

Rensselaer Park PTA

November Meeting Minutes

November 4, 2020 via Google Meet

6pm

Present via Google Meet:

Jill Manupella, Sarah Huls, Elaine Garrett, Terri Sanderson, Peter Allen, Julie Allen, Adam Gregoire, David Hamilton, Melissa Santarcangelo, Sara Brandenburg, Jamie Cavanaugh, Thomas Hopkins, Leah Karn (Mr. Hamilton's student teacher)

**Meeting called to order 6:02 PM by Jill Manupella**

**Treasurer's Report—Terri Sanderson**

Great job, Terri, in compiling a comprehensive budget report! Added in this month's revision were income and receipts. Funds received were from bank dividends, memberships, Art Works, yearbooks, and Spirit Wear. Expenses included supplies for Harvest Knight (~\$400), Sam's Club, and dues to NYS PTA from sold memberships, which numbered 36 at October's end.

Thank you to the Mary Fund who donated \$200 to purchase pumpkins for the Harvest Knight, as well as the other event underwriters who donated goods. Thank you to all the families who attended!

*Motion to approve proposed budget by Hamilton, seconded by Cavanaugh*

**Secretary's Report—Elaine Garrett**

October Meeting Minutes are attached for review on the event notification. Please forward any corrections or clarifications.

*Motion to approve October minutes by P. Allen, seconded by Gregoire.*

**Principal's Report—Mr. Hopkins**

**Congratulations to Mr. Allen, winner of this month's Shining Teacher Award for Gratitude!**

The RPES Reopening Planning is ongoing. If the full funding amount is received on November 16, the school plans an early December opening. If the funds are delayed to December, it will be an early January opening. Logistics to consider in the shift back to in person learning concern arrival, drop-off and rotation to specials. These have been assigned to special committees. We appreciate the turnout for Harvest Knight and look forward to the upcoming events of Virtual STEM Knight and Picture Day.

### **Third Grade Report—Mr. Hamilton**

In Math the students are working on multiplication facts (0, 1, 2, 5, 10) and using songs to learn the facts quickly. They are applying learning to word problems and are about halfway through this month's multiplication and division unit. Mr. Hamilton's class also had its principal's observation.

In science, we are studying traits and environmental influence and starting an animal project. Mrs. Mullen of the Cornell Cooperative Extension visits us for weekly nutrition lessons.

In Social Studies the class learned about the election process and held a class vote. Very interesting reasoning came out in discussing the votes cast! We are on Week 9 with Social Studies Weekly.

ELA this month courtesy of notes sent by Mr. Schwartz: Writing is focused on Small Moment Narrative. Students are learning strategies in planning, drafting, revising and employing sensory details. In Reading, students are exploring the features of non-fiction, like the TOC, glossary, boxes, and bullets. Students will soon switch their writing unit to that of an "expert" in a nonfiction topic.

### **Fourth Grade Report—Mr. Allen**

As the marking period ends, we are busy in assessing achievement for report cards.

Social Studies: completed NYS Geography and moved onto Native American cultural map.

Math: Addition and subtraction in place value, and starting multiplication

Science: Erosion and Earth Changes with the positive and negative aspects of human impact in such places as the Panama Canal and Loess Plateau in China.

For Writing, Mr. Allen showed a sample of a student's Digital Notebook with interactive graphics. Students are working on reading logs and anchor charts, and learning about context clues, synonyms and retelling. Writing is focused on building 'small moments' in short stories and personal narratives.

### **Fifth Grade Report—Mr. Gregoire**

In Math students are studying place value with decimals. The 5<sup>th</sup> grade team chipped in to purchase some online Halloween math materials, which was a nice way to tie learning into the holiday in the absence of in school celebrations.

Students are learning about matter in science, and the teachers are getting creative with ways to use online resources such as explorelearning.com. "Gizmos" lab simulations are editable for use with specific classes, and one used was a simulation of the chemical reaction between sodium chloride and water. Teachers are also using Youtube live streams to show experiments, which is out of their comfort zones but very fun for the students who like seeing their teachers in new contexts.

The fifth grade is using Social Studies Weekly to learn about the Western Hemisphere and its geography affected by human movement and settlement.

In ELA, Mrs Fasano's class is working on writing narratives that are broken down into revisable individual parts and using a version of the Digital Writer's Notebook from the 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Team. The ELA and SPED teachers are hard at work translating reading pedagogy to online resources, keeping kids motivated despite these remote learning challenges.

Sarah noted the Writer's Notebooks are great in that you can see real time progress from home.

### **Old Business—Jill Manupella**

**THANK YOU FOR HARVEST HISTORY KNIGHT and standing in the pouring rain to see our kids!** The RPES families and Oakwood Cemetery were very happy with the event. We are trying to recover from the frights Mr. Hopkins gave us that night!

**Thank you also for the wonderful RPES representation at the Knickerbacker Park Trick or Treat Street on Halloween!** This safe event drew about 1300 people, many of whom were our students thrilled to see their teachers. Thanks to Terri and Elaine with the PTA, Ms. Wild, Mr. Allen, "Dr." D'Adamo and Lila, Mr. White, Mr. Blackmur, Mr. Hamilton and family, Mrs. Delaney and Mrs. Juliano for treating us to a fun afternoon!

We have sold 36 PTA memberships—best of the Northeast NY PTA districts so far! Our goal is 50 and we will continue to think of fun ways to incentivize sales.

### **New Business—Jill Manupella**

This Friday night 11/6 we are teaming with Hilltop Bowl for Family Fun Night! Families need only RSVP if interested in the \$25 family fun package with pizza, otherwise they can drop in to bowl and purchase our popular Fall fundraising coupon books. Please promote to your students!

Planning is underway for the Virtual STEM Night! The sign up for activities will go out to teachers. They'll obtain their supplies from us and film their segments, which will be edited together by Mrs. Greene. Students will pick up supplies and tune into a Google Drive video on 11/21 to watch and participate along at home. Special finale of Mr. Hopkins being slimed at the end! The students will be able to use their chromebooks.

Fall Picture Day scheduled for 12/18

**Meeting Adjourned at 6:26 PM by Jill Manupella**