

**RPES PTA Meeting**  
**2/9/2023**  
**Via Google Meet**

Attendees: Julie Allen, Michelle McMahon, Emilie Johnson, Erica Davis, Sue Moreno, Jess Vartigan, Zach Carhide, Shiloh Bartlett, Leon Breton, Jamie Cavanaugh, Sara Brandenburg, John Raup, Katie Stalker, Melissa Santarcangelo, Katie Baril, Mrs. Hanna, Mr. Allen, Mr. Gregoire, Mrs. Juliano, Mrs Giaquinto, Ms. LaJoy

Meeting called to order by Julie Allen at 6pm

**January Treasurer's Report - Sue Moreno**

- We brought in \$1500 from Guptill's Knight
- Earnings from Lifetouch \$455
- PTA dues and supplies for Bowling Knights
- Beginning balance of \$17,189.36
- Total income of \$2,326.78
- Expenses were \$481.80
- Ending balance of \$19,034.34

Motion to approve treasurer's report by Mr. Allen and Mrs. Giaquinto

**Secretary's Report**

- Minutes of last meeting prepared by and submitted by Erica Davis - Thank you!!

Motion to approve by Mr. Allen and Mr. Gregoire

**Principal's Report with Ms. Stalker -**

- We have taken over the after-care program, we had more staff starting from the Y this week to continue to service the families that need this. The Y is not looking to take on any more families this year, no new registrations. We are very happy with the partnership thus far.
- We are looking forward to some of our after school clubs that are loved by our students. Wrestling will be starting up soon, there's a softball clinic coming up that Mr. Allen does and a few new ideas that have been brought up by our teachers. Kids are enjoying the clubs we do have, Wednesdays and Thursdays the lines for the late busses are pretty long
- An update to the Capital Improvement project: We still don't have any dates yet for some of the parts of the project we thought would be first on the list may be held up due to supply issues and the labor force Our art teacher, Ms. Greene and our music teacher, Mr. Williams had an opportunity to meet with the architects and the interior designer to have some input on what their

classrooms

are going to look like. Their rooms are being remodeled in this Capital Improvement project because they will no longer have the windows on the one side of their classroom due to the new addition to the cafeteria

- More related to academics and curriculum we have the opportunity to participate in CBT (computer based testing) simulation for the ELA test and the feedback from teachers was a really great experience. We are going to offer a Math and ELA bootcamp which will focus on explicit skill instruction and for ELA in particular, guided practice for writing their responses
- Tomorrow is the 100th day of school and I had an opportunity to visit Mrs. LaBella's class and they did a whole bunch of activities today because there is a half day and tomorrow and there is not enough time to do some of the fun activities they wanted to do. The kids were really excited and I just left the building after aftercare and got here just in time to meet with everybody and I got to see all their beautiful 100th day projects in the hallways and just outside our offices
- We are looking forward to PARP, Mrs. Juliano will be talking about that

### **Self-Contained Report**

#### **Baril**

- We have been busy learning about what things look like today vs. long ago, we read different stories about what those things looked like long ago, we looked at pictures, talked about what was the same what was different and our favorite item was definitely the typewriter, a lot of students didn't know what it was
- Students also write journals
- The highlight of the month was definitely World Read Aloud Day, so we have to thank Mr. Allen, he read to our class once again, he dresses up as Blippi. He comes in and shares a story with our class. It is one of their favorite days, so thank you, Mr. Allen for doing that again this year.

#### **Brady**

- We are almost done reading the book, *According to Humphrey* as our class read aloud!.
- We are working on writing about what we learned about the Chinese New Year. ● We enjoyed trying some traditional Chinese New Year snacks such as Moon Cake, Bao Buns, Lotus Seed Candy and mandarin oranges.
- In math we have been working on fractions on a number line and just finished with fractions of a set.
- In science we just started learning about planets and our solar system. ● We did well with listening to our guest readers (Sheriff Apple and LHS student Felix) on World Read Aloud Day and enjoyed the goodies each of our guests brought to share!

#### **LaBella**

- February 10th is the 100th day of school, but Mrs. LaBella's class is celebrating it on day

99 because we have too much fun to pack into a half day!

