

**Rensselaer Park PTA
December 2021 Meeting Minutes**

December 2, 2021
6pm via Google Meet

Present:

Julie Allen, Pete Allen, Terrie Sanderson, Zerlina Ochis, Emilie Johnson, Elaine Garrett, Erica Davis, David Hamilton, Sara Brandenburg, Katie Baril, Leo Breton, Meghan D'Adamo, Danielle Jobin, Sarah Huls, Rob White, Adam Gregoire, Katie Stalker, Melissa Santarcangelo and other callers

Call to order at 6PM by Julie Allen

Treasurer's Report—Terri Sanderson

Please see reports for detailed revenue and expenses. Currently there is \$23,800 in the bank, with \$1500 in revenue, of which the largest items are pre sales for board games and Save Around book orders. We will now hold a vote to increase the expenditures for the Winter Event, which will take place in the classrooms during school hours. We would like to increase the event budget from \$500 to \$1500 in order to provide a substantial art activity, and treats to take home (hot chocolate kit and assorted cookies). As many children do not have the ability to attend an evening PTA event, this ensures 100% participation and a finished project to take home. ***The Vote passed with 15 yeas and 0 nos.***

Motion to approve Treasurer's Report and Budget Report by Pete Allen, seconded by Adam Gregoire.

Secretary's Report—Elaine Garrett

Presentation of the November minutes for Approval, with comment as to slight additions via email added after meeting.

Motion to approve November Minutes by Pete Allen, seconded by Rob White.

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

Principal's Report—Katie Stalker

Covid testing began today for unvaccinated staff and faculty, and unvaccinated students with parent consent. The Fire inspection also took place today.

12/7 is a half day to conclude parent teacher conferences and it is also the vote on the capital project for improvements to RPES and the surrounding grounds. On 1/10/2022, the January BOE Workshop will take place at RPES as the Board's annual visit. It will be a great chance to highlight our building.

The November grade level meetings took place on 11/29 and 11/30. The iReady goal is 40 minutes each week for Math and ELA to enhance engagement. The 3rd grade is adding foundational learning and talking about the semiotics of language (sound and word relationships). 4th grade is focused on science activities and 5th grade had a great Readers' and Writers' Workshop, with expert reports on a variety of chosen areas.

The late bus started operations for the Afterschool Clubs today, and was on time. The late bus helps with equity access to participation in the afterschool clubs.

Detention will start next week under Mr. White's supervision. He will put an emphasis on reflecting on behavior during this time. The protocols for detention will be discussed at the next faculty meeting, including communication with families.

A reminder to families is that they can upload their child's covid vaccine card to relay that information to the school district more directly, rather than relying on updates from the state databases.

Self-Contained Classroom Report—Katie Baril and emailed notes

Baril:

This month we discussed the things that we are thankful for and why. We also continue to work on following the classroom rules and continue to grow as a classroom family. We focused on the character trait for the month of November, which was problem solving. We also began talking about the change of the season as we start to head in winter.

Conroy:

We have been working hard on our Opinion Writing Pieces during the writer's workshop to disguise a turkey with the best costume and to share the best thing about winter. We are enjoying reading themed books for Fall and Winter. We have spent time reviewing what it means to be a good friend. We are having a blast learning new sight words through different games and activities to help us become stronger readers!

Merril:

The Room 109 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:

In math, Mrs. Wild's students have been hard at work improving their addition and subtraction skills and learning to show numbers in different ways, including building them with blocks, modeling on tens frames, and writing in standard and expanded form. In reading, they have been learning about elements of fictional stories and have been practicing sequencing and retelling stories after reading. We continue to focus on being "bucket fillers"-not just in the classroom but on the bus, in the cafeteria, at home--everywhere!

3rd Grade Report—David Hamilton

Shout out to the RPES teachers and students who participated in the Troy Turkey Trot!

Math: We are working on multiplication—Mrs. S visited to see the commutative property and we did the distributive property today.

ELA: We had a Writer's Celebration of small moment stories read aloud in the front of the class to peer and the Principals. We are now in our nonfiction unit.

Science: We are learning about inherited traits, animal adaptations, and showing evidence for claims. Overall we are working well as a community.

Social Studies: Meghan D'Adamo added that we are learning about fall and winter world celebrations such as Diwali, Hanukkah, Christmas, Kwanzaa and the Chinese New Year. We are looking for community speakers to share information about these celebrations and we will display our projects in the hallway.

4th Grade Report—Pete Allen

ELA: We are learning about nonfiction informational texts and will use Buncee to create our own digital articles.

Math: In multiplication we are doing 4 digits x1 digit, and then will move onto 2 digit x 2 digit, using a variety of strategies to solve.

Social Studies: Explorers and their impact on NYS History

Science: Energy transfer explored by building paper rollercoasters, and electrical energy demonstrated through making an LED/Battery flashlight.

Kudos to Mr. Hamilton for the Troy Turkey Trot!

5th Grade Report—Rob White and Adam Gregoire

ELA: 5th grade has also started its nonfiction unit, and will use Buncee to explore subtopics. There will be an upcoming staff potluck (watch for poll!) and the students are very much looking forward to the holidays.

Math: Review of 4th grade division and preparation for middle school math with long division standard algorithm method. We are also using different strategies for remembering facts like games and sentence starters, using multiplication charts, and pinpointing areas of concern with iReady and Clever.

Science: Matter and Energy, ecosystems. We explored phenomena via envisioning a Mars bio dome that would allow for 2 years' survival. We are diagramming and conducting labs to understand producers, consumers and decomposers, then revisiting diagrams and evaluating what we've observed. We also use Mystery Science and Generation Genius as the school subscribes to these educational programs. We will be doing a Worm Lab and creating eco columns with fish, which will be self-sustaining with natural food chains/webs/the matter cycle.

Old Business—Julie Allen

The spirit wear shop is busy fulfilling orders and we are looking for a 12/14 delivery. We are projected to have a \$3-5 revenue per item.

We currently have 105 PTA members!

Thank you to Mrs. Stalker for reading the Bingo numbers at our Bingo Night/Fall Fundraiser pickup, all of which has been delivered. We have also sold 88 Save Around Books.

New Business-Julie Allen

School Spirit Day is tomorrow—wear your gear!

12/7 is the Picture Retake Day (return your first pictures) and to take any remaining yearbook pictures.

12/9 and 12/10 is the Holiday Shop for students to purchase items for their loved ones.

As discussed, the Winter Event will be in the classrooms to ensure covid safety and full participation. It will no cost to the student and take place the week before break. Mrs. Greene will provide art craft instruction via a prerecorded video that works with the teacher's schedule. The projects need a day to

dry before bringing home. The students will also receive a hot chocolate kit, cookies and a Snowflake Scratch art ornament. This will all cost about \$3 per student, paid fully by the PTA.

Motion to adjourn December 2021 meeting by Pete Allen, seconded by Adam Gregorie.

Meeting adjourned at 6:36 by Julie Allen