

Rensselaer Park PTA
March 2022 Meeting Minutes
March 3, 2022
6pm via Google Meet

Present:

Julie Allen, Pete Allen, Terri Sanderson, Zerlina Ochis, Emilie Johnson, Elaine Garrett, Erica Davis, Katie Baril, Leo Breton, Katie Stalker, Melissa Santarcangelo, Tracy Krom, Kelly Juliano, Rob White, Kimberly Ellison, Deyva Arthur, Danielle Jobin, Delmarie Moore, Samantha Hunter, Devon Schwartz, Laurol Bartlett, Kimberly LaJoy

Call to order at 6PM by Julie Allen

Treasurer's Report—Terri Sanderson

It was a quiet month. Balance began at \$6600, with \$30.51 for a game sale and dividend added. Expenses were \$184 for Ally program and the Bowling Knight supplies. Ending balance is \$6445, aside from any small outstanding checks.

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

Secretary's Report—Elaine Garrett

February 2022 meeting minutes submitted for approval (sent via email ahead of meeting).

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

Principal's Report—Katie Stalker

Masking mandate change going well in the first few days of adjustment—we are reminding all of respecting each other's choices in masking. Cafeteria Stars program is going well, and the next reward is a photo booth session. Future rewards are being planned. We are excited for PARP to get underway. New clubs include the Student Council and Junior Knights Wrestling, overseen by Mr. Gregoire and Mr. White. Mrs Usher and Mrs Delaney's Odyssey Teams compete this Saturday—we also found in storage the award plaques of past RPES Odyssey Teams! We have lots of events coming up and we are starting to plan the spring/year end fun activities.

Self-Contained Classes Report—Katie Baril

Mrs Baril's Class—We were very busy with 100th Day of School festivities. We are also learning about being a peace keeper in our school and community with our words and actions, by studying the lessons of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Mrs. Conroy's Class—We shared our animal reports from our non-fiction realistic writing unit. Next we are working on personal narrative. Our read aloud is "Dear America—Picture of Freedom". In math we are counting backwards, and using number lines. We are excited for PARP with the Adirondack focus and are learning about NYS Geography. We have welcomed new students to our class and are reviewing class rules and expectations.

Ms. Wild's Class—For the 100th Day of school we celebrated with crowns, froot loop necklaces, "pizza" and much more. We are working on our expert writing for the Expert Celebration and are helping identify community needs.

3rd Grade Report—Devon Schwartz

In ELA we are working on the Character Studies unit by comparing and contrasting multiple texts via character development, plot, theme and message. We will be starting state test prep for the month of March. In Writing we concluded opinion pieces on "making a change" by problem solving. We are realigning for test prep units by practicing reading responses that have substantiated details. Our Foundations work is with suffixes and rules and exception for using y as a vowel. In Math we have finished learning about area and are moving on to fractions. In Science we are at the end of our Forces Unit, looking at gravity with balanced and unbalanced forces and will move onto our bridge design activity that will include a weight test using pennies.

4th Grade Report—Pete Allen

In math we are decomposing fractions and multiplying whole numbers and fractions together. We are also looking at improper fractions and mixed numbers. In Science we are learning about the structure and function of the human brain and eyes; other classes are starting with animal body systems. In ELA we have begun test prep with responsive reading practice. In Social Studies we are studying Colonial America. Last month's Black history Month Projects will be posted on the website.

5th Grade Report—Rob White

In Math we are multiplying and dividing mixed numbers and fractions. In Science we are focusing on the earth system the hydrosphere, focusing on activities on the earth's water supplies. For Reading and Writing we are starting test prep; writing about reading and aiming to respond. We finished the "up the ladder" exercises and are working on opinion pieces by writing reviews (restaurants, Youtube videos, books, etc.) 74 students are interested in Wrestling, with 40 spots available!

PARP Plans—Kelly Juliano

This year's PARP (Pick A Reading Partner) program is kicking off soon with an Adirondack Reading Adventure. Each wing of the school is a different Adirondack region and the students will read through the 46 High Peaks to become Reading 46ers. This will require reading 1600 minutes. Our guidelines are reading at least 20 minutes a day 5 days a week. We will have an ice cream social in April to celebrate. Mrs Stalker will donate \$100 dollars to a charity of choice for the class with the most collective minutes read.

Old Business—Julie Allen

Spring pictures went well, a more informal and fun picture day. We are steady with 105 PTA memberships and recently received the 2021-22 Super Teacher and Staff Award from the NYS PTA Association as 75% of our staff is members.

New Business—Julie Allen

This Friday March 4th we will have our first of our two Bowling Knights. This week it is the 3rd graders and self-contained classes, and next Friday 3/11 will be the 4th and 5th graders. Each event will feature 2 games of bowling, pizza and desserts, and raffle prizes! The Knight to Remember Dance will be Friday March 25th, with a Royal theme and the talents of DJ Tyler Leppanen. There will be food, crafts and fun.

Thursday March 10th is the PTA Council Dodgeball event at KMS to raise money for student scholarships. Teams are comprised of teachers and staff and there will be a halftime faceoff between teachers and students.

Original Works is coming up! The Spirit Wear website will be live until March 13th. Spirit Day is April 13th, the Auction day. The Scholastic Book Fair will be April 6th and 7th and will also be open for the PARP nighttime event.

We are still looking for donations for the Auction on 4/13; please reach out to us with items to share. The Bretons have donated \$1000 for the operations cost of the auction. The Mary Party will be 4/1 from 6-10pm at Brown's complete with raffle prizes—get your ticket today!

The next PTA meeting will be Wednesday, April 6th to accommodate Literacy Night the following evening.

Odyssey Night will be 3/9 from 6-8pm, please come see the student teams perform!

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

Meeting adjourned 6:34 pm.