

**James W. Alexander PTA
General Meeting - Minutes
Tuesday, April 12, 2022, at 7:00 pm
Killarney's Publick House, 1644 Whitehorse Mercerville Road**

Call to Order & Establish Quorum: First Vice President Michelle Grunbaum called the meeting to order at 7:07 pm, standing in for President Renee Tisi. Motion to establish quorum by Elaine Griffin, seconded by Jessica Carabelli. The Pledge of Allegiance immediately followed.

Approve February 2022 Meeting Minutes: Motion by Valerie Zieniuk to approve minutes from the February 2022 meeting, as distributed at this the meeting. Motion seconded by Michelle Grunbaum and approved.

President's Report: Michelle Grunbaum reported for Renee Tisi. She noted that many great things were coming up, such as assemblies, class trips, Field Day, Book Fair, etc.

Treasurer's Report: Sophia Knapp reported \$15,556.21 in our main account, \$735.09 in the Games of Chance account, and \$500.00 in petty cash. She also shared that the PTA had recently begun utilizing Venmo. The PTA tried this setup for the first time with the Community Yard Sale, where Kelly Fillinger collected monies from individuals and then transferred it all to the PTA account. Venmo was also recently used to pay the deposit for a photo booth for the 5th grade party. Sophia shared that, in the future, we will be encouraging the Alexander community to use Venmo for payment over checks and cash. She also shared that there was an allocation of \$1,500.00 for class trips and assemblies. There are still some fundraiser monies coming in, but not a lot.

Annual Appeal Update: Sophia Knapp reported for Renee Tisi. She shared that nothing had come in since our February meeting for the Annual Appeal and suggested that more flyers be sent home with students.

Correspondence and Box Tops: There was no report, as Trish Patsaros could not attend.

Membership/Alumni Committee/Scholarships: Elaine Griffin reported 206 members of the PTA today. She shared that scholarship applications were coming in, and the deadline was April 15, but with an extended deadline of April 30. Applicants must be in their senior year at a Hamilton Township high school and an alumnus of Alexander. Elaine noted that the committee would review applications before the next PTA meeting.

Rutgers Rain Garden: Elaine Griffin reported that students were learning about the watershed this week at school. Excavation on the site will begin during Spring Break, with students helping with planting on Wednesday, April 27. There is a paper sign-up sheet for parents to volunteer for April 27, and a Sign-up Genius is available to aid in purchasing supplies for that day.

Yearbook: Elaine Griffin shared that families should finish all pictures and formats for the Yearbook by May 15, and they should place orders for Yearbooks immediately. Anyone who wishes to share images should go through their teacher, as some children cannot be in photos. Due to space limitations, a newsletter or poll is hard to include, so we might find a different way to share those items. Families may upload photos to either TreeRing or teachers; there is a need for more 5th grade pictures!

Super 50/50: Elaine Griffin and Erin Andahazy reported that Hamilton Township was processing the raffle license paperwork. Once we have the municipal license and can proceed with sales, there will be an option to pre-buy tickets through a Google Document and pay with Venmo or cash. There will be specific times for people to pick up their purchased tickets. The drawing will be at 8:00 pm on Tuesday, June 14, at Killarney's Publick House.

PTA Property & Storage: Erin Andahazy shared she was getting all the stuff out of her garage, and she would secure the storage unit key from Sophia Knapp for this task.

Room Representatives: Theresa Timian reported that the Spring Party and Ice Cream Social would occur this week. The PTA provides bowls, spoons, and napkins.

5th Grade Committee: Danielle Wiltsey shared that the committee would be meeting tonight, immediately following the PTA meeting. She reported that t-shirts would go on order shortly, as there was now a winner of the t-shirt design contest, and that the committee secured both the photo booth and the DJ for the party.

Assemblies: Michelle Grunbaum stated that there had recently been two assemblies. The first was the African-American museum display at the end of February. Last week, the Brain Show came to the school and held two assemblies (K-2 and 3-5). The kids volunteered to participate in droves to play games and work together in teams to dance to music. In May, there will be a Reptile World assembly.

AR Workshop Fundraiser: There was no report, as Lisa Gray could not attend.

Skate Night: There was no report, as Trish Patsaros could not attend. Members in attendance commented that they and their children had a great time.

Gertrude Hawk Candy Sale: Sophia Knapp reported for Renee Tisi that the sale had concluded, and there was a profit of approximately \$1,900.

Spirit Wear: There was no report, as Hillary McWhorter could not attend. Members noted that a flyer was sent home with students this week.

Cheesecake Sale: Michelle Grunbaum reported a profit of \$210.00.

Community Yard Sale: Kelly Fillinger reported for Hillary McWhorter, who could not attend. Thirteen people signed up in advance, and eight showed up on the day of the sale. The PTA profited \$340.00 from sign-ups.

Teacher & Staff Appreciation Week: Michelle Grunbaum shared that she is getting donations via envelopes and Venmo and could always use more contributions to give everyone a great week. A flyer about this endeavor recently went home with students.

Scholastic Book Fair: There was no report, as Hillary McWhorter could not attend. Members reported that setup would begin on Friday, May 20, with the Book Fair taking place Monday, May 23, through Wednesday, May 25.

Kindergarten Tea: Michelle Grunbaum reported for Renee Tisi and confirmed with Mr. Bookholdt that there would be refreshments and that a PTA Executive Board representative should attend. The tea will take place on Monday, May 23, at 2:00 pm.

All Other Business

Field Day: Mr. Bookholdt stated that Field Day would take place on Wednesday, May 25, with the younger children doing their activities in the morning and the older children participating in the afternoon. Everyone will go out for the picnic from 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm between those two sessions. Grownups will pick up their children, have lunch on the grounds, and then bring them back to the building. The school will send home a permission slip and more information shortly.

Teacher's Report: Mrs. Burke shared that the assemblies held in February and early April were terrific. The Spring Concert, held last week for the first time in 3 years, was excellent; the kids played beautifully. She stated that the kids were excited about the Spring Party, and the staff was looking forward to Teacher & Staff Appreciation Week.

Principal's Report: Mr. Bookholdt thanked the PTA for the recent assemblies and the upcoming assembly with the reptile guy. He echoed Mrs. Burke's sentiment that the concert went well and that it was a packed house. The 5th Grade Promotion Ceremony will occur on Tuesday, June 14. He noted that they would need to decide whether the ceremony would be outside or inside, as there are approximately 70 5th graders. Discussion followed regarding logistics and lunch timing for the 5th Grade Promotion Ceremony and Party. Mr. Bookholdt stated that NJSLA testing would start on Monday, May 2, for 4th and 5th graders, with 3rd graders starting NJSLA testing the following week on Tuesday, May 10. A new music teacher has been hired and will not begin at Alexander until potentially as late as early June. He will attempt to have them teach the 5th graders one song for their Promotion Ceremony.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Valerie Zieniuk, Recording Secretary.