

Rensselaer Park PTA  
October 2021 Meeting Minutes  
October 7, 2021  
5:30pm\* via Google Meet  
(\*earlier time to accommodate FAC meeting at 6pm)

**Present:**

Julie Allen, Zerlina Ochis, Emilie Johnson, Terri Sanderson, Elaine Garrett, Sarah Huls, Katie Baril, Adam Gregoire, Erica Davis, Katie Stalker, David Hamilton, Pete Allen, Sara Brandenburg, Rob White, Deyva Arthur, Melissa Santarcangelo, Tracy Krom, Leo Breton, Kara Jane, Christie Kovalevich, Rachel Venditti, Olivia Williams and other callers.

**Call to Order 5:33pm by Julie Allen**

Reiteration of 2021-22 Annual budget with review period since September's meeting; 11 years from voting members; budget approved.

**Treasurer's Report—Terri Sanderson**

Formal recitation of July and August banking activity: \$11,705 in deposits and \$4,756 in disbursements (inclusive of Ayshawn Davis scholarship donation) which include end of school year postings for the teacher luncheon, insurance, district scholarships, and the purchase of the mobile swiper for PTA fundraiser transactions.

*Motion to approve July and August Budget Report by Sara Brandenburg, seconded by Leo Breton.*

September Budget Report: \$3200 in deposits (includes spirit wear and presales for Burgh-opoly reprinting) and \$1300 in expenses (orientation, spiritwear, dues, Back to School teacher welcome). The overall bank balance on 9/30 was \$16,644.85.

*Motion to approve September Banking Report by Adam Gregoire, seconded by Pete Allen.*

*Motion to approve Treasurer's Report by Sarah Huls, seconded by Rob White.*

**Secretary's Report—Elaine Garrett**

September minutes sent for review with addition of July August budget documents. Our bylaws that we approved in September were approved by the state after 2 edits (formalized co president office, clarified delegate slots to Council.)

*Motion to approve Secretary's Report by Pete Allen, seconded by Adam Gregoire.*

**Principal's Report—Katie Stalker**

The Family Advisory Committee Meeting immediately follows this meeting, and we will be seeking positive and negative feedback. Transportation is obviously still a big issue, and we will discuss building activities. Field trips are approved and 4 classes have already sent (approved) requests for outdoor venues. The District pays for 1 bussed field trip. Planned trips are for the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade to Five Rivers and 5th grade hikes to Oakwood Cemetery. Afterschool Programming will enroll soon once the late bus is finalized. Clubs will include yoga, coding, literacy, cooking and more. TSL Aftercare, District ARP funded, will seek additional enrollments soon as well.

Rival Knights is the new competition on Friday's Morning Show, with students challenging teachers. Natalie Allen successfully bested her father in the first competition. Student involvement in Morning Show production could also be a potential afterschool activity.

Mrs. Stalker and Mrs. Santarcangelo try to visit all classrooms almost every day; the intention is not to disrupt but to build community and connections to their principals. It feels like October, with kids learning routines and digging deeply into instruction.

**Self Contained Classroom Reports**—Katie Baril presenting, and emailed reports from Ms Conroy, Ms. Miron, and Ms. Wild

Baril: We have continued to work on setting routines and following classroom and school expectations. We have begun talking about the season of fall and things that grow during this time. We have explored the life cycle of an apple, how it grows, and its different parts.

Conroy: We have been continuing to work on building our classroom community these past couple of weeks with reading, writing and practicing what it means to be "a good egg", how to be a good friend and how to keep your friends. We have learned how to play some new games together and have discussed why it's important to play by the rules and not "cheat". I have seen great helpers, and team players these past few weeks. We are also learning about the different habitats in science and how important a role each plant and animal plays in their natural habitat.

Miron: The Miron squad has been improving at following our classroom rules and routines every day. We have been focusing on practicing our skills for learning and also how to make a "good plan" to solve problems when we are feeling upset or frustrated.

Wild: We have been learning about different kinds of maps and how to use the parts of a map (the title, compass rose, and key). We built a map of our classroom using blocks! We have also been working hard on using touch points to add two numbers.

### **Third Grade Report—David Hamilton**

Welcome to our new 3rd grade team Rachel Venditti and Olivia Williams, who are finding RPES a welcoming and helpful community.

The Five Rivers trips will be on October 18, 19 and 27. The admission and buses are grant funded. Just Run plans a meet on 11/3 at Tawasentha Park; we have 100 kids in our program. This month's virtue is Friendship. Morning meeting is off to a great start.

*ELA/Writing:* We have formed guided reading groups and faculty are very impressed with the writing skills fostered in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade that are setting the stage for further engagement and growth.

*Social Studies:* Map Skills test tomorrow; using SS weekly for discussion topics

*Science:* investigating what a scientist does (ask questions and write evidence based claims)

*Math:* Multiplication starts next week. Students finished place value and did great on the test.

### **Fourth Grade Report—Pete Allen**

*Math:* Rounding, adding/subtracting greater numbers and a carry/ regrouping refresher

*Science:* Earth Surface changes (volcanoes, extreme weather, human impact and lessons learned).

Students were able to work with a water caused erosion table.

*Social Studies:* NYS Geography and vast land form features

*ELA/Writing:* Reading Year of the Dog and discussing characters, as the Chinese-American lead undergoes language and cultural adjustments. Writing is personal narratives where small moments become the big part of the story.

We are happy to reinstitute the monthly Birthday Books, awarded by the principals!

### **Fifth Grade Report—Adam Gregoire and Rob White**

*Science:* property of matter (small particles). Experiments also include fizzy rockets and learning about pressure as they ascend 20 feet or more.

*Math:* Decimal place value (to 1000ths) and adding/subtracting test today. Next is whole number multiplication review before decimal multiplication and division.

*Social Studies:* SS Weekly-natural resources of the Western Hemisphere and its impact on civilization building

*ELA:* also using the school wide reading selection of Year of the Dog by Grace Lin (Teacher's College keynote speaker) and its mini lessons. Articulating predictions based on text evidence.

*Writing:* Lucy Calkins curriculum; true stories writing, some review of writing process steps. Realistic Fiction is the next unit.

### **Old Business—Julie Allen**

Fall fundraisers completed and September Birthday Books awarded by principals. Sold out of 250 spirit wear shirts, and are on reorder with a new vendor. The October "first Fridays" spirit day was last week.

### **New Business—Julie Allen**

Picture Day is rescheduled to Friday 10/15 and the Scholastic Book Fair will be Oct 21-22, with teacher time slot sign up circulating soon. Pumpkinfest will be the evening of 10/22 with food available outside courtesy of Ms. Miron's (Whalen) family donation of the tent, table and chairs! Other activities (STEM, crafts, Cake Walk, Haunted House, etc.) will take place indoors.

Nov 18<sup>th</sup> Fundraiser Pickup and Bingo Night with Mrs. Stalker as the bingo number caller!

Knickerbacker Park Trunk or Treat will be 10/31 from 12-4 PM. Looking for strong RPES faculty participation again; candy provided in a safe and organized event.

### **Comments and Questions**

Sara Brandenburg—more opportunity for Burgh-opoly preorders and method of payment? Will take preorders to the end of October, including at Pumpkinfest, and we accept cash or check.

David Hamilton—membership update? We are at 98, with the goal of 100. (At this announcement the Bretons announced they would purchase 2 to meet goal.)

### **Meeting Adjourned at 6:09 by Julie Allen**