



# Meeting Minutes

October 22, 2024

6:00 p.m.

## Attendance

Jenny Blair, Champayne Ricciardi, Ressa Tomkiewicz, Kim Colonna, McKenzie Ketchel, Stephanie Santiago, Danielle Fried, Taylor Wright, Jamie Sheehan, Kristin Large, Bethany Mitchell, Fabiola D'Ambrosio, Siobhan Dominy, Skylar G Slaubaugh, Megan Johnson, Mark Schlaudraff, Li Yeoh, Jennifer Teng, Tammy Massa, Imogene Reddick, Lauren Helm, Codie Bryant, Rachel Strength, Lamberto Pisani, Annemarie Gatlin, Melissa DeBruyne, Veronica Gelfand, Sara Hicks, Andrea Zimmerman, Lauren Brewer, Sabrina Waters, Michelle Garcia, Lindsay Granger, Gina Burnette

# Welcome – Ressa Tomkiewicz, President

Welcome our second PTO Meeting of the school year! We met back in August and have been busy, busy since then. It's hard to believe that it's already fall, and that school has been going and all of the activities and things, so I just really appreciate y'all being here and taking the time to come to these meetings. We have a lot of new things to share with you, recap some of our efforts so far this school year, tell you some dates and new fun things we have planned for y'all. So, I'm going to turn it over to our fabulous principals and let them provide some updates for us.

## Principal's Report – Jenny Blair

Alright, just a few things. Thank you guys for being here. I apologize I wasn't here the first meeting but we were being recognized at the school board meeting so that was a good thing. So thank you for being here. All the PTO, you guys did an amazing job at the Fall Festival. It was awesome! I had to come a bit late because my boys had a game but when I got here, I was pleasantly surprised. It was packed...but good packed, it wasn't too much. So thank you for all the time you put into it. When I was pulling out, Ressa was still moving hay bales and flowers and stuff. And she wouldn't let me help, so...I asked a couple times!

So, I can't believe the first nine weeks are over. It was long, and short at the same time. We had a really good first nine weeks. Most of the kids were really well behaved. We enjoyed it. Kids are having fun and teachers are into the swing of things, still exciting, I love going around to the classrooms and seeing all the good things that they do.

A couple things that I'm excited about, the new sign in the drop off area, it finally got here. Of course, when it got here and they were putting it up, I was busy and couldn't see it but I made sure to take bunches of pictures, so I hope you guys like that and the marquee that we're doing in the same brick to kinda give it a 2000-something vibe instead of a 1985 pink stucco vibe. It's looking really good, and it didn't cost a ton of money.

There's a lot of familiar faces in here that I see at lunch and around campus. We really appreciate it. I feel like I know everybody so well, thank you for all your help. In the lunchroom, I walk in and there are volunteers everywhere. It used to be, "Ms. Blair, Ms. Blair, can you open this? Can you open this ketchup?" You guys have it down pat, the kids are being good, so we truly appreciate it. And a lot of the people in this room are there a lot of times, many, many days.

**Ressa:** Emily Catena, I don't think she's here but she's the one that heads up the whole lunchroom volunteers, as well as Stephanie, she's been big on that, so I'm glad a lot of people in there.

Yeah, and it literally took one conversation with Ressa one day and I said, "Yeah, I heard there's another school that does that, it would be so helpful..." and boom she had a sign up and we haven't had to do a thing since. So thank you guys for that!

I wanted to let you guys know two things that we're pretty proud of. The night that I missed, we were recognized as being an "A" school for 5+ years in the state. If you're recognized as one of those schools, I think there were seven of us in Leon County, so I was really happy about that. And most recently, we were designated a "School of Excellence," which means we were in the top 85% of schools of the same grade levels in the entire state. So that was impressive, and you have to have two of the last three years, so I was very excited, that was a big thing. Kudos to our teachers or we definitely couldn't be there.

Last but not least is our new sensory room. It's about to open and PTO has helped with that, as well. It's for PK, K, 1, mainly for students with sensory needs and we have a lot of students who fit in that

category so I'm super excited, it's really nice. I think it's better than the other schools, I'm not competitive at all...(lots of laughter). Speaking of the other schools, there's only one school that was better than us, Hawk's Rise, and it was only by a point, but it's not going to happen again, I can guarantee that (more laughter).

Thank you guys for being here. I really appreciate it!

