

Rensselaer Park PTA
September 2021 Meeting Minutes
September 16, 2021
6pm via Google Meet

Present:

Julie Allen, Zerlina Ochis, Emilie Johnson, Terri Sanderson, Elaine Garrett, Sarah Huls, Katie Baril, Adam Gregoire, Erica Davis, Jamie Cavanaugh, Reion Butler, Theresa Eckler, Kelly Juliano, Katie Stalker, David Hamilton, Meghan D'Adamo, Jason Blackmur, Pete Allen, Ashley Giaquinto, Sara Brandenburg, Rob White, Elizabeth Jamison, Deyva Arthur, Melissa Santarcangelo, Shiloe Bartlett and other callers.

Call to Order 6:01pm by Julie Allen

Introduction of 2021-22 PTA Officers

Julie Allen and Zerlina Ochis, Co-Presidents

Emilie Johnson, Vice President

Terri Sanderson, Treasurer

Elaine Garrett, Secretary

Treasurer's Report—Terri Sanderson

At last school year's end we had \$7000 in the bank; a total outlay of \$23, 342 in expense and \$21, 372 in revenue. The year-end audit was completed as required by Elaine Garrett, Secretary and Sue Anthony, PTA Council as non-fiduciary officers and is available for review by PTA membership.

The proposed 2021-22 budget projects expenses of 50, 100 and revenue of 50, 100 with a surplus of 15,000 at year's end. We plan to reorder and sell more Burghopoly games, and hold all events in person if possible.

Motion to approve proposed budget per sent attachment: so moved by Adam Gregoire, seconded by Pete Allen.

June Budget Report—Official Report will be sent prior to next meeting. We sold \$11, 660 in Burghopoly games as of 7/1, and also as of that date had \$43 additional in membership dues.

July and August Activity—Statements will be sent prior to next meeting. Since June, \$4800 in expenses, will includes the first order of spirit wear, back to school faculty and staff welcome, orientation and a \$2500 donation to the Ayshawn Davis "Anything is Possible" Scholarship Fund.

Motion to approve June-August activity and Sept Treasurer's Report: so moved by Adam Gregoire, seconded by David Hamilton.

Secretary's Report—Elaine Garrett

Presentation of June 2021 Meeting Minutes (sent via email attachment, posted on the PTA page on the RPES website): <https://www.lansingburgh.org/Page/2184>

Motion to approve for submission: so moved by Rob White, seconded by Adam Gregoire

Presentation of Revised PTA Bylaws in accordance with State Updates and upon new officers (sent via attachment and posted on website for review)

Motion to approve to send for state approval: so moved by Dave Hamilton, seconded by Adam Gregoire

Motion to approve Secretary's Report: so moved by Adam Gregoire, seconded by Jason Blackmur

Principal's Report—Katie Stalker

The summer saw much preparation in social and emotional planning. This month's theme is building connections with students and building classroom community. It has been quiet the first two weeks as everyone adjusts to in-person learning though we are starting to see more enthusiasm this week. The cafeteria is so far running smoothly. Our goal is for everyone to feel welcome and to review behavior and community expectations. Mrs. Stalker and Mrs. Santarcangelo are visiting all the classrooms and are finding them warm and welcoming.

Open House is Monday 9/20; the arrival times are staggered to accommodate RPES siblings. Soon we will launch our Family Advisory Committee, an opportunity for families to connect with school administration.

Teacher's Reports

Self-Contained Classrooms

Katie Baril of the Multi-Disabilities Classroom reported they are happy to start this year back at their RPES home. Their goals this month are familiarizing their students with the people of RPES and settling into classroom routines.

Via email:

Ms. Wild

RPES's Character Education word of the month is "Community" and we have been working hard in Mrs. Wild's class to build a positive class community. As a class of second and third graders, most of our students are new to RPES and some have not attended school since kindergarten! In addition to just learning and practicing our classroom routines, we are working hard to become a class of "bucket fillers". That means we "Think Bigger Than Ourselves" by saying and doing positive things for others- it can be as simple as greeting your bus driver, thanking the lunchroom staff, or asking a peer to play with you at recess.

