

Rensselaer Park PTA
June 2022 Meeting Minutes
June 21, 2022
6pm 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, Sarah Brown, Erica Davis, Michelle McMahon, Sara Brandenburg, Susan Moreno

Call to order 6PM by Julie Allen

Treasurer's Report—Terri Sanderson

We started June with a balance of \$16,000 with receipt of \$7182, \$6000 of which was for Great Escape. Current balance is \$16, 558, but much will be sent out as pass through expenses, with the PTA balance portion being \$9,100. It was a typically busy May with many expenses—PARP, author visit, staff appreciation, ABC countdown, Chalk the Walk and Self-Contained purchases. We will have about \$6,560 at month's end.

Motion to approve Treasurer's Report by David Hamilton, seconded by Ashley Giaquinto.

The RPES PTA budget for 2022-2023 was presented for approval and passed unanimously.

Secretary's Report—Elaine Garrett



The May meeting minutes were presented for approval.

The RPES PTA was notified that they are the recipient of the Gold Apple Award from NYS PTA:
"You achieved this award by registering and paying dues for members exceeding 100% growth over last year by May 31, 2022. Members from your community have embraced and supported students and teachers within your PTA which is a wonderful achievement."

Motion to approve Secretary's Report by Pete Allen, seconded by Ashley Giaquinto.

Principal's Report—Katie Stalker

Thank you to the PTA for their support of our school community by organizing in person events and supplying many extras that added fun to our school culture. The Building Leadership Team requests a parent member to join the committee in preparing the mission statement of the group. The summer meeting is July 19th. A PTA officer or member is welcomed. We are also starting searches for faculty for a SPED 4th grade position, a 5th grade position, and reading teachers. As the school year comes to a close, the data shows our students have grown by leaps and bounds as noted by the classroom and AIS teachers. We are thankful that teachers are actively involved with the PTA and build strong student relationships. In a challenging year, we hope that students felt welcomed, loved and cared for, and that colleagues succeeded in giving each other needed support.

Self-Contained Report—Katie Baril

Baril: This month was very busy for us. We began our A-Z countdown. Students have been enjoying trying to figure out what each day's letter will bring. Our countdown wouldn't be what it is without Mrs Allen making sure we had all the extras! From lollipops to popcorn and even sunglasses. Thank you for all you do. Our 5th graders are getting ready for middle school, and our other friends are looking forward to what the last fun days of the year have in store for them.

Hayner: Mrs. Hayner's class has had many exciting opportunities in and outside the classroom. In the classroom, we have explored academic concepts such as rounding, main ideas, and creating our first book! The students have worked hard to create rough drafts of topics that they know a lot about. Some topics included basketball, fortnite, and family! The students are finishing up editing their drafts and are starting their final copies. These books will be published to our class library so they teach each other their topics. The students have also been working on a long term science project. They have learned about research and how to create notes. After they are finished with their research, they will create a project (Kahoot, poster, slideshow, diorama) about their research. Outside of the classroom, the students have attended two assemblies and have even hosted a guest from the Troy Police Department. The students asked the officer many questions and talked about future plans! We are ending the year with the ABC Countdown. The students have enjoyed delicious snacks provided by the PTA and other school staff!

Conroy:

We started a new read aloud book called The Supadupa Kid 2, since we loved the first book so much and are enjoying this one just as much! We are learning about the Iroquois Native Americans and enjoyed a special guest visit from Ron Moss to show us different native artifacts and clothing. We have been busy attending end of year field trips to Flat Stanley and The Great Escape and enjoying the last days of school with our ABC COUNTDOWN. Our 5th graders can't wait to visit the middle school and meet their new team and see where they will eat lunch and

participate in specials. We have to thank everyone involved for making this a year to remember- especially the pta!

Wild: June

Mrs. Wild's class has been having a fun and exciting end to the school year. During their plant unit, they completed many experiments to discover if plants can sprout and grow without soil, water, or sunlight. They learned all about the part of plants and the role that each part plays in helping the plant to grow. In ELA, we have been learning about different types of nonfiction, including how-to books, opinion/persuasive, and biographies. We have been lucky to attend two field trips-Flat Stanley the musical at Russell Sage College and Katchkie Farms in Kinderhook. And let's not forget the ABC Countdown—we have had a fun snack and activity each day to celebrate that letter. (And thank you to the PTA for the ice cream, lollipops, and popcorn!!!!)

3rd Grade Report—David Hamilton

Thank you to officers for all of their behind the scenes work, parents who attended meetings, and the Bretons who in addition to their yearlong support also just funded the Memorial Day shirts. In class we finished the reading and math diagnostics and EVERY student showed growth in both areas! We are all enjoying the last few days of school and the fun events the PTA has funded.

4th Grade Report—Pete Allen and Ashley Giaquinto

In Math we have been looking at conventional units of measurement, and fraction and decimal relationships. In Science we continue to look at the structure and function of living things. In Social Studies we are learning about the Revolutionary War and women in colonial times. ELA work this month is reading diagnostics and determining new reading levels, and we are also learning about inferencing and characters' change over time. We are also working on short poems in Writing.

5th Grade Report—Rob White

With this last week of school we are hanging on! Our students are anxious and excited for 6th grade, so we are making sure they feel special and are well prepared for the next year.

Old Business—Julie Allen

At the Founder's Day event last month, RPES represented with the largest contingent! ABC countdown is going well, with thanks to Mr. Gregoire for his planning help. Kids look forward to the events every year and teachers appreciate the breather it gives them in the classroom. This year the PTA provided the lollipops, popcorn and ice cream for those respective days. As this

was the 5th graders' first full year at RPES, we are thankful they had so many in person events and that the PTA could provide their Class of 2022 gift (t-shirts for the Great Escape field trip).

New Business—Julie Allen

The yearbooks were delivered on Friday and Mrs. Baril helped organize the pre orders. Extras are available for \$15. The Burghopoly games will be sold this summer at the Powers Park concerts.

Thank you to all our PTA officers for their help and support. We bid goodbye to our departing officers and welcome our new officers.

Motion for 2022-2023 Officers presented for Approval by David Hamilton, seconded by Jamie Cavanaugh:

Co- Presidents: Julie Allen and Emilie Johnson (past co-president Zerlina Ochis—term ended)

Vice President: Erica Davis

Secretary: Michelle McMahon (past Secretary Elaine Garrett—term ended)

Treasurer: Susan Moreno (past Treasurer Terri Sanderson—term ended)

The slate of officers was approved unanimously.

Comments and Q&A:

The doors at KMS will open at 1 Pm for this week's Moving Up Ceremony. Mrs. Stalker will post a Parent Square reminder about available Yearbooks.

Mr. Hamilton noted that the parent turnout at the Just Run meet earlier this month was the best yet and the kids did great; the sportsmanship they displayed was outstanding. Julie added a thank you to all the teachers that acted as Just Run coaches. Emilie asked if Just Run is available for 6th graders, and Mr. Hamilton responded that there would a need to be guaranteed enrollment and a corresponding faculty sponsor. There may be a middle school winter club option next year, though. Mr. White suggested new staff be encouraged to become involved. Terri added a thank you for the participation RPES faculty showed all year for our events.

Motion to adjourn meeting by Pete Allen, seconded by Jamie Cavanaugh.

Meeting adjourned at 6:24 PM by Julie Allen

THANK YOU and Have a Great Summer!