## **Assistant Principal's Report – Champayne Ricciardi**

Just real quick, PM 1 is done. Your children have done the first nine week assessments, baselines. Report cards come out October 30, so you just get it through FOCUS. You should get a push notification about that. Conferences for K and 1 are probably done, they should be done unless somebody just couldn't make it, K and 1 are done. The rest of the grades, they have the whole first semester, but K and 1, we get them in that first nine weeks. Everybody else, by the end of the second nine weeks.

If you hadn't noticed what has changed, behind Ressa, Mrs. Stemle has worked to turn that into more of a Book Nook, and you guys have really helped us with so many things and that's just another piece of all you guys have done but I just wanted to point that out because she has been amazing. She really crushed it. She loves her role, and we are so excited and happy. But that is it, I just wanted to point that out on her behalf because she couldn't be here tonight. She had surgery, so there you go. That is it for me.

## **Board Member Reports**

### **Co-Director of Fundraising – McKenzie Ketchel**

Yes, yes, the year is off to a fantastic start! We wrapped up Patron Program and for the first time in several years we hit our goal so that was really, really exciting. We raised \$19,966.64 and our expenses were just over \$3,000. With that, the class winners that had the highest participation for pre-k we had Leonard-Sale; for kindergarten, Colson; first grade, Sellers; second, Wescoat; third, Pennington; fourth, Garcia; and fifth, Large.

Highest class overall with 80 something percent of her class was Ms. Colson. So that was really exciting, and she got a gift card for that, and then Mrs. Wilson had the highest money raised and...yeah, Mrs. Wilson in fifth grade had the highest money raised out of the entire school so she got her shopping spree and the pizza party for her classroom, and we just delivered the pizza party and celebrated with them last Friday. The class was really excited, they kind of had a freebie day. They'd won some stuff in their class as well, so they had popcorn when I came in and then a pizza party, they were good to go last Friday.

All the classes that won for the highest participation got a cookie party and that was a big thanks to Fresh Market. They donated the cookies for all of that, so we really appreciate Fresh Market for those cookies and then also all the classes that received at least 30 percent participation got a pajama day. We had 30 classes that had at least 30 percent in their class. All of first grade and all of kindergarten had 30 percent so that was really exciting.

Just a couple other things, we had 42% of the school donate and become Patrons so that was a pretty high number, and we were excited about that. We had 237 families that were Patrons this year versus 185 last year so that was just over 50 more families that participated this year, so we thank you guys for that. We raised a little over \$2,000 more than last year so we really appreciate all of the homeroom

moms that pushed everything out, all the teachers that forwarded emails for us, and all the parents that participated. So, thank you guys.

The next fundraiser we just wrapped up was Coca-Cola. We had done this for the first time in the spring, so we decided to try it again this fall and we did even better than in the spring! We raised \$1,050 and we sold 123 cases and 50 families participated so that was also a very big success. Mrs. Pennington's class won the pizza party with the polar bear so the polar bear will be back to visit the classroom with pizza. So, very excited about that and we're going to do it again in the spring. It seems to be really good for sports so the fall sports and then again for the spring sports, so we'll do that again in spring.

Next up will be Holiday Giving, which Ressa will talk a little bit about, but yeah that sums it up for fundraising. We're off to a great start which allows us to really help with all the programs that we're able to put on. If anybody has any feedback on anything that we're doing fundraising-wise, I'm all ears, so come see me.

## Director of Finance – Ressa for Allison Hartsfield

So Allison is our Director of Finance but as y'all may know from last time you know she has left Killlearn Lakes because her oldest is now or I'm sorry her youngest is a sixth grader at Deer Lake and we begged her and begged her for one more year to keep our books so she gives me all these notes which is wonderful so that I can speak intelligently and act like I know what's going on with the budget so if you have any questions you can ask me but I'm going to forward them down and she'll be able to tell us. So, everyone got...there's budget copies here that we share at every PTO meeting and just a couple things to point out. Some of the expenses that we've had, we did do the deposit for the crosswalks so that's part of our campus enhancement budget. We're going to get the murals painted out front with the crosswalks. We've had two teacher allotments that come to \$400, and this is something I want to remind teachers that every single teacher does get \$200 to use in their classroom so please teachers, spread the word that you can submit it at any time this school year. Anything that you need up to \$200, we would love to deplete that. So please put in your requests and reimbursement forms for that, we've only had two so far so keep them coming. We also were able to provide some of the goodies for the 1st grade Spider Fest that came out to \$122 and then we restocked the snack closet for \$102. A few times a year we have snacks that we will stock in our snack closet for any students that need them that may not have a snack that day or whatnot to kind of help them out. Those are some of the expenses that came out since the last time we met and then a couple of funds from the Boosterthon last year including \$1,895 for our security system for the media center as well as \$278 for the sensory room and magnetic tiles for the 1st grade STEM bins.

