

Rensselaer Park PTA

April 2021 Meeting Minutes

April 14, 2021 via Google Meet

6pm

Present via Google Meet:

Jill Manupella, Sarah Huls, Elaine Garrett, Peter Allen, Julie Allen, David Hamilton, Melissa Santarcangelo, Sara Brandenburg, Jamie Cavanaugh, Mr. and Mrs. Breton, Rob White, Adam Gregoire, Jason Blackmur, Zerlina Ochis

(Jill presented the digital proof of Burghopoly as a screen share to show the game design, prior to the meeting's start.)

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

Treasurer's Report—Jill Manupella for Terri Sanderson

More detail as always available in the attached monthly records. Two items to note: we collected \$12,625 for game production costs, \$12,200 of which has been sent towards this expense. The game will be sold for \$25. We sent back the last of the Save Around coupon books. We sold books totaling \$550, and we are able to keep \$275 of that as our profit share.

Motion to approve Treasurer's Report by P. Allen, seconded by Gregoire.

Secretary's Report—Elaine Garrett

March Minutes presented for approval.

Motion to approve March minutes by P. Allen, seconded by Gregoire.

Principal's Report—Mrs. Santarcangelo

We have hired our new principal! Ms. Katie Stalker, an alumnae of Lansingburgh schools, including RPES!, will begin May 3. The NYS ELA exam will be on April 28th, with a makeup day on April 29th. Remote students are invited to come to school to take the exam, and 7 have accepted. On a personal note, Mrs. Santarcangelo was deeply touched by the outpouring of gratitude and love for Mary Breton and her family, as shown by her birthday parade, and was a great moment in bringing a sense of community back to RPES.

3rd Grade Report—Mr. Hamilton

In Reading, students are learning strategies for text comprehension, and in Writing looking at the power of choice in genre. In Math, the students have wrapped up the extensive fractions unit, and have returned to learning about time, such as elapsed time on a timeline. Preparation for the NYS math test

includes sample questions to familiarize the students with the format. The classes have also concluded their forces and motion unit in Science and are now well into magnets.

4th Grade Report—Mr. Allen

The students have finished the division unit and are reviewing fractions. They'll next look at equivalent fraction and adding improper/mixed fractions. In Science they are learning about how the brain processes information from the 5 senses, with lots of fun examples. In ELA, NYS testing prep is underway, with using strategies to answer multiple choice questions and anticipating questions from fiction and non-fiction passages. We are also working with song lyrics to solve writing prompts. In Social Studies we have moved onto Colonial America.

5th Grade Report—Mr. Gregoire and Mr. White

NYS has shortened the testing requirements to just one day. Teachers viewed a modified version of the standards, which is welcomed in a challenging year for progressing through curriculum. Geometry has been pushed back and data and measurement won't be as extensive. We have begun a bit of prep with fractions. In science we are wrapping up earth systems. We finished the severe weather unit and enjoyed a visit from weatherman Ryan Finn of Spectrum News. We look forward to beginning the space unit. Mr. Gregoire is hoping to use Arts in Education funding to put together a digital wacky science show for the 5th grade.

In Writing, the fourth unit will be essay, with the faculty deciding on three types: teacher modeled essay, personal life essay, and literary (discussing a fictional character from a text). Test Prep for Reading will include strategies for answering multiple choice questions.

Old Business—Jill Manupella

The Bretons thank everyone for the Mary Fund fundraiser raffle and the Birthday Parade! Tech Night went well. Thank you Mr. Gregoire and Mr. Hamilton for moderating the games, and congrats to Cate and the Curtis Family on their Grand Prize! We will send in the rest of the grant forms.

The Burghopoly are scheduled to ship in early June. Collar City Mushrooms offered an in person or virtual field trip option. Mr. Allen's class will be the first. They'll receive a grow bag of mushrooms (\$25 cost) for the classroom with a presentation. If the run through goes well, the rest of the classes can participate, if interested.

Jill asked what help is needed for the 5th Grade Dance. Mr. Gregoire will look into what restrictions have been lifted and the feasibility of holding it outside. It will be moved to the daytime, with school provided DJing and decorations to keep costs low. We hope Mr. Leppanen can again DJ, which will also ensure school community appropriate music.

For the Picnic we hope to do the hot dogs and hamburgers, even as we can't rent the inflatable this year. There needs to be a rain plan and a digital component as well to allow the remote students to participate. Sara Brandenburg said that in years past the picnic was also when summer reading books

were distributed. We also need to look into ideas to recognize the 3rd and 4th graders, such as a shortened end of the year countdown, and perhaps outside activities.

The 5th grade picture will be outside on April 20th, and per Sue Anthony they can wear masks on while assembling and briefly lower them for the picture. Remote students are encouraged to attend, though they must provide their own transportation. Ms. Simson will be taking the picture from the roof.

4/30 Guptill's Night

5/13-14 Scholastic Book Fair (visitors with money only, must hand sanitize)

5/14 Sidewalk Chalk Night—checking to make sure if allowed after hours at school? If not, will look into moving to Knick Park.

PTA meetings will stay virtual for the remainder of the year. Next meeting is May 5th.

Motion to adjourn meeting by P. Allen, seconded by Gregoire at 6:31 PM.