit leading up to the holiday break. Many Fifth Graders will also be participating in the Hour of Code next week and learn how to write Code on computers.

Generosity Month- All 5th Grade teachers are discussing charity & generosity in our classes to go along with the Dec character trait and the holidays. Some classes were able to or still are participating in Project Linus, which makes fleece blankets for children who are less fortunate or sick.

Students continue to practice mindful practices, like deep breathing or taking a break in a calming corner as a way to regulate their emotions during stressful times.

Old Business—Jill Manupella

BINGO Night was a success with over 100 attendees, far more than the expected 25. We are awaiting 250 Save Around books to be returned, but we have still made \$1700 to date, so that was successful.

New Business—Jill Manupella

Holiday Shop is this week (W/TH and Friday night). Friday's event will include a Gingerbread House contest and Dance. 4 teachers have volunteered to help. The Guptill's event is Jan 10th, and the \$5 entry tickets must be presold. None will be available at the door. The flyer went out today and a reminder will be sent in early January. There will be a \$5 skate rental fee which will be paid at Guptill's.

Friday Feb. 7th will tentatively be Mother/Son Bowling at Hilltop. That night is best for them. The Sweetheart Dance will be on Friday, Feb. 14th.

Founder's Day nominations are welcomed. The PTA has thus far nominated the Bretons, and will look for anecdotal speakers.

Open Comment

Jen Smith mentioned there was a communication issue with Pizza Hut over the donation program overseen by Mrs. Delaney, and the staff there seemed unaware and unsure how to process the donations. This will be mentioned to Mrs. Delaney to hopefully clarify the process to ensure the funds are applied.

Mr. Hamilton wanted to recognize Mr. Hopkins and Mr. Tacelli for reinforcing the cafeteria transitions. It is very impressive to see the students take accountability and working together to do their best. Mr. White also said the lunch staff are very good about redirecting and urging behavior compliance during lunch. There are fewer confrontations and the reconfigurations have definitely helped with that.

Meeting Adjourned at 6:31 by Jill Manupella