And then some things that we've done to bring in income, in addition to our fundraisers \$332 from the open house shirts, \$375 from selling school supply boxes, and then Taylor over here has raised, surpassed her business partner goal with \$1,734 so far so far so that's a big help for our budget. And then \$341 dollars from our school store so lots of things going on all at once to make sure that the budget stays afloat and so that we can pay for all the programming and all the cool events that we have here.

## Director of Communications – Kim Colonna

Yes, so everyone should have a copy of this on the table and it is also available on our website...well it's not yet, but it will be as soon as we upload it, because I just...not I, sorry, I'm not calling out names...um somebody just finished them today so...!

We need to vote on the minutes from this meeting so if I could please have a first motion to approve the minutes? Taylor, thank you. Second motion, please? Thank you, Bethany. And I think that's all I needed.

## Business Partner Coordinator – Taylor Wright

Taylor: I just wanted to say that we have gained a couple of new business partners. We have Tallahassee Barber & Co. He's located up at Coosh's, next to Coosh's. He used to be a barber at Chopped on Kerry Forest, but he's reached out, Hisham, and opened his own spot. He's amazing with kids, phenomenal, he's a new business partner. I do not have the sign yet for Hot Worx, but they are the new little fitness thing that's coming up in the Publix parking lot, they are now going to be a new business partner. And from the fall festival, I've had Tallahassee Musical reach out to me, and they are interested in being a business partner so those funds will go up again. So, I'm still pushing, and I won't stop taking what I can get, and I won't stop asking because, like I said, all you can say is no and that doesn't hurt my feelings.

**Kim:** Annnnd you're never allowed to leave the PTO.

So that's just...I'm really excited for our partners and yeah it's just we've got a great group this year we've had to kind of start over we had a lot of old families leave and I get it, they want to support their middle schools, like, no hard feelings but yeah so I'm just proud of where we're at and hopefully we can just keep that money coming in so that we can fund whatever needs to be funded and keep this school...just...better than Hawk's Rise. (laughter)

## Volunteer Coordinator – Stephanie Santiago

Thank you all for being here. We've had a couple of movement just from the last meeting I wanted to just kind of get on the record. We've had two Volunteers of the Month and they're actually both here! So, Lauren Brewer was our Volunteer of the Month in September, she helped out tremendously the first week of school walking the little ones to class and in the lunchroom, as well. And then in October...well, some of them are here, the Gatlins, Annemarie and her husband John Michael, they also helped. They helped at picture day, they help in the lunchroom, they helped at open house...like you'll see them around, they're always here, so we recognize them for all their help, so thank you guys for your time.

We had volunteer orientation the first week of September and it was a pretty packed room there was about 25 of us in there so thank you for everyone that was there. We went over a very detailed list and dates of opportunities throughout the school year to help out and if anybody missed that flyer on that day, just send me an email or message or let me know and I'll jot your name down, I'll email that to you so that way you have that, particularly for those dates coming up in the spring. There's been two Remind groups set up, one for volunteers, that one has 79 members signed up. So, whenever I send a message, there's that many people that are hopefully getting them, and then one for room parents and there's 43 people in that one. Sometimes the same message goes out. Like today, it was like, come join us tonight...that went out to both of those groups but just so you get an idea of the information that's going out there. That allows us to send updates, allows communication back and forth, links for signups...and you can still join that if you're not in that Remind group, same thing. Just let me know before and I just need your name and your email, and I'll get you on there. For room parents, thank you for everyone who's signed up and stepped up to help out with that. We appreciate you guys; you guys are our megaphones to your classes. They were asked to check in, either at the last PTO meeting or at open house and many did. We've been asking them to forward as needed with their class parents, a couple of emails. Ressa already mentioned Emily Catena, she's heading up Lunch Bunch volunteers and she's done an excellent job putting that together. Whenever she tells me, "This week, we're kind of low" that's when I try to send that out again and Mrs. Ricciardi forwards that on ListServ as well so thank you. The front office every once in a while also reaches out when they need extra help because there's either testing or teachers might have training so there's a lot of substitutes that day, things like that. So, I try to get more volunteers to come in on those days.

