

Rensselaer Park PTA
February 2022 Meeting Minutes
February 3, 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, Sarah Brown, David Hamilton, Tracy Krom, Kelly Juliano, Adam Gregoire, Rob White, Ashley Giaquinto, Mrs. Ellison, Deyva Arthur

Call to order at 6PM by Julie Allen

Treasurer's Report—Terri Sanderson

The balance on January 1 was \$13,109. Income of \$762 included PTA share of spirit wear sales, Lifetouch proceeds and board games sales. Payments this month included the final installment for the board games (which are enroute), purchases of the indoor recess basketball hoop and checkerboard, and our payment to Save Around (we should net about \$1000 in sales.) Our ending balance for the month is \$6598, pending any outstanding checks to clear.

Motion to approve January Treasurer's Report by Pete Allen, seconded by Rob White.

Secretary's Report—Elaine Garrett

January 2022 meeting minutes sent for review by email prior to meeting.

Motion to approve January minutes by Pete Allen, seconded by Rob White.

Principal's Report—Katie Stalker

The long winter month that seems like 300 days—office busy as everyone adjusts back to school after the holiday break. We saw great growth on assessment with iReady in math and reading lessons, and thus were able to award incentivizers to students. As we worked on the January mid-year benchmark we met with all grades and saw fantastic growth from September to January, particularly with increasingly difficult assessments. In our Cafeteria Stars program we had multiple ties for success across the grades, with those students receiving certificates and cookies. Mrs. Ravena won the teacher raffle and will have Mrs. Santarcangelo teach for her class for 30 minutes. We had a wonderful Read Aloud Day yesterday on 2/2, organized and overseen by Mrs Juliano and the reading teachers. The students are very excited for the Birthday Book program and the new basketball hoop courtesy of the PTA is a big hit. Our Social

Emotional Learning Committee presented at the Family Advisory Committee meeting this month about the Ally program at RPES.

Teacher Reports

Self-Contained—Katie Baril

Baril:

Our class was excited to return from winter break. We learned about our 5 senses and how we use them to explore the world around us. We ended the unit with making lollipops and using our senses to describe them, especially how they tasted. We also spent time going over the rules of our classroom and the school expectations so we can reach for our best.

Conroy:

Ms. Conroy's class has been diving into nonfiction books and articles. We are focusing specifically on identifying and understanding the purpose of nonfiction text features. We are working on becoming "experts" on our chosen animal topics by gathering facts from reliable sources and writing and illustrating pieces to share with our classmates! We are also focusing on plant and animal adaptations and habitats in science. We were really interested in learning about Martin Luther King Jr. and his role in the Civil Rights Movement and plan on learning more about slavery and the Underground Railroad this upcoming month for Black History. We are reviewing daily how to be respectful to others and how important it is for us to try and reach for our best!

Wild:

Mrs. Wild's class has been working hard on their "expert" writing pieces. They worked together to revise their writing and make it better by adding more details. They published their work in google slides and will be sharing their work with classmates and special guests at an author's celebration. They have also been working hard on numbers to 100 and are super excited for our 100th day of school celebration which will be on February 10th (if there are no snow days!!) They showed amazing perseverance on their iReady diagnostics- every student showed growth on their math diagnostics. They really showed the character trait of optimism/growth mindset as they worked through what was sometimes a difficult and frustrating task. They really reached for their best.

3rd Grade—David Hamilton

Thank you for a wonderful Read Aloud Day! Our students created a banner for the fun day.

Math: Learning about area unit, and how to approach math word problems

Science: Forces and Motion unit

Social Studies: Famous Black Americans Reports—each will present on the Morning Show

Reading: Investigating Character Traits and patterns within the book

Writing: Opinion Pieces—formulating reasons with supporting evidence

Lots of iReady growth seen with our students!

4th Grade—Peter Allen

Lots of testing this month!

ELA: about to begin learning about Character

Math: Finishing Division and moving onto fractions and geometry

Social Studies: Students are working on their Black History Month projects and will then move onto Colonial America.

Science: Learning about waves in sound and light and the transfer of energy without transforming states of matter

5th Grade—Adam Gregoire and Rob White

Writing; Students are completing assessments to figure out benchmark. They start an “up the ladder” opinion piece, taught by Mrs. S!

Reading: Nonfiction Summaries, identifying the main idea in fiction and non-fiction and inferencing.

Math: Adding and subtracting fractions and mixed numbers and multi step problems, will soon begin multiplying fractions.

Science: Matter and Energy Flow, obtained permission slips from families for CRICKET EATING! They students are also learning how the earth system spheres (atmosphere, hydrosphere, biosphere, geosphere) interact. They are looking at the 1930s Dust Bowl farm belt and will use writing strategies for their critical responses.

Old Business—Julie Allen

The Guptills event went very well with 215 tickets disbursed to RPES families. With Turnpike included the two PTAs gave out a total of 340 tickets. The students in attendance were happy to see some teachers join them. The recess equipment was delivered and set up which greatly enhances indoor recess on winter days.

New Business—Julie Allen

School Spirit will be Friday 2/18 this month as the first Friday this month is red in support of Women’s Heart Health.

Spring Pictures will be 3/1—schedule soon

With venue capacity limits on bowling, the “Knight to Bowl” will be on 3/4 for self-contained and 3rd grade, and 3/11 for 4th and 5th grades. The dance will be in late March. The students will be able to choose which event they would like to attend.

The silent auction is in the works for April and will involve all 4 schools. We are looking for basket donations from businesses and individuals.

Comments and Thank Yous:

Thank you to Mrs S and all who helped save the day this morning for before care!

Thank you to world famous celebrity Blippi who was able to attend World Read Aloud Day and wowed the crowds.

Mr. Breton announces that the much beloved Mary Fund Party is back at Brown's this year and will be held on Friday April 1st. there will be 3 \$5 per chance raffle prizes and Mr. Williams will be the DJ. Invites to be sent in the next couple of weeks.

Motion to adjourn meeting by Pete Allen, seconded by Rob White.

Meeting adjourned at 6:26 by Julie Allen