

**James W. Alexander PTA
General Meeting - Minutes
Tuesday, March 14, 2023, at 7:00 pm
Alexander Multipurpose Room**

Call to Order and Establish Quorum: Kristine D'Ambrosio called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm. The Pledge of Allegiance immediately followed. Kristine motioned to establish a quorum, seconded by Pamela Davila, and approved.

Approve February 2023 Minutes: Valerie Zieniuk stated that the minutes from the February 2023 meeting are available for review at each table and online. Michelle Grunbaum motioned to approve the February 2023 minutes, seconded by Kristine D'Ambrosio, and approved.

President's Report: Kristine D'Ambrosio reported on a few items from a recent Hamilton PTA Presidents' meeting. She felt that the food pantry would get off the ground by next school year, and we could help stock it by asking for a canned good as admission to our events. Kristine also shared that the district will host a Tech Night on Tuesday, May 16, from 5 – 8 pm at Crockett. There will be people available to demonstrate and teach new technology in the school district, as well as food trucks. Since this directly conflicts with this PTA's next scheduled general meeting, Kristine tabled discussion on a new meeting date and time until she could discuss it with the Executive Board. There will be a Special Education Advisory Council meeting on Thursday, March 23, from 6:00 - 7:30 pm. Kristine noted that she, Keri Carlton, Michelle Grunbaum, Valerie Zieniuk, and Mr. Bookholdt attended the most recent Mercer County Council dinner on Thursday, February 23, at Mercer County Oaks; the next County Dinner will take place on Saturday, April 22.

Treasurer's Report: Kristine D'Ambrosio reported for Sophia Knapp, as she could not attend. She stated there was \$10,567.69 in the main checking account, \$800.19 in the Games of Chance account, \$500.00 in petty cash, and \$5.00 in the savings account. Kristine shared that some expenses in the past month included \$3,000.00 for class trips and \$2,500.00 for the Teachers Pay Teachers subscription.

Correspondence & Box Tops: Jessica Carabelli read a thank you note from the second-grade teachers for purchasing the Teachers Pay Teachers subscription. She also reported that our Box Tops earnings are up \$17.80, for a new total of \$240.70.

Membership Update: Elaine Griffin reported that this PTA's membership increased by another person to 208 members. Our membership comprises 172 parents, 4 individuals, and 32 teachers/staff.

Scholarship Committee: Elaine Griffin shared that they now accept applications from Alexander alumni attending local high schools. This PTA will offer two scholarships,

valued at \$250 each, and any post-graduation plans are welcome. The application deadline is Saturday, April 15.

Room Representatives: Theresa Timian reported that there would be an ice cream social on Thursday, April 6, from 2:15 – 3:30 pm. Room Representatives will bring the ice cream, and they can ask their classroom parents to get the toppings.

Gift Card Sales: Theresa Timian shared that her company wished to use our PTA's sales connection to purchase gift cards for an upcoming employee appreciation event. They would buy approximately 70 \$100 Visa gift cards for roughly \$7,000.00, with an estimated \$700.00 profit to this PTA.

5th Grade Committee: Sandy Gallucci reported that the Party Subcommittee had recently met and submitted a Building Use request form to Mrs. Harvell. She anticipated sending a TreeRing flyer home by the end of the week. Sandy shared that class t-shirts have been ordered and should arrive next week. She noted that the committee profited \$101.87 from the Chickie and Pete's event in February.

Nominating Committee: Jessica Castronova-Brooks reported that the committee was working on the slate of officers and hoped to present the nominees shortly. The committee will meet in April to prepare for voting at this PTA's next general meeting.

Assemblies: Michell Grunbaum shared that the Reading Rocks assembly for the beginning of Read Across America week went well. She noted that she is holding off booking the last assembly until there is a profit from this week's Tricky Tray event.

Reflections: Valerie Zieniuk reported that the two County level award winners were highlighted with other award winners at the recent Mercer County Council dinner on Thursday, February 23. She received notification in early March that Miles Lake received an Award of Excellence (Second Place) at the NJPTA State Level for his Photography entry in the Primary Division. While only Outstanding Interpretation (First Place) moves onto National PTA Level judging, we are incredibly proud of Miles' achievement. He and his family will be honored at an Awards Ceremony on Sunday, May 21, at West Windsor-Plainsboro South High School.

Gertrude Hawk Candy Sale: Jennifer Zodda reported \$3,412.00 in sales, with 35% of the profit to this PTA, a total of \$1,194.20.

Spring Flower Sale: Jane Hall reported for Hillary McWhorter, who could not attend. There were 150 flowers sold, for total sales of \$1,267.00. The profit to this PTA was \$385.60. Flower delivery will take place on Tuesday, April 4, at school pickup.

Tricky Tray: Kristine D'Ambrosio reported on behalf of Lori Hutchins and Christina Trank, who could not attend. There are over 120 baskets, and more keep coming in; Tier 3 has some fantastic prizes, such as large vouchers for tropical vacations. Kristine

shared that the community had purchased 140 tickets to date. The committee met on Thursday, March 16, and needs volunteers to watch over the prize tables that night.

Spirit Wear: Jennifer Mirando is working on a new sale for the spring. She noted that flyers would go home by the end of the week, with an order deadline of Thursday, April 6. Jennifer shared that new items like tank tops and hats would be available to order, and essential items, like t-shirts, would be sold at the Kindergarten Tea in May.

Trenton Thunder Game: Gina Costello reported that there would be group tickets for Alexander students and their families to attend a Trenton Thunder game on Tuesday, June 20, at 7:00 pm. The kids will go on the field and make a tunnel to high-five the players at the beginning of the game. She shared that tickets are \$11 apiece, and there will be \$1 hot dogs that night, along with a “kids eat free” promotion. Flyers will go home right after Spring Break, with an order deadline of Monday, May 22. Tickets will be distributed to families the week of June 5.

All Other Business:

Playground – Basketball Board: Valerie Zieniuk reported for Hillary McWhorter, who could not attend, that they are progressing on having everything put up and will also request to repaint the poles. They hope to have four working basketball goals soon and are still looking for pricing on the bracket because current estimates are over \$300.

Teachers’ Report: Mrs. Burke thanked this PTA for the Teachers Pay Teachers subscription. She reported that the Talent Show is on Thursday, April 27 and that perhaps snacks or Spirit Wear could be sold there, as in the past, pretzels, water, and chips were available for purchase at this event. Mrs. Reid shared that Talent Show auditions had gone well, and some will get second auditions; all students will find out their status in the next week or so. They are trying to troubleshoot how participants will be able to watch their friends in the Talent Show, streaming to the library might be an option. There will be a teacher piece, and Mrs. Reid notes that they still need volunteers for this event. Mrs. Burke provided a Read Across America recap, which included donating cereal boxes to a local food pantry and socks to Shine and Inspire; the students liked the book bracket and had a lot of fun.

Principal’s Report: Mr. Bookholdt shared that the Strings Concert is next Tuesday, March 21, and report cards will be available on Wednesday, March 29. There will be a Parents Night at Reynolds for incoming sixth graders on Thursday, March 23. He stated that all enjoyed Read Across America Week and that the assembly was great.

Elaine Griffin shared that the NJPTA Convention will be in Monroe Township from Friday, April 21 – Sunday, April 23.

Kristine D’Ambrosio adjourned the meeting at 7:44 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Valerie Zieniuk, Recording Secretary.