Book fair volunteers were amazing. Mrs. Stemle was very, very thankful for all the help. Everyone came in and helped but (Hurricane) Helene sort of crashed our party there. But some feedback...she sort of ruined it...but some of the feedback was that there's a big morning rush from like, 8:00 to 8:30, it's like every kid wants stuff, and Lauren even told me like they all come up with like 10 items and they have \$7. So, we need a little bit more help in that first morning rush and then throughout the day it sort of gets slower, and Mrs. Tammy also said that as well, so we're gonna try to adjust that for the spring and we're hoping to get grandparents' weekend rescheduled around that spring book fair, as well.

Fall Festival volunteers was actually mostly through Chiles, through their NHS program and Ressa has that contact. So, I'm gonna try to reach out to them and get them on board because they're on Remind already through their classes and their teachers and kind of filter them some information that they can maybe help with. And Beta Club at Deerlake as well, trying to link up with those moderators and get those volunteers because we're looking forward to working with them again. They were very helpful this weekend for anybody that was there you saw so thank you.

## Old/New Business – Ressa Tomkiewicz

Very good, all right. Moving on to old business so unfortunately yes (Hurricane) Helene crashed our party in terms of Grandparents' Day, and we had to postpone it. The tentative dates for the spring will be April 11 and 14. That's the Friday and Monday, we are going to have a spring book fair and so it'll just kind of be part two. So, as that gets closer, obviously we'll share more information. We'll need volunteers again to kind of help run Grandparents' Day both in here (Media Center) at the book fair and then also outside while they're waiting to go have lunch with their grandchildren.

Fall Festival! I know we've talked a lot about it already, so I just want to run some quick numbers by you to show you just, kind of, how awesome of an event this is. I really do feel like this is the best fall festival in all of Leon County with elementary schools and we've definitely built it up over the years and each year it keeps getting bigger and better! We spent \$3,900 on it but raised...these are all approximate numbers...but we believe we raised \$4,500. So, our goal is just really to break even, which last year we didn't really, so that's awesome this year that we did. So that extra surplus will just go right back into the budget and truthfully probably help pay for teacher appreciation week, things like Friendsgiving, things that are coming up. Forty-five high school volunteers from NHS, and Anchor Club was another big one...my daughter is in that now and so I was just like, "We're gonna tap into all of you lovely ladies and have you come out and volunteer." We had 15 community partners come out, and some new ones that Danielle here actually secured, was Savvy on Fifth, they did the hair tinsel on all the little girls there, which was adorable, Tallahassee Music Academy, Platinum Dance Center, as well as Mathnasium came. So, we had Killearn Lakes Taekwondo and the bounce houses and Redemptive Love Farm which are huge hits, but I love seeing these new community partners coming out and support our school. We had eight carnival games and then four food vendors that day. All in all, probably about 800 people came through campus that afternoon between 12:00 and 3:00, so a really good turnout. We're very proud of the event. For next year we kind of toyed around with potentially shifting it to a Friday after school instead of a Saturday so we're actually going to be sending out a survey monkey shortly to get some feedback and see if that would be better for our parents because I know the weekends are super hard with travel and everyone's sports commitments and whatnot. It might be a little tricky with these community partners if they can still come and then timing with set up because we don't want to be out there when it's dark on a Friday night. So, things to be determined but that is going to come out your way because I know other schools do it on a Friday. I think ours is better than other schools but in essence...

**Taylor:** Reddick is here, and she and I were walking out on Friday after setting up and it's so funny that you said that because years ago because I've been here for centuries because I'm a dinosaur. It used to be it used to be on a Friday evening and Reddick reminded me of that. Every teacher had to go and do their own station whether they had a parent volunteer or

whether they did it themselves, but it was on a Friday evening, and we did have people and vendors come out and it was an awesome event and it was cooler and it was great. But I love that we're thinking about that because she and I just talked about that on Friday when I was leaving and I was like, "You're right, we did used to do it at nighttime, and it was great. It was successful and it was wonderful. The only thing on that would be us just having to move it up a tad bit earlier due to the time change. But yeah, I remember the first couple years that Anthony was here, the parents, the teachers, were involved in creating their own booths and then it was a huge turnout. It was great. We used to do it on the first and second grade playground.

