

Rensselaer Park PTA
February 2021 Meeting Minutes
February 3, 2021 via Google Meet
6pm

Present via Google Meet:

Jill Manupella, Sarah Huls, Elaine Garrett, Terri Sanderson, Peter Allen, Julie Allen, David Hamilton, Melissa Santarcangelo, Sara Brandenburg, Jamie Cavanaugh, Mr. and Mrs. Breton, Rob White, Jason Blackmur, Thomas Hopkins, Taylor Resso (Mrs. France's student teacher)

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

Treasurer's Report—Terri Sanderson

The provided Budget report lists the Paint and Snack event expenses as well as the refund from Amazon. We received one additional PTA membership, and now stand at 37. As we return to school, we will look to ramp up teacher memberships, or ask that attendance at a future paid admission event be free for members to prompt membership sales. Volunteering and meeting attendance is not required for membership.

Motion to accept January budget report by P. Allen, seconded by White.

Secretary's Report—Elaine Garrett

January minutes provided put forth for review and acceptance.

Motion to accept January Meeting Minutes report by P. Allen, seconded by White.

Principal's report—Mr. Hopkins

Full steam ahead with reopening plans after decision by BOE to reopen the remaining schools. The survey is out to parents to choose their children's method of instruction. The FAQs as well as the return dates were added to the school website (3rd Grade Mon 2/22, 4th Tues 2/23 and 5th Weds 2/24).

The Paint and Snack event will begin streaming on Friday, 2/12. Mr. Hopkins and Mrs. S did a rehearsal with Mrs. Greene to great success. The final RSVPS will be on Friday 2/5, with the cookies to be delivered by Tuesday for inclusion in the kits. As of today there were 80 spots reserved, before the final robocall. The supply pickup will be in the bus loop on Thursday 2/11. Friday 2/12 is a half day.

3rd Grade Report—Mr. Hamilton

In Math and Science, the students are finishing up the area and Biomes units. Mr. Hopkins read to Mr. Hamilton's class for World Read Aloud Day today. In ELA, students are learning how to track characters actions and traits across a book. Writing is focused on narrative and using notes in oral rehearsal. The class had the opportunity to take a virtual field trip to the Rescued Toucan Ranch in Costa Rica to both view the animals (including toucans and sloths!) and to interact with conservation keepers and staff.

4th Grade Report—Mr. Allen

As mentioned, today was World Read Aloud Day, which saw many guest readers from the district, city and county. Mrs. Juliano reports a very successful Ronald McDonald House reading campaign with \$3,000 raised. This fundraising is especially crucial as this important charity continues its service during the pandemic.

In Math, students are studying area and perimeter, prime and composite numbers and division. In ELA, they are focused on nonfiction reading (strategies to identify important main ideas) and writing (working on different shorter pieces with constant redrafting). The students are also wrapping up the energy unit in Science and moving onto waves. The class is using Gizmos via Clever to illustrate the transfer and conservation of energy. Mr. Allen's class is also finishing up the in-class reading of "The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind" which nicely ties together the science and ELA curricular units.

5th Grade Report—Mr. White

Units continue as detailed in the January Report. The students are also working on identifying the main idea and author's purpose in different types of non-fiction, and continuing flash drafting of their own work.

Ms. Brandenburg asked Mr. Hopkins to clarify the teacher assignments with the return to school in the event classes aren't cross aligned with learning units. Mr. Hopkins replied the plan was to keep the students with their current teachers regardless of platform, but there would likely be some limited roster shuffling to even out the class sections. The FAQ and return dates have been posted to the PTA FB page, and Mr. Hopkins asked that the vacant noon aide positions also be advertised there as well.

Old Business—None

New Business—Jill Manupella

Paint and Snack Night on Feb. 12th

Upcoming is the production and sale of the soon to be classic board game Burghopoly, with businesses and groups represented as the game squares. The Mary Fund was the inaugural square. The sale of squares should cover the approximately \$10,000 in production costs. Families will be able to purchase action cards, and the game sales will fund future PTA events and activities. While we only have a few squares left to sell, ideas of businesses to approach are welcomed!

While the annual Mary Fund Gala is unable to be held this year, raffle tickets are on sale! Please contact the Bretons to purchase a ticket.

Terri Sanderson introduced and welcomed Miss Resso, Mrs. France's student teacher, to our meeting. Thank you for attending.

Motion to adjourn meeting by White, seconded by Allen, and meeting adjourned by Jill Manupella at 6:28 PM.