

Rensselaer Park PTA

May 2021 Meeting Minutes

May 5, 2021 via Google Meet

6pm

Present via Google Meet:

Jill Manupella, Sarah Huls, Elaine Garrett, Terri Sanderson, Pete Allen, Julie Allen, Katie Stalker, Melissa Santarcangelo, Sara Brandenburg, Jamie Cavanaugh, Mr. and Mrs. Breton, Rob White, Jason Blackmur, Zerlina Ochis

**Meeting called to order at 6PM by Jill Manupella**

**Secretary's Report—Elaine Garrett**

April minutes presented for approval.

*Motion to approve April minutes by Pete Allen, seconded by White*

**Treasurer's Report—Terri Sanderson**

There is currently \$15,352 in the bank per the provided statements. Yearbook sales have ended and we have received our portion of the Save Around book money. One bill for Burghopoly has been sent out, and the costs for the Teacher Appreciation gifts have also been debited. We sold one additional PTA membership.

*Motion to approve Treasurer's report by Pete Allen, seconded by Ochis*

**Principal's Report—Mrs. Stalker**

Welcome to our new principal, Mrs. Stalker, who began on May 3<sup>rd</sup>! Mrs. Stalker is spending this week visiting classes and meeting the staff and students.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Report—emailed by Mr. Hamilton, read in meeting and entered into the minutes by Elaine Garrett**

**Desso/Schwartz/DeLorenzo Reading and Writing**

In Reading we are learning how to determine the theme and central message through folktales. In Writing we are writing reviews (movies, toys, video games, etc.) to kick off our Opinion Writing Unit. We will then move into writing book reviews.

**Hamilton/Schwartz/DeLorenzo Math and Science**

In Math we finished up our unit with graphing. Students worked really hard on learning how to interpret information provided on a bar and pictographs as well as learning how to read line plots. Students had fun creating their own questions based off of the data provided. Students have also enjoyed collecting data based off of an app. called mentimeter. Students have enjoyed playing Kahoot

and Blooket to review for the NYS Math Assessment next week. Students have also been sharpening up their math facts by using Xtra Math through Clever. We could not be prouder of their daily effort!

In Science we finished up our Magnet Unit. For a culminating activity focusing on the engineering side of things students had to create a way to lock a door using a magnet. Just starting our Weather Unit. In third grade there is a strong focus on comparing climates around the world to our own. We will also take a look at different types of Natural Disasters. Kids continue to enjoy Mystery Science, Mystery Doug, and Generation Genius and daily investigations.

### **End of Year**

Wacky Science Virtual Field Trip - June 9th 1:45

Puppet People - Working on confirming a date in June

As a 3rd grade we would like to keep it to last 10 days of school and keep it as a schoolwide thing. Still tightening things up.

### **Running Club**

Off to a great start!! We have about 110 students between all grades. Having 7 practices with an ice cream party at the end for students. Working on getting shirts for all of the kids. Looking at the possibility of doing an end of running club race giving out ribbons.

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

Thanks to the PTA for the Teacher Appreciation goodies!

In science the students are learning about structure and function and will be figuring out how mythical wacky zoo animals might benefit from functional structures that help them survive. In Math the students are continuing work on fractions.

The current ELA unit is opinion pieces and literature circles, and with the help of Mrs. Eckler's student teacher Miss Closson they learned how to create avatars into realistic fiction graphic novel settings with the website Pixton. They are also learning to look at perspective from the reader and writer point of view.

Happy Graduation to student teachers Miss Closson and Miss McKeown! Best wishes for your teaching careers ahead!

### **5th grade Report—notes from Mr. Gregoire (read in meeting by Jill Manupella) and Mr. White**

State Test prep ongoing in Math: review games, stamina building, line plots, geometry and large fractions.

In science we are finishing Earth's spheres (and how they interact and relate) and will next move onto space and stars.

Important upcoming dates:

- June 3 **Virtual Assembly, Wacky Science Show**
- June 17 **Outdoor Dance** with ice cream (June 21/22 rain date)
- June 24 **Virtual Moving Up Ceremony** (hopefully with a livestream, AG to meet with Gina Fusco) with slideshow and ceremony, will call classes down to present. There will be transportation for remote students to attend with their classes.

In ELA the state tests are complete and students showed perseverance for the 2 ½ hours of testing. The White/Komazenski/Fasano classes will read “Tiger Rising” for the end of the year, and work on a character essay unit for Writing, while the Usher and Simson classes will read different texts/interactive readalouds.

There will be PTA snacks provided for next week’s state Math test and the June 8<sup>th</sup> science test.

### **Old Business—Jill Manupella**

Guptill’s provided us with free admission tickets and we sent out 130, so there was good turnout for this annual event that was held later this year as outing restrictions eased. We were also able to provide our faculty with mini bundt cakes for Teacher Appreciation Week.

### **New Business—Jill Manupella**

The Book Fair is next week in the gym. The books will be delivered this Thursday and set up will be Friday evening following aftercare dismissal. The Bretons and Mary Fund have provided us with funds to purchase books for the school. The teachers can bring their entire classes down following sanitizing and distancing guidelines, and there will be a free book table. There is a virtual book fair for remote students and they can pick up their free books from the office on Thursday.

Founders’ Day is Friday May 21 5-8pm with a picnic at the Vets Club, with our Mrs. Eckler and Mr. White honored for their service to RPES! Tickets are \$25 (\$15 goes to senior scholarships).

End of the Year plans are finalizing, with the ice cream truck visiting each grade on a different day, and will be combined with a different themed activity.

Mrs. Stalker commented on the number of PTA events we have been able to have, even with this year’s circumstances, and wanted to share her warm memories of the Breton family, as well as her own mom’s involvement (along with Jill’s mom!) with the RPES PTA when she was a student here. We are happy to have such a legacy continue. Mrs. Stalker asked for suggestions for the Principal Meet and Greet with RPES families and it was decided after discussion a virtual event was the best format at this time.

**Motion to adjourn meeting by Pete Allen, seconded by Zerlina Ochis and closed by Jill Manupella at 6:39 PM.**