

**James W. Alexander PTA  
General Meeting - Minutes  
Tuesday, June 14, 2022, at 7:00 pm  
Killarney's Publick House, 1644 Whitehorse Mercerville Road**

**Call to Order & Establish Quorum:** President Renee Tisi called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm. The Pledge of Allegiance immediately followed. Motion to establish quorum by Elaine Griffin, seconded by Chrissy Trank and approved.

**Approve May 2022 Meeting Minutes:** Motion by Denise Wyers to approve minutes from the April 2022 meeting, as distributed. Motion seconded by Elaine Griffin and approved.

**President's Report:** Renee Tisi shared her enormous gratitude and heartfelt thanks; there were ups and downs, but we are definitely on a high right now. She stated that she was very proud of everything everyone had done and all of the blood, sweat, and tears everyone put into this organization, all for the benefit of the kids, school, and teachers. Renee wished incoming President Kristine D'Ambrosio the best of luck and looked forward to what the great incoming Executive Board will accomplish.

**Executive Board Update:** Renee Tisi shared two updates. First Vice President-Elect Kelly Fillinger is moving out of the district, to be replaced by Keri Carlton, whose term will begin on July 1. Corresponding Secretary Trish Patsaros resigned from her position, and Jess Carabelli will fill the remaining year of her term. Motion to new officers by Denise Wyers, seconded by Valerie Zieniuk and approved. Nominating Committee Chair Tara Sottong came forward and swore Jess Carabelli into office.

**Treasurer's Report & Annual Appeal:** Sophia Knapp reported \$13,508.80 in our main account, \$735.13 in the Games of Chance account, \$500.00 in petty cash, and \$5.00 in the Credit Union savings account. There are still expenses due this month, such as Book Fair, teacher reimbursements, and the 5th-grade class gift. After those expenses, there will be approximately \$5,000 left in the account, with costs such as Teachers Pay Teachers, insurance, and Block Party to be incurred over the summer. There were no donations to the Annual Appeal since the last report.

**Correspondence & Box Tops:** Renee Tisi read thank you notes from this year's Scholarship Recipients and thank you notes from teachers for Teacher & Staff Appreciation Week, recent assemblies, and the Scholastic Book Fair.

**Room Representatives:** Theresa Timian had no new updates other than reminding Room Representatives to submit reimbursements for their End-of-Year parties.

**Fifth Grade Committee:** Danielle Wiltsey shared that the Fifth Grade party was amazing and thanked everyone for all their help. It was a great day!

**Membership/Alumni Committee/Scholarships:** Elaine Griffin reported that our membership still stands at 206.

**Dining Out Committee:** Elaine Griffin, reporting for Dan Griffin, that the committee is looking to have a Dining Out night during the summer. The PTA would share the event on our Facebook page, word of mouth, and perhaps a robocall from the school.

**Assemblies:** Michelle Grunbaum shared that the Reptile Guy recently came and did two assemblies for the students, showcasing snakes, turtles, and more to learn about and sometimes touch. She has started looking into assemblies for the next school year and noted that the BMX assembly was courtesy of a physical education-related grant.

**Scholastic Book Fair:** Hillary McWhorter reported that the goal for this Book Fair was \$5,500, and we came in just under that at \$5,326. Over \$9,000 in books went home this week, even though we received far fewer materials for the spring Book Fair. The All for Books Coin Collection made \$303. Mrs. Chirichella's class was the winner, and they did tug of war and had ice pops together with Mrs. Nami's class, as they missed out on the previous Book Fair during quarantines in December. Each teacher received \$240 to purchase books and supplies from the catalog. She also noted that she set aside funds for the new librarian, who will start in the fall.

**Kindergarten Tea:** Kristine D'Ambrosio shared that it was a good program with many interested, lovely soon-to-be Kindergarten parents in attendance.

**Committee Formation for 2022-2023 School Year:** Kristine D'Ambrosio shared that a handout containing a list of committees was available for members to complete. Each committee is looking for volunteers, and some are looking for Chairs. She pointed out that being a Chair does not mean that one has to do it all, that they delegate to others and have help from their committee. She realizes there is concern about finances going into next year and is hopeful that we can still keep things the same.

**Super 50/50 Update:** Valerie Zieniuk reported that we had sold over 400 tickets, with sales still briskly happening during the meeting. She told everyone at Killarney's that the PTA would sell Super 50/50 tickets up to 7:59 pm.

**All Other Business:**

Multiple persons thanked Renee Tisi for her service as President of this PTA.

**5th Grade Committee:** Renee Tisi spoke on the subject of the Fifth Grade party. She noted that next year we would not have, during the planning phase, the money we have had before. Every year, parents have gone above and beyond the previous year, and it's a shame that next year's class will not be able to have a \$3,500 party like this year's class did. She suggested that perhaps Sawmill could be rented out for a picnic/Field Day event. An event like this would provide equality and make the event more about the kids instead of parents trying to outdo one another. Others noted that making yard signs

and buttons were popular, and should continue, even if next year's party looks a little different.

**Teacher's Report:** Mrs. Burke reiterated what was in the various thank you notes read at the beginning of the meeting: thank you for the food, raffles, and gift cards during Teacher & Staff Appreciation Week, and thanks for the money to the Scholastic catalog, excited to order more books and supplies. She also thanked the PTA Executive Board and gave each officer a small gift, and Renee Tisi received flowers.

**Principal's Report:** Mr. Bookholdt thanked the PTA for a great year, the best one recently due to the pandemic. It was wonderful to be able to do more for the students once again. The events today for the fifth graders were terrific, with the ceremony, video, and party - thank you to the committee.

**Drawing of 50/50 Winners:** At 8:00 pm, the drawing for the Super 50/50 took place. There were 441 tickets purchased, for a total of \$4,410 in proceeds. The PTA will retain half of those proceeds (\$2,205) for the educational enrichment of Alexander students, with the remaining 50% spread among three winners. The winners were not present; they all claimed their prizes at Alexander on Wednesday, June 15:

1st Prize equal to 25% of proceeds, in the form of a \$1,103 cash prize: Tiesha Ha  
2nd Prize equal to 20% of proceeds, in the form of a \$661 cash prize: Trish Patsaros  
3rd Prize equal to 15% of proceeds, in the form of a \$441 cash prize: James Bruins

Meeting adjourned at 8:06 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Valerie Zieniuk, Recording Secretary.