

RPES PTA Minutes  
January 12, 2023

Call Meeting to Order: 6:00pm

Motion to Approve December's Treasurer Report:

1. Mrs. Baril
2. Mr. Gregoire

Motion to Approve December's Secretary Report:

1. Zach Carhide
2. Mr. Gregoire

Principal's Report with Mrs. Stalker:

- ELA/Math Bootcamp prep for NYS states; will take place after school
- The acrobats returned this year for another great assembly; Thank you for Mrs. Eckler for facilitating
- Capital Impact Project update: the blueprint was shared for the new playground
  - Most of the items the students asked for are included in the blueprint, with the exception of what looks like the spider
  - Mrs. Stalker is going to share the blueprint with Mr. Hamilton and the student council
- Recently, changes were made to before care and afterschool care – RPES staff will now be overseeing the program
  - Staff talked to students about the changes and what they really enjoyed about the previous program to see if those same activities can still be accommodated
  - The students completed some arts and crafts today
  - A question was asked about before care and drop off – same time in the morning and drop off is at the main entrance
    - Ms. Teta, Ms. Moore and Ms. LaBrosie (sp?) along with Mr. Eaton will be supporting the before care program

Self-Contained Classes:

Baril:

- Students returned from break ready to start the new year. We reviewed classroom routines. We also learned the character trait of the month, which is self control.
- The class also finished talking about traditions, as we wrapped it up discussing the Chinese New Year. After learning about Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, Diwali and now the Chinese New Year students reviewed which traditions were their favorite.

Brady:

- We are almost done reading the book, James and the Giant Peach as our class read aloud!
- We are working on writing about what we love to do when it's cold... from building snowmans to cuddling up on the couch staying warm.
  - We are working on sticking on a topic and stretching out that one idea using descriptive words.
- In math we are studying fractions and have gone from learning about fractions as a whole, to fractions as a part and will be moving into comparing fractions.
  - We are enjoying our morning meeting and calendar time in which the students are now "running the show" from having us try to guess the joke of the day to coming up with a math problem of the day and working through to solving it and checking our work.

- In science we just finished learning about how plants rely on animals. We are continuing our work on how to be good problem solvers.
- We have earned a few classroom rewards for the entire class REACHING for their best with our 3 of a Kind Reward Board.

#### LaBella:

- The beginning of January has been all about reviewing routines and expectations. We have played games and done role plays to show that we know how to do our job in the classroom so that we can be ready to learn.
- The word of the month is self-control and students have been working on strategies that help us to have self-control when we are having big feelings.
- Students have been working hard on finishing their fictional narrative writings. Their stories include details to show the characters, setting, problem, and solution. They have been working on adding details such as speech bubbles to their illustrations to help tell their story.
- In math we have been working on understanding 2 and 3 digit numbers. Students have learned many ways to show a number, including tens frames, place value blocks, and writing numbers in standard or expanded form.
- In science we just started our “force” unit. We are learning all about the pushes and pulls that we see in our everyday lives.

#### Hoteling

- If November flew by, then December came and went like a rocket! As expected, the kids were pretty excited all month with Christmas looming. Many of our activities for the month focused on many of the Holidays that happen in December.
- Reading and Math groups worked on activities concerning the holidays while still maintaining our focus on meeting each child where they are and continuing to move them along.
- In Social Studies, we looked at many different cultures around the world and compared them to our own here in the U.S. I believe that the kids (and all the adults) learned lots of new facts about the countries we explored.
- In science, we’re moving into our unit on the Solar System which is always a favorite for the kids. We’ve also started a new book, “The Girl Who Drank the Moon,” which has kept everyone’s attention.
- Soon we’ll be learning about Martin Luther King Jr. and why we all get a day off to honor him.

#### Third Grade Report by Mrs. Johnson

- Reading: Just finished unit on fiction; read “Because of Winn Dixie”; next week they will begin the 3<sup>rd</sup> Unit which is nonfiction
- Writing: Students have been answering short response questions and pulling details with inferences
- Finished Reading and Math assessments
- Math – Students are learning multiplication facts and committing them to memory along with solving word problems that use multiplication
- Social Studies: Celebrations around the world; just finished learning about the Lunar Chinese New Year
- Took a virtual field trip the Glens Falls Children’s Museum
- Science – learning about different animals

Fourth Grade, unfortunately Mr. Allen and Mrs. G were not able to attend the meeting

Fifth Grade Report by Mr. Gregoire and Mr. White:

- First preliminary meeting for the end of the year activities was held
  - Money raised from the haunted house and left over from last year is enough to give the students a good June
  - Going to still have the picnic and dance, trip to Great Escape (setting dates currently)
  - Will share the date of the moving ceremony once it is scheduled
    - Creating a new model that will give the students a more intimate and rewarding experience - will still include awards
- Math: multi-unit on fractions (adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing)
  - Mr. Gregoire's class (along with Mrs. Hopkins and Mr. Hamilton) were selected to trial a new program called Eureka Squared (new model of what teachers are currently using)
    - Mr. Gregoire is finding the worksheets to be more kid friendly, and the activities are more hands on
- Science: students are learning about matter, energy flow and eco-systems – large unit that takes the whole second marking period
  - Learned through multiple hands-on labs and activities that matter is recycled in eco-systems with the use of decomposers
    - Energy all originates from the sun and goes through the food webs
  - Next month they move into earth systems
- Social Studies: learning about Mezzo-America – Aztecs, Incans, Mayans
  - New enriched ELA that included a lot of motivating reading passages and interesting writing activities that are teaching the students about these early civilizations in South America and Mexico
- Reading: moving toward the Normal Calkins Curriculum, where we are working through the deep, Fictional text "Home of the Brave"
- Writing: moving into the Opinion Unit, where students formulate a Bold Opinion, support it with reasons and details, and hopefully get their reader to take action after reading their piece. Many teachers are also continuing work in Patterns of Power

Wrestling Club: Starting in mid-late February

Would like to get as many students involved as possible – may need to offer multiple sessions so students are not turned away if there is a lot of interest in joining the club

Meeting ended at : 6:18

Motion to approve end of meeting:

1. Mr. Gregoire
2. Mrs. Baril