Right. Yep! So, food for thought for next year. We're always looking to improve and make this more accessible and better for our families so we'll be sending out that survey on Listserv to get some feedback and think would Friday be a better date potentially than Saturday.

Alright, and then faculty snacks. Last Thursday we were able to treat our hard-working teachers to a delicious spread of snacks and desserts and all those things during their faculty meeting. Siobhan and Bethany helped lead that effort and so they set it up and got all the food donations, so thank you so much, ladies. It looked fantastic in those pictures you just showed. I know the teachers really appreciated that. Can't have a meeting without food! That being said, we should have food here.

Alright, new business. So, I want to talk about campus enhancement real quick, and the crosswalks. Stephanie, if you want to give a quick update?

**Stephanie:** Very quick, so it was already sort of mentioned but we do have an official date for the crosswalks, hopefully, if everything goes as planned. November 16 is when the muralists should be here that Saturday and painting them. Mr T., the art teacher, was super helpful. He had all the kids work on crosswalk ideas and I picked those up last week and they are very on brand. There's lots of leprechauns and rainbows and shamrocks and KLES. It was really, really cute to go through this huge pile of stuff from every grade. Annemarie actually helped me because she's sort of been my sidekick with this crosswalk deal, she and I went through and pulled out some that were a little bit different, some variety just so we could give that to the artists. They will hopefully be able to give us a sketch soon. Mr. T. also said to let him know because he has a drone that could take pictures of it so I was like, "That's cool, definitely!" So hopefully we'll get some of that and we can get a nice picture of them when they're done. Very exciting.

PTO did not fund this, but I just wanted to mention what administration has done. I did have it in my notes, the new fence cups, and the brick out on the marquee, and that big sign, those are details that help make our school look better and brighter. As I said to them, I'm very thankful for that. All that I feel like is included in campus enhancement whether it came from our Patron Program fundraising or school money that they've, that we've, helped make too, so thank you. Making it look nice! There's good things happening on the inside. We want to make her pretty and shiny on the outside, too.

**McKenzie:** And grass.

**Stephanie:** Oh my gosh, the grass and the mulch is a hit, especially with the dads. They're all like, "This looks so nice." The grass is a big thing, my husband noticed it immediately! I don't know what it is, man. They're all like, "Look at the mulch!" and I'm like, "Yeah, yeah!" but they all notice it!

Quick note on the silent auction that we had talked about at the August meeting. We were looking at hosting that at Ology in November but we've just decided as a group that we actually would like to postpone that until next year just because the planning that is involved in it... We did really well with the Patron Program and this Coca Cola fundraiser so we just want to make sure that we're executing what we're currently committed to. So silent auction is going to be postponed until next year. There will be, in the spring, going out, a call for volunteers to join a committee so that we can make this a really

successful and big event so stay tuned for that but we kind of thought it might be best to keep it for next year.

Friendsgiving, so that is going to be on November 22. It's right before we break for Thanksgiving. For those that are new or unfamiliar with it, it's kind of two-prong, where we gather a whole bunch of food donations, you know, casseroles, turkeys, desserts...and we treat the teachers and staff to a very quiet lunch without their students in the cafeteria, with like, tablecloths and flowers, and we make this whole nice spread. The first part is getting the food donations, so there will be a SignUpGenius going out in the next week or two requesting that. And then part two is, if they're having this lovely lunch, we need bodies here to supervise the kids during lunch, so we ask for about three or four parents per lunch to come and kind of supervise the kids because outside all the kids will gather in that grade with their blankets and have a nice Friendsgiving lunch with their friends, so, you know, it promotes friendship and all that good stuff before we leave for Thanksgiving. Information is gonna be coming out shortly on how you can volunteer for that, but I just want to put that on your radar because it's a really cool little event that we get to do in the fall.

And then the Holiday Giving...so we have partnered with Springwood Elementary, and I don't know if y'all are familiar with that but that is the Title I elementary school that's here in District Four, they have about 460 students and 68% of those families are economically disadvantaged. We've kind of, in previous years, adopted them as like, our sister school so to speak, and help them out as needed. We wanted to do a bigger effort this year in terms of the holidays and so we are going to be supporting some of the families here at KLES that could use help, as far as like toy drives and wish lists, but we're also going to loop in these Springwood families, so we're aiming for about two or three families per grade and we will get their full wish lists. These would be like clothes, you know, basic needs, as well as toy items for the kids at Springwood as well as their siblings, their parents sometimes, Publix gift cards, for example, and so all of that will be going out to y'all on November 18, it's when the wish lists go home. And then on December 9, the presents will all be due and then the week of the 16<sup>th</sup>, we'll distribute to our own families here as well as the Springwood families. So kind of a new little take on our holiday giving program. We've done a really great job year after year of taking care of our own families and we just are lucky that we have so many generous parents and such a strong, giving community here that we can take on some of these families at Springwood, as well.