- We will spend the day engaging in activities that practice the number 100-everything from creating a (pretend) pizza with 100 toppings, to making trail mix with 100 snacks, to completing 100 exercises and so much more.
- We finished up our fictional writing unit. Students were so engaged in their fictional stories and some even started a series-writing more than one story with the same characters!
- We have been focusing on informational text in both reading and writing. ● Students have been writing to show what they have learned from an informational text and will soon be starting their own “expert” writings.
- We have been having so much fun exploring force in science.
- We engaged in many hands-on activities to explore gravity and friction and soon we will begin magnetism.

### **Hoteling**

- It's been an interesting month in the Challenge classroom.
- We had a new student start with us at the beginning of January and we've also had another new student start this week.
- We did however have to say goodbye to one of our friends as he transferred to a different school.
- As expected, we've spent time adjusting to our new classmates and have enjoyed getting to know them and what they can do. January saw us finish up our unit on culture in Social Studies and in Science we've been learning a lot about outer space, particularly gravity.
- We've been lucky to have many hands-on activities for the kids in science as they seem to enjoy these the most.
- As we move into February and Black History month, many of our topics in reading and writing will focus on celebrating the accomplishments of African-Americans.
- In ELA, we've been working on determining the central Idea of a text and reading for comprehension. In math, we've moved on from our unit on place value and have started to introduce fractions.

### **3rd Grade**

#### **Hanna**

- Math, classes are finishing up their multiplication and division units, really focusing still on the multiplication tables and knowing their facts but they are also moving into studying area
- Specifically in Mr. Hamilton's class they are piloting a new math program called Eureka Math, the kids are really liking this a lot
- In science we're talking about biomes around the world, specifically focusing on aquatic biomes and incorporating the importance of recycling and keeping trash out of the ocean ● Ms. D'Adamo's class and Mr. Hamilton's class will be working on a project about reusing and recycling and parlaying that into a contest with Casella Waste Management, not too sure of the details of the contest, but the kids are excited about this
- In SS, we are beginning our unit on the United States, working on the regions of the US and continuing to work on geography skills

- In ELA students are working now with informational text moving away from non fictional texts focusing on central idea, also text features such as table of contents, glossary, indexes, working with text structures like sequencing, cause and effect and parlaying this into their writing
- In Writing they are working on sentence structure and conventions which continues to be a struggle with some of the 3rd grades, but also working with the short response, putting that in the boot camp that is coming up and working on stating their claim, finding the details to support that claim and having all classes working on their typing skills, highlighting skills, cutting and pasting, kinda putting all that together

#### **4th Grade**

##### **Allen**

- In reading, we are reading non fiction focusing on text features and how those text features help you to better understand what you are reading. The texts we are reading are focusing a lot on the ocean floor and ocean zones, to get some science in there
- In writing they just started the argumentative units that focus on having a strong opinion and using persuasive techniques when writing. They have also been using their digital writer's notebooks to help teach skills that they will need when taking the state test online, like highlighting texts, copying and pasting
- In math, we just finished division and moved on to fractions, I know in my class we needed a break, so we are working on geometry right before the break we will pick up fractions and should catch up with everybody
- Science is still all about energy, and it's going to be that way for a little while, there's a lot of really great things to do that go along with it as well. We are working on types of energies, focusing on electrical energy and moving on to some of the labs that we have to do with the Next Gen Science standards
- Lastly in SS we finished up explorers and it's all about Colonial America and talking about how life was during the Colonial American times vs now and how different it was then and how things worked back then

#### **5th Grade**

##### **Gregoire**

- We are going to have some PD tomorrow to look at some assessments as the kids have gotten hammered the last couple of months. We are getting ready to go to the state tests and are moving forward pretty quickly in our units
- I'm the one piloting the same Eureka Squared program that Mr. Hamilton is doing in 3rd and Mrs. Hopkins in 4th. It seems to be going pretty well, there are some hiccups with it as with any new text but we are giving it a shot ans some of the lessons have been really good and some have needed some adjusting. We are going to work on it this year in case we adopt a new text or source for next year it will be good to go
- Still planning the end of the year stuff but in a couple months we will have a

better idea of what that will look like, everything is pretty much set with the calendar just finalizing the field trip, dance, picnic and moving up

