

RPES PTA  
Meeting Minutes  
November 13, 2019

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**6PM Meeting Called to Order** by Jill Manupella

**Treasurer's Report—Elisa Ackerley**

October was a busy month with events. We are awaiting the fall pictures funds, and just received the check for the fall fundraisers, which will be here soon for pickup. Pumpkin Fest was a good success. Both PTA dinners were attended by PTA representatives and we ordered new toys from Amazon for indoor recess. All are here except for the blackboard option.

Motion to approve Treasurer's Report by Mr. Hopkins, seconded by Julie Huggins.

**Secretary's Report—Elaine Garrett**

October minutes are available for review. Please forward any edits and suggestions to Elaine. The minutes are now posted to the PTA page on the RPES website.

Motion to approve October minutes by Mr. Allen, seconded by Mr. Hopkins.

**Principal's Report—Mr. Hopkins**

The first snow day was yesterday (Tuesday, Nov. 12). Elisa asked how many are allotted. There are 7 emergency days available, with 4+1 for snow days. Grades were due today (11/13) and report cards will be printed Friday for dispersal at the parent teacher conferences (11/26 and 12/13). The second shared decision meeting will be December 18 at 8AM. The next meeting's topic will be Budgeting and Funding. Thanks to the 3 parents who attended the first meeting. Lots of great ideas were shared. Julie asked if night meetings were a possibility. Mr. Hopkins replied that they were scheduled to contracted teacher and Shared Decision Making time frames. While an evening timeslot wouldn't be possible, perhaps eventually a 2:45 could. (3:20pm is the contracted teacher end time.) It is an elective committee with rotating senior and junior teachers. Deyva Arthur asked if the committee could come to a PTA meeting. Mr. Hopkins replied it is really an in school/school day initiative. However, there are other potential opportunities through Dana Roman's grant writing work, like Coffee Clubs, that could exist outside the school day.

Mr. Hopkins regrets missing October activities but the PTA congratulates him and his family on Baby Easton's arrival!

**Teacher's Reports**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Grade—Mr. White, who also read contributions via email by Mr. Hamilton**

The first rotation of STEM club concluded with work in LEGO Technics on Chrome Books. The second session with new student participants begins on 11/21 and will run for 6 weeks. In Science, students are learning about investigating claims and evidence. They are learning about acquired and inherited animal and human traits. In Math, students are working on multiplication (0-5 facts) and

division, and learning the commutative and distributive properties. Parent Marc Bergandahl will present to Mr. Hamilton's class on 3D printing. ELA work includes wrapping up the first reading unit and continuing comprehension work for Mr. White's class, while others are beginning the second reading unit. Students are also working on personal narratives. More curriculum planning time in reading and writing has been granted to the ELA team members.

#### **4<sup>th</sup> Grade—Mr. Allen**

In ELA, students are learning about literary elements and character development. They are also working on personal narratives and "on demand" writing. The current Science unit is soil and erosion, and Math work is multiplication and division. The 4<sup>th</sup> grade is using its Cultural Arts Education funding to bring CMOST's "Measures for Measuring" program to RPES. The date is not yet approved, but Mrs. Ravena has planned that all of the classes will rotate through. It is a hands-on program that the students enjoy. Mr. Allen has asked the PTA to cover the shortage in funding for this program, which amounts to \$172.

Motion to approve the PTA expenditure for the 4<sup>th</sup> grade CMOST program by Jill Manupella, seconded by Sarah Huls.

In Social Studies, the students are studying New York State geography, including Early People and Native American settlements.

Thank you to the PTA for sponsoring the new Birthday Book program. At the end of each month, the birthday celebrants of that month will attend a gathering to pick out a new book and receive a certificate signed by the Principals. This is a way to promote literacy, with the school officials in a perfect position to underscore that reading matters. There was great feedback from the kids in the first month.

Mr. Allen's class had their tea party in which they invited their families to school for refreshments and to hear personal narrative presentations. This was well attended by parents.

#### **5<sup>th</sup> Grade**

Mr. Hopkins mentioned the 5<sup>th</sup> grade will soon be attending "Dog Man: The Musical" with their Cultural Arts Education funding and that Mrs. Gibson, the district IT teacher on assignment, piloted a virtual reality "Volcano Tour" expedition with Mr. Blackmur's class.

#### **Mr. Gregoire's report later submitted via email, as quoted:**

- 5th Grade is going to the Palace next week to see "Dogman, the Musical"
- The Haunted House was a success and we made \$475!
- Math teachers are moving through decimal multiplication right now
- ELA teachers are teaching how to find text evidence to support the students' responses, and for writing the students doing various writing activities, depending on the teacher, for a "personal narrative" project. For example, personal narrative books are being made where the students pick about a topic in their personal lives that they want to write about.
- Science--working on/finishing up Matter and moving into living environment and earth topics (Earth's four spheres: biosphere, atmosphere, geosphere, and hydrosphere)--many hands on and interactive labs and activities go with this large unit that the kids LOVE!

## **Character Education Committee update**

Mr. Hopkins added that for all grades this month's Character Education quality is Gratitude, and there was good attendance at the assembly. "Bricks" will be displayed around RPES that reiterate these goals, with students writing thank-yous and acknowledgements to those who exemplify these traits.

## **Old Business—Jillian Manupella**

The Pumpkin Fest and Book Fair was a great success. The PTA is very grateful to the Bretons for their funding that ensured every child received a book. The Bretons also generously donated pizza for the Pumpkin Fest. In addition, Delwood Farms and Hannaford donated pumpkins. SUNY Poly provided many of the science demonstration supplies and activities and Lanter Delivery provided the nachos.

Mrs. Townsend has offered to recruit more members to the PTA. 40 RPES faculty and staff joined thus far. We still need to stress that attendance and volunteering at meetings and events is not required for a membership. We are currently at 82 members and need to reach our goal of 100 members.

Indoor Recess equipment has been obtained: a giant Connect 4, 2 mini pool tables, and a new foosball table. A Chalkboard will be installed once the work order is submitted. Deyva asked if a donation of a bounce house would be welcomed, but there are space restrictions. These purchases were chosen so that multiple children could participate at once. When possible, outside recess will always be prioritized.

## **New Business**

The Save Around books were given to teachers to distribute to students and an email will be sent to the District Office to distribute in promoting this sale. Fundraiser pickup is Tuesday 11/19 from 3-7 pm, concurrent with Bingo Night from 6-7PM. Pizza and popcorn will be for sale, and expected turnout is 25-30. Mr. Hopkins offered to have Mr. Tacelli send a reminder call about both events.

The Holiday event will be Friday, 12/13. 6-6:30 will be a "Nailed It!" type Gingerbread House building competition, at which Julie Huggins will emcee and award the prize. The dance will follow from 6:30-7:30 PM. Discussion followed about whether to have a teacher door decorating display, where students would try to guess the holiday book or story depicted. While a fun idea, it would involve substantial teacher participation, which may be best postponed for another later date.

## **6:28PM Meeting Adjourned—Jill Manupella**