And then the only other thing I wanted to mention real quick before we jump into these teacher reports, because I know that is probably the best part about these meetings, is the Veteran's Day sign up. It has gone out a couple times, but we will be sure to share it more in the next few weeks. For Veteran's Day, Mr. Eichenlaub and the school news would love to interview our veterans here. Parents, grandparents, coming in uniform or not, up to their discretion, and be interviewed for the school news so that we can do a virtual parade and air that on Veteran's Day. That's something that Mr. Eichenlaub thought would be a really great way to celebrate our veterans and we've got a few families that have signed up. We are definitely looking for a few more so keep a lookout for that. I think that's probably gonna go out to room parents soon, too, so we can help spread the word and get some more families signed up.

**Stephanie:** Do they have to be families of KLES or can it even be like, a neighbor or like a resident of Killearn Lakes?

I think just connected to the school in some way, in our community.

**Lauren:** I had a question about that. Can they send in something without having to come to the school?

Yes, I'm sure Mr. E. (Eichenlaub) can work that out. Yeah. Yeah, yeah, yeah. Okay, so that's it for my part. I want to turn it over the teachers and hear about all the awesome things going on in the classrooms!

# Teacher Reports

## Kindergarten – Imogene Reddick

Okay, I'm Imogene Reddick and I represent kindergarten and I'm probably the only grade level that has the *real* fun stuff going on. I mean, you know, learning is fun. Learning is fun. I believe your little darlings come to school thinking, "Oh, I'm gonna have some fun when I get there!" At least my little friends do! So, I noticed in the printout for the report for last the last time we met, "UFLI" is with a capital U, capital F, capital L, and capital I. That's our phonics program here at Killlearn Lakes, all grade levels. You said, I think, primary specifically. We have covered, check this out, since school started, 15 letters and sounds...now it sounds like a little but that's a lot! In kindergarten, remember kindergarten? We've covered 12 sight words; we have introduced nouns, adjectives, verbs, and rhyming words. Of course, you know this is ongoing. We have a reading program called Savvas where we get our comprehension part of our reading program. We have covered "Going Places," that was in the little printout of what we've done, that's unit one. We've done unit two and three; unit two was "What the Living Things Need," and unit three, where we are currently, "Tell Me a Story." This is about why we like to read, why do we like books. In math, we've counted all the way through 10. We've done numbers 1 through 10, and now this week we're starting with building on from 10 to 15. That's what we'll do this week. We've used the number line with one less and one greater, yes that one takes some time. So moms, kindergarten moms (I have two here by the way)...pick a number on that number line. What number is one less, what number is one greater? In science we've covered Apple Exploration Unit. I don't know if I got to mention that. I didn't see it in the report. Boy oh boy, that was the best thing ever! They got to identify the parts of an apple: the flesh, the cord, the stem...and we got to build one, we got to dig for seeds, they got...the culminating event was to sample apple tasting items. It was just awesome. We got a pumpkin one coming up now. Friday, the same day as our parade, our book character parade. So, we got a full day next week. We've done and we're currently doing nocturnal animals, and for social studies, we're doing American symbols. Of course, Veteran's Day, we have a Scholastic magazine that we use, and it has some cool...I mean, the magazines just cover all the social study subjects that we're doing. So, by Veteran's Day, voting. And we talked about what makes America, or the USA, special. We are planning a trip for November 15 to Aunt Louise's Farm. I'm not sure about that one but I'm excited. I'm not firing them up yet because that'll be rough. "Can I go, can I go??" (laughter) I wanted to share a couple of art projects we've done. This one was nocturnal animals and again, Scholastic is our go-to. They built the owl, and they told me a fact about this nocturnal creature, warming them up for Halloween. Well, it's not Halloween it's the fall. Five little pumpkins sight word fun, the candy corn sight word, and part of the nocturnal animals were spiders...going up the spout, rain washed them out, and the sight word "the," they found that one kind of funny because "the" was all they got to write. And sequencing events and stories, this one was "Room on the Broom" and they had to sequence where the creatures got on the broom first. I just think, like I said, kindergarten is the best grade ever! (laughter)