Ms. Conroy

We are doing a great job with building routines in the classroom and getting to know one another! We are learning about one another to build our "Classroom Community" such as doing Getting to Know you Activities and learning that our names are all special. We have read, The Name Jar and Our Name is a Song and are writing Acrostic poems using adjectives to describe ourselves using our names. We are also applying, "The Golden Rule": to treat each other the way we want to be treated especially during our STEM FOIL BOAT activity, and our earned free time. We are also learning ways to take breaks when we are feeling frustrated, worried, angry or upset, such as, deep breathing exercises, taking a walk, doing a GoNoodle dance and more. After reading, The Most Magnificent Thing, we learned that we need to persevere, but it's okay to step away for a while, as long as we come back when we are done taking a break. We are also learning appropriate ways on how to ask for help when we really need it.

The Miron Squad has been working hard to get back into the different routines of our school day. Students have been practicing utilizing their chromebooks to complete assignments in Google Classroom. In social group, we have been focusing on reviewing our skills for learning including listening, focusing attention, using self-talk, and being assertive. Students are loving our new makerspace area; a space filled with different supplies that can be utilized to create whatever these little engineers come up with!

3rd Grade Report—David Hamilton

Thank you and welcome to all of our new officers! In 3rd grade we are busy establishing community, learning transitioning, and getting to know each other. We are proud of the progress our kids have made. We are doing pre-assessments to gauge proficiency; the students are patient with the work involved. Just Run begins next week with over 100 students registered!

4th Grade Report—Pete Allen

We are busy with getting to know you activities. In Math we are working on place value to the millions, and in science we are learning what and who scientists are—they do not all look like Albert Einstein! We will then move onto erosion and weathering. In ELA we are building routine and performing learning assessments for reading and writing as well as learning what a “Just Right” book looks like. This year’s Social Studies curriculum focuses on New York State history and geography.

5th Grade Report—Adam Gregoire and Rob White

Like the other grades, in Math and Science we are working on setting up community (with signs in the classrooms) and speaking respectfully to peers and adults. We use this “honeymoon period” to set up the year’s expectations. For Math we are studying decimal place value (tenths to millionths). In Science we are working in small groups to learn how physical science and technology is present everywhere around us. We are working with Liz Mira, a science specialist, to help with the new NGSS modules and our first unit is on the properties of matter.

In ELA we are testing and assessing and also doing “pencil to paper” writing work. It is refreshing to see our students back in class and guiding them in socially appropriate ways to interact.

Old Business—Julie Allen

Over the summer we sold all 500 games—thank you to Sarah Huls and Jillian Manupella for the brisk community sales! We will be ordering more—watch for information. At 3rd Grade Orientation we met the new 3rd grade families and sold spirit wear and memberships.

New Business—Julie Allen

Purchase your PTA memberships—only \$6! We have sold 84 towards our goal of 100. Fall fundraisers are out and due back 9/27. The First Fridays of the month will be School Spirit Days, with Oct 1 as our first. We sold ALL 120 shirts we’d ordered and have preorders for 90 more that we will receive before 10/1.

Upcoming Dates: Picture Day 10/5

Scholastic Book Fair 10/21-22 (in school, addtl hours 10/22 evening)

PumpkinFest 10/22

Open Forum:

Sara Brandenburg: issue with google meet link; we will look into easier use for non gmail users

Deyva Arthur: unclear on navigating memberhub to add on PTA memberships; daughter happy and engaged with school and very appreciative for the care RPES has taken in return to in person learning.
Rob White: Congratulations to new officers and Happy Birthday to Mr. Blackmur!

Elizabeth Jamison: Hello and thank you from a former PTA officer! In library happenings, we are very excited to have students back in the library space after so long away to see 2 years' worth of new book purchases! We now have a new Makerspace with STEM activities for student choice and exploration. We have voice level expectations in the makerspace to coexist with library learners. Ms. Jamison is happy to discuss literature and its ties to current classroom subject areas.

Meeting Adjourned at 6:31 by Julie Allen