

Rensselaer Park PTA

June 2021 Meeting Minutes

June 4, 2021 via Google Meet

6pm

Present via Google Meet:

Jill Manupella, Sarah Huls, Elaine Garrett, Terri Sanderson, Pete Allen, Julie Allen, Melissa Santarcangelo, Adam Gregoire, Emilie Johnson, Sara Brandenburg, David Hamilton, Mr. and Mrs. Breton, Rob White, Jason Blackmur, Zerlina Ochis

Meeting called to order at 6PM by Jill Manupella

Treasurer's Report—Terri Sanderson

There is presently \$3500 in the account, with recent transactions of dividends, scholarships and Book Fair funds. We are finished with our invoices for the board game, and will pay out an additional \$25 to Collar City Mushroom for another classroom log. Upcoming expenses include: PTA Council, NYS PTA dues and fees, supplies for Alphabet Countdown and the 5th grade gift.

Motion to approve May budget report by P. Allen, seconded by Leo Breton.

Secretary's Report—Elaine Garrett

May minutes presented for approval.

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

Principal's Report—Mrs. Santarcangelo

Wrapping up! We are currently assessing reading levels with iReady diagnostics, which will help with placements for next year. The NYS Science test is June 8th. On June 10th, the KMS counseling staff will visit to provide a transition visit for the graduating 5th graders. June 24th and 25th are half days for RPES students. We will be filming an intro video for 2nd graders prior to their arrival at RPES. 5th grade graduation is set for June 24th, with students participating live by class and the event streamed for families. Mrs. Stalker and Mrs. Watts secured full funding for the Knapsack Program (\$6,000) from the Seymour Fox Memorial Foundation. We are grateful for this gift for our students.

3rd Grade Report—Mr. Hamilton

Mr. Hamilton thanks Jill and Sarah for their dedicated PTA service.

We held the last practice of Just Run with 105 students. The T-shirts and certificates should arrive next week, and Jill asked for the invoice when they do. We are hopeful this fall to be able to hold meets with other schools as in the past. Thanks to the volunteers who helped with this program!

In ELA students are working on step by step writing and forming/answering questions in reading. Math has been working on perimeter with 2D figures (polygons and shapes) and line plots will close out the year. The ending Science unit will work with weather and climate data, comparing Lansingburgh to other parts of the world over a yearly cycle.

4th Grade Report—Mr. Allen and Mr. Blackmur

In ELA we are figuring out the student's year end reading level, reviewing characters and setting themes. We are also writing Memory Books. In Science, we are prepping for the NYS Science Exam, and examining the structure and functions of plants. Collar City Mushrooms provided us with a virtual field trip and a classroom mushroom log to track growth of our own mushroom crop. We are gearing up for 5th grade Math with decimals and fractions. Thanks to Mr. Blackmur for setting up the virtual field trip with the Weird and Wacky Science Guy on Wednesday June 2nd. It was the next best thing to traditional field trips.

Mr. Blackmur thanks the PTA for tying in academics to all the PTA activities, and the RPES faculty who took on extra work to meet the curricular needs of its remote students.

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

In ELA we are finishing up our end of year texts. Mr. Gregoire also worked to set up a virtual field trip with the Wacky Science Guy, which was similar to our virtual STEM night. The students are excited to do ABC countdown and get outside when they can. We are finishing the year strong.

In Math we are trying to prep for 6th grade math with finishing fractions and focusing on coordinate geometry. We are learning a Stars and Space unit from Liz Mira that aligns with NGSS plan and that will be on the new 5th grade NYS Science test in 2 years (as it changes from a 4th grade test.) We are working to make sure curricular overlaps are covered.

End of Year 5th Grade Celebrations: the outdoors Hawaiian Dance on June 17 will include DJing by Tyler Leppanen, hula hoop contests, and ice cream (only time when masks will be off). The remote students will be in attendance.

The Moving Up ceremony will be June 24th, live streamed on the Morning Show's Youtube Channel and then digitally archived. We will be doing a practice run next week for AV purposes. The students will go down class by class for the ceremony and awards (academic, Shining Knight, and the Mary Breton Award), and watch the rest of the broadcast in class. We will stay up to date with any changing mandates. Remote students will be bussed in for the ceremony.

Old Business—Jill Manupella

The Scholastic Book Fair was a success with \$1200 earned in Scholastic Bucks. With the \$1400 earned from last year we now have \$2600 to spend, which is in addition to the free books provided by the Mary Fund. In terms of the Birthday Book program (principals' literacy promotion for student birthdays that gifts new, high interest popular books) we can use the Bucks and the 250 remaining books from the

Mary Fund, or split the Bucks with the teachers' room libraries/school library. We most certainly want to revive the Birthday Book Program. We will also have enough books for next year's PARP program from the Fall Scholastic books.

New Business—Jill Manupella

ABC Countdown per grade—the PTA will provide popcorn, the ice cream truck and sidewalk chalk, as well as assisting with the dance.

The 5th grade gift includes: following Sara Brandenburg's suggestion of a book for the rising 6th grade ELA students and conferring with Ms. Mauriello and Mr. Jura, each student will receive a copy of "6th Grade Nickname." The students will receive a magnet with the school logo and Class of 2028, and a copy of the 5th grade group picture taken by Ms. Simson.

2021-2022 PTA OFFICER ELECTIONS

By unanimous voice vote and satisfying quorum requirements:

Julie Allen and Zerlina Ochis-Lutringer, Co-Presidents
Emilie Johnson, Vice President
Terri Sanderson, Treasurer
Elaine Garrett, Secretary

Names will be sent to National PTA and entered into Member Hub.

We bid Jill Manupella and Sarah Huls goodbye and thank them for their tireless work for the RPES PTA these last 2 years. Jill and Sarah are grateful to the faculty for their work on behalf of all of our kids.

CONGRATULATIONS to Jill Manupella on her election to the Lansingburgh Central School District Board of Education!

Mr. Hamilton wishes to thank our parent representatives to the PTA, in particular Sara Brandenburg and Jamie Cavanaugh.

Motion to adjourn meeting by Sarah Huls, seconded by White.

Meeting adjourned by Jill Manupella at 6:33 pm.