- Science we moved into a new unit called Earth systems talking about the geosphere, hydrosphere, atmosphere and biosphere and how they interact

### **Gregoire has notes for White**

- In Reading we learning strategies to write and draw on what they know to interpret texts
- Test prep, they are trying to master copying and rewriting and pasting text evidence to further their claim for CBT using some of those skills like what Mr.Allen was talking about too

### **Old Business**

- PTA memberships- finally reached our goal! Thank you to everyone that signed up and helped get the word out that we needed a couple more members! ● Guptill's Knight - We were given 500 tickets to split between us and TES. RPES alone sold 300 Tickets. The two schools combined sold 650 tickets. Most we have ever had for a Guptill's Knight. It was very busy but we had a blast. It seemed like everyone was enjoying themselves. A lot of teachers were there with their families out in the arena which was awesome to see.

### **New Business**

- Bowling Knights- Starting tomorrow we are having our back to back Fridays of bowling. Tomorrow is 3rd Grade and SC. Each person is getting two games of bowling, shoes, pizza, drink, raffle and we will also have a dessert table. Next week we will do it all over again for our 4th and 5th Grade.
- Spring Pictures are coming up after the break on 3/7 and what's nice about spring pictures is it shows their personality more than the regular fall pictures. Also with the spring pictures it helps us make sure we have pictures of new kids for the yearbook.
- PARP
- PTA Council is throwing the 2nd annual dodgeball tournament again this year. Last year it was packed in the gym and this year we already have staff and admin signed up and ready to play! So join us on the 2nd!
- We are in full swing for the Auction. If you would like to donate or know someone that would like to donate please reach out to Jess (TES) or I. Donations are what makes this event but showing up and trying to win baskets is what makes this event so successful. Come join us on March 16th

### **To talk about PARP this year is Mrs. Juliano**

- PARP is starting the first Friday in March (3rd) and this year's theme is going to be RPES reads around the Burgh. We are going to be turning the building into

Burghopoly, we took the Burghopoly board and I have recreated all the pieces, each classroom will have a game piece from the board hanging outside of their room and they also have a game piece that will be moving around our building based on something Burgh related - there is a whale, a slice of pizza, a snowman, an Uncle Sam hat, the staples of Burgh that will be moving around the building as the kids read. For every 100 minutes that a class reads, your piece will move one square on the board. I really want the pieces to be moving around the board continuously moving about the building. Students individually will be earning Burghopoly money for the minutes they've read and then they will be able to buy stuff on Literacy Knight for prizes They will receive their money closer to Literacy Knight. I'm going to keep a total and try to do this once or twice instead of every week.

- We will also be doing a Knight in the Park, which is March 8th, it's going to be like last year when we did the campout. It's going to be a free event. Parents and students can bring a book and sit and read for an hour. Teachers will also be there.
- Literacy Knight is March 23rd, A Knight in the Burgh with the book fair. All of the events that will be held Literacy Knight will be tied into the Burgh. Kids are going visit different places in Burgh as the Literacy Knight stations to tie everything together Please reach out with any questions

Also huge thank you to the Bretons / Mary Fund for their generous donation and always being "all in" with anything we need in the lansingburgh community.

Open Floor -

- Mr. Breton, March 31st is the Mary Dinner, invitations are going out tomorrow. Information is on the Mary Fund page
- Donating a picture for the auction
- Mrs. Juliano - just wanted to mention we finished reading for Ronald McDonald House and our goal was \$1000 and we raised \$2790

### **Upcoming Dates:**

- 2/10 3rd/SC Bowling Knight at Hilltop 6pm
- 2/17 4th/5th Grade Bowling Knight at Hilltop 6pm
- 2/20-2/24 Winter Break (no school)
- 3/2 PTA Council Dodgeball 6pm
- 3/7 Spring Picture Day
- 3/9 March PTA Meeting 6pm

- 3/16 Auction Raffle

Meeting adjourned by Julie Allen at 6:26

Motion approved by Mrs. Giaquinto and Ms. Brandenburg