

Rensselaer Park PTA
May 2022 Meeting Minutes

March 3, 2022

5:30pm via Google Meet

Present:

Julie Allen, Pete Allen, Terri Sanderson, Zerlina Ochis, Emilie Johnson, Elaine Garrett, Katie Baril, Leo Breton, Katie Stalker, Melissa Santarcangelo, Tracy Krom, Kelly Juliano, Rob White, Ashley Giaquinto, David Hamilton, Jamie Cavanaugh, Adam Gregoire

Call to order at 5:39 PM by Julie Allen (delayed due to technical difficulties!)

Treasurer's Report—Terri Sanderson

Beginning balance for April was \$4700 and revenue was \$15,000 from the following: Knight To Remember Dance, PTA Auction (each PTA unit received \$2900 in proceeds) games sales (\$5000), Original Artworks (\$2000) and Book Fair (\$3200, we will net \$2200 in Scholastic Dollars to use for birthday, teachers, and library book purchases). We spent \$4,000 in expenses and the ending balance is \$15,941. 56.

A budget amendment was put forth to remove the following: the carnival to support an ice cream day instead. Instead of an assembly, the funds will go towards the 5th grade gift. ABC Countdown will be funded in lieu of Open House, and \$750 will be added to the PARP event. The amendment passed unanimously.

Motion to approve Treasurer's Report by White, approved by Giaquinto.

Secretary's Report—Elaine Garrett

Thank you to Emilie and Terri for taking minutes at the April meeting. Both March and April minutes were presented for approval.

Motion to approve minutes by Giaquinto, seconded by Gregoire.

Motion to approve Secretary's Report by Gregoire, seconded by Baril

Self-Contained Classes Report—Katie Baril

Baril—the class discussed the difference between wants and needs and very much enjoyed the in person assembly featuring acrobats. Thanks to Mrs. Eckler for this opportunity

Legace—Our class identified essential skills and new skills and worked on identifying money by coins and dollars. The class also practiced skip counting and loved using NatGeo kids to learn

about animals

Conroy—Our class practiced stamina in independent reading and phonic skills. They participated in reading rotations and are working on their final drafts of their personal narratives.

Wild—Our class was also very excited over the acrobat assembly and the many fun things planned for ABC Countdown.

Principal's Report—Katie Stalker

We are excited to offer 2 new afterschool clubs this spring: Softball with Mr. Allen and Ms. Giaquinto, and Gardening with Mr. Blackmur.

We hope for the return of intramural programs next year if bussing can work to support it. The Just Run meet will be June 2 and it will be great to again join other schools in this event. Our 5th grade events commence soon.

The acrobat assembly was organized by Mrs. Eckler with Arts in Education funding and all grade levels were able to attend. We will have more Arts in Education funded events before the end of the school year.

The capital Improvement Team met to discuss Art Room plans and wish list and will design a beautiful space. Other developments are soil testing on the property and plans for the new elevator.

The PARP ice cream social took place yesterday with 120 students in attendance. Ms. Simson and Ms. Komazenski's classes designed and built arcade machines using STEM principles.

There will be one more in person Character Assembly this year. We hope to have one featuring the Brain Show next year. The Birthday Book distribution schedule is being redeveloped with Mrs. Snyder's help.

3rd Grade Report—David Hamilton

Mrs. Santarcangelo presented our class with Cafeteria Stars. We have 2 upcoming field trips: the first to Sage College to see Flat Stanley and the second in June to Katchkie Farms in Kinderhook. We are looking forward to ABC Countdown. The Student Council can drive has started and there will be 100 students attending the Just Run meet. The students are researching natural disaster data and information across all subject areas and using the NGSS guidelines. They will graph their gathered data.

4th Grade Report—Peter Allen

In ELA the students are looking at Character in works and finishing up their opinion writing pieces with the theme of proposed changes in school. In Math they are working on fractions and decimal measurements. The hands on performance section of the NYS Science Test will be May 24th and the written component the first week in June. In Social Studies we are learning about the Revolutionary War. The 4th grade classes had a great time at Howe Caverns!

5th Grade Report—Adam Gregoire

The ABD Countdown will start in partnership with the PTA. Great Escape money was due yesterday, thanks to Mr. White and Mrs. Fasano for helping organize the process. Many sponsors helped cover the costs of attendance for our students—special thanks to the Teta Family, Mrs. Faraci and all of our unsung teachers who used their own funds to make it possible for our kids to attend. We have the highest number ever attending at 190, which includes our students, teachers and chaperones. The trip is scheduled for June 3 with a rain date of June 17th. If the trip happens on the 3rd, on the 17th the kids will have their outdoor dance, ice cream truck and obstacle course with music provided by DJ Tyler Leppanen.

In math we are doing review to prep for 6th grade focusing on fraction. Our final unit will be coordinate geometry and in Science we will look at the stars and universe. We will also engage in some STEM activities via Mystery Science.

In ELA we are also looking at opinion and argument in writing.

The Moving Up Ceremony is TBD but will be in person and finalized in the next couple of weeks. Mr. White thanks Mr. Gregorie for keeping all the fifth teachers organized and in leading the planning of the great events for the 5th graders.

Old Business—Julie Allen

We had 60 orders for Original Works and all is paid for the Book Fair, which was open on Literacy Night and also featured free book for each child. The PTA was also able to purchase all the teacher requested books with Scholastic Dollars.

The Silent Auction was a huge success, earning about \$9000 that was divided among the 3 PTA organizations at about \$2865 each.

The Teacher Appreciation Week lunch was a Taco Bar, thanks to Emilie for the delivery!

Chalk the Walk was a successful event with beautiful decorated sidewalks.

New Business—Julie Allen

Founders Day is tomorrow at the Vet's Club, the last chance to purchase your ticket is tomorrow morning from Julie.

ABC Countdown will be coordinated by grade, and the PTA is covering the ice cream, lollipops and popcorn for all of the grades.

Thanks to the Bretons the 5th graders will all have school shirts with all of their signatures to wear to Great Escape; each class has their own color.

Next month's meeting will include a 2022-2023 Budget Vote

Motion to adjourn meeting by Gregoire, seconded by White.

Meeting adjourned 6:10 by Julie Allen