

Rensselaer Park PTA
December 2021 Meeting Minutes
January 4, 2022
6pm via Google Meet

Present:

Julie Allen, Pete Allen, Terri Sanderson, Zerlina Ochis, Emilie Johnson, Elaine Garrett, Erica Davis, Sara Brandenburg, Katie Baril, Leo Breton, Katie Stalker, Melissa Santarcangelo, Michelle McMahon, Delmarie Moore

Call to order at 6PM by Julie Allen

Treasurer's Report—Terri Sanderson

Our bank statement showed \$13,900 as of December 1 and \$13, 109 as of December 31st. We sold about \$5000 in product at the holiday shop and will receive back 10% of those proceeds when processed. We spent \$1400 on the Holiday event, staff pizza lunch, and the amount due to fundraiser entities. We thank you again for the voted adjustment that allowed for an expanded holiday event.

Motion to approve Treasurer's Report by Pete Allen, seconded by Leo Breton.

Secretary's Report—Elaine Garrett

Presentation of the December minutes for Approval.

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Motion to approve Secretary's Report by Pete Allen, seconded by Emilie Johnson and Sara Brandenburg.

Principal's Report—Principal Katie Stalker

Thank you for the Holiday Event that took place during the school day. It was very nice to have an equitable participatory event—and the Model Magic trees survived the bus ride home! We also very much appreciated the staff treats.

The Family Advisory Committee Meeting will be on Jan 20th from 6-7pm to focus on social emotional learning initiatives with the Student Support Team. The May meeting will focus on the Title 1 update.

The Annual Board of Education visit to RPES will take place on Monday January 10th. Highlighted activities will be Mrs. Usher's active engagement through technology, and Mrs. Ravena's use of Bunsee for student presentations.

Students will be incentivized with certificates and lunch treats to participate and do well with their iReady diagnostics.

We will be introducing district administrators two times a week on the Morning Show, as an off shoot of the Student Spotlight and Classroom connection already established.

The Capital Improvement Project vote was passed and the initial meetings are starting.

We are beginning the Cafeteria Stars program, where each class will earn stars when they demonstrate safety and cooperation. The class with the most stars will earn a prize at the end of the month.

Teacher Reports

Self-Contained—Katie Baril and additional emailed notes

In Mrs. Baril's class this month we learned about the word traditions. We learned about different holidays around the world and the traditions that are associated with them. We made latkes, lit a kinara, and decorated Christmas trees, to name a few. We also celebrated the first day of winter and began discussing it.

Ms. Wild's class is excited to be back from vacation! We have spent the first few days reviewing important strategies that help us to be ready for learning—in particular how to pay attention to our feelings and to know what tools help us to feel calm and ready to learn. We have also been learning all about strategies to use before, during and after reading a nonfiction book to help us pay attention and better understand what we are reading. In writer's workshop, students have been working on their own nonfiction pieces by writing about their "expert" topics. We will be revising and publishing their pieces to share with their classmates!

3rd Grade—David Hamilton (emailed)

A very special thank you to Mr. and Mrs. Breton for funding our Holiday Luncheon! The kiddos absolutely loved it. We are very grateful! Overall, this week we have been making a very smooth transition back to school after having a week off; integrating the virtue of the month into the classroom.

In math our young mathematicians have been working extremely hard committing those multiplication facts to memory. Before the holiday break we were working on zeros through fives. Now we are working on sixes through nine's. Also, we will be finishing up our multiplication and division unit next week finishing up with two step word problems and will assess on Friday of next week. In science, we finished up fossils. Our young scientists enjoyed going on a fossil dig. For the month of January we will be visiting the different biomes and observing some live cams! In February we will begin our unit on forces and interactions. In Reading we are focusing on expository and narrative nonfiction and that then we will be cruising right into character traits.

Foundations multisyllabic words with open syllables.

Soon I will be starting my stem club after school for third graders.

4th Grade—Pete Allen

Math: 4 digit x 1 digit division

Science: Waves—will demonstrate phenomenon with Doritos to share and construct wave machines

Social Studies: comparing Native Americans and colonial America, then vs. now.

Reading: testing for performance

Writing: finishing up Bunsee projects—they are interactive and creative!

Everyone loved the Holiday Craft event.

Old Business—Julie Allen

We made \$184 in spiritwear profit, with many kids receiving the items as holiday gifts. We will probably revive the program in the spring. Fall picture retakes and the class photos should be delivered soon. Holiday shop was a hit! We appreciate that teachers took the time to participate in the Holiday Craft and everyone was included.

New Business—Julie Allen

Next Friday is the Guptill's event, a free event by advance ticket only. Families can rent skates at the door.

Peter Allen addressed the meeting to discuss the potential purchase of additional indoor recess equipment. The noon aides and principals were asked for input as well. The principals agreed to buy a number of requested items and the PTA can purchase the remaining (giant checkerboard and basketball hoop). Mr. Breton asked about the Connect 4 we already have—yes, more boards would alleviate the wait time and provide additional activity options.

Motion to adjourn meeting made by Sara Brandenburg, seconded by Leo Breton.

Meeting adjourned at 6:19.