

RPES PTA
Meeting Minutes
March 11, 2020

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6:01 Meeting Called to Order by Jillian Manupella

Treasurer's Report—Elisa Ackerley

The Dance and Bowling events went very well last month. Bowling fell short of projections by \$6, but the Dance profits made up for this slight shortfall. We were over on anticipated spending for the Founder's Day fundraising baskets and the items necessary to purchase for the evening, so we will adjust those numbers for next year's cost estimates. We purchased the snack items for the upcoming state tests and sent in the deposit for the yearbooks. March's budget will update the basket numbers and costs for this Friday's PTA Auction. The Book Fair will be held next week.

Motion to approve report by Mr. White, seconded by Mr. Hopkins.

Secretary's Report—Elaine Garrett

The previous month's minutes will now be emailed out to the teacher representatives about a week prior to the next meeting, so they may be distributed to interested teachers. All current minutes are also posted to the PTA page of the RPES website shortly after that month's meeting.

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

Principal's Report—Mr. Hopkins

Author John Marciano (Madeline titles; Klawde: Evil Alien Warlord Cat graphic novel series) will be visiting RPES tomorrow, March 12. The next attendance incentive, a magician's show, is scheduled for March 30th. Attendance was up 25 students for this month's event of afterschool playtime. There will be a balance between in-school and after school recognition events. Possible ideas for the future include an animal show and an ice cream social. In terms of covid-19 preparedness, 24 hour shutdowns will take place if warranted; with extra cleaning done by a service (contracting is in progress). State ELA testing is the end of the month. We welcome Ms. Campbell, the new teaching assistant who began yesterday.

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

Much remains the same from last month's ELA curriculum updates. Test preparation is in full swing, and to that end Mr. White has shifted homework to reading for enjoyment, which also supports PARP reading goals. Mr. Allen and Mr. Hamilton have the most PARP minutes read thus far. In Math, the focus is on fractions and state test preparation. In Science, the students are wrapping up the gravity unit. They are also working on land form Powerpoint presentations for Social Studies. STEM club and Math Club are going well and Lacrosse starts next week (Tuesdays).

4th Grade Report—Mr. Allen

Mr. Allen and Mrs. Townsend's classes presented Black History Month reports at a library event that received lots of support from parents and administrative staff. PARP is in full swing and students are working on test taking strategies and Extended Responses in Writing. They will present informational articles to TES students at the end of the month. They're also learning about opinion and realistic fiction genres. In Social Studies the students are learning about Native Americans and Explorers. Math topics include equivalent fractions and adding and subtracting mixed numbers. It is an opportune time to refocus Science on the study of germs!

5th grade Report—Mr. Gregoire

In Math the students are working on multiplying and dividing fractions. The math state tests approach. The measurement unit is a crossover with Science. ELA test prep continues. Today was a conference on the upcoming changes with the NGSS, which include a move of the science test from 4th to 5th grade. There will be a greater shift to hands on activities and inquiry based learning, which RPES has already begun to implement on a wider scale. The students will also observe phenomena and create assessments. The present third graders will be the inaugural class to take the test in 5th grade, so they won't take it next year. Overall, it's hoped that advocated changes for the school day will allow for more dedicated science time built in.

Old Business—Jillian Manupella

The girl's dance went well with no problems. Founder's Day was a great success. Congratulations to our RPES PTA Award winners—the Bretons, Sarah Huls and Mr. Gregoire!

New Business—Jillian Manupella

The joint RPES/TES Auction is this Friday. Tickets are on sale Thursday and Friday until 1pm. Mr. Hopkins will forward an email to teachers to purchase tickets and to stop by TES, and to do this they may leave at 3PM. RPES and TES have an equal number of baskets—the school with the most tickets will have its Principals slimed at the end of the year! The Guinness World Record Event scheduled for May 1 will take place during school, with a celebratory event planned for the evening.

Additional Comments

Mr. Hopkins: the Character Education Meeting was today.

Jill: the Mary Fund Benefit will be 3/21 at Revolution Hall.

Meeting Adjourned at 6:17 PM by Jillian Manupella