## 1<sup>st</sup> Grade – Michelle Garcia for Lisa McCaffrey

Well, I am not Mrs. McCaffrey. I am Mrs. Garcia. (laughter) She couldn't be here tonight, so I am gonna give you the first grade report. First of all, thank you to the PTO for purchasing the items for the Spider Fest, that is coming up on October 30. They're going to finish their study of spiders and that's always a fun day. I think they do a lot of rotating among the classes and make a lot of crafts and learn a lot of things. It's always a fun day in first grade! First grade is also working hard on phonics and many other reading skills. In math, they have started subtraction, which kind of goes with what Mrs. Reddick was saying, going backwards a little bit. They're just having a great time in first grade! So, if you have any questions, see the real Mrs. McCaffrey. (laughter)

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade – Danielle Guerrero

I'm Danielle Guerrero, second grade. In English/language arts, we're going into those more complex skills and the students are doing great, they're rocking it. We've been working on a lot of narrative writing, looking at text structures and text features. We just did our contraction surgery, which was *really* fun. In math, we looked at all of the different strategies for basic addition and subtraction, then we went into equal groups. And today we started chapter five, two-digit addition, so they're really excited about that. In social studies, we looked at our civics and government, and when we celebrated Freedom Week, and Hispanic Heritage Month, and looked at many, many different people. In science, we are doing our plant and animal basic needs and environment. We did safari day. Safari day was really fun, they had...it was a day where they were classifying different animals. We began our animal habitat research project, which all the students are really, really, really excited about. I did bring an example; they will present them this Friday. So here is one of our examples of our animal habitat research project. That's it for second.

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade – Skylar Slaubaugh

Hi, I'm Skylar Slaubaugh, representing third grade. In third grade, we have completed the first two units of Savvas, and we completed our first novel study this nine weeks, which was "Judy Moody." We have now just started our second novel study today, which is "Charlotte's Web," and it's really fun because the day after Halloween, we get to watch the movie for Charlotte's Web, so it'll be a nice relaxing day for them. (laughter) In social studies, we've been learning about geography, and learning the different continents, oceans how to read a map and different types of maps that we have. In math and science, they jumped into multiplication today for math and then they just finished a lesson on building and engineering for science, which was really fun, and now they're starting on animal and plants, which is perfect timing because November 21, we get to visit the Jacksonville Zoo. They get to learn all about the plants and animals now and get to apply that knowledge at the zoo! But yeah, that's it for third grade.

### 4<sup>th</sup> Grade – Michelle Garcia

And I'm back! I'm Mrs. Garcia now. (laughter) I teach fourth grade; I teach math and social studies. And let me start off by saying we just had our first field trip...were we the first of the whole school to go on a field trip? I think so, and it was to Mission San Luis right here in Tallahassee. I had so many parents say, "I had no idea it was here!" So, it's a great place to visit if your family and friends are in. And it was a beautiful day. It was the first day in like, two or three years that we went that we didn't have to reschedule due to torrential storms. So, we were very excited, it was beautiful, the kids were great, I think they enjoyed it and they learned a lot. Two of my best chaperones, where's Kim? They were here, and Andrea, they were awesome chaperones. So, we had a great day with that, so we've been learning about the native American tribes that live in Florida for social studies, and we'll be studying the whole history of Florida as we continue the year. We are in the process of meeting with all of the families for conferences, so that takes a minute, but we've really enjoyed sitting down with the parents and getting to know them better and just sharing what their child's been doing in class. Fourth grade just finished the PM1, progress monitoring test, for writing. Fourth grade they do get to take a writing test where they have to read three to four articles and they're all on the same thing, like, I think this one was on why sleep is important, which I could fill that up, but anyway! So, they read all the articles and then they have to answer a question by like citing the different things in the articles. This was their first time doing it and I know the language arts teachers are going to be working really hard to get them ready to show what they know as the year progresses. And math, we're starting...getting ready to start long division, and that's always a party! But things are going great in fourth grade, and I am done for the night, you don't have to see me again. (laughter)

### 5<sup>th</sup> Grade – Kristin Large for Amy Crow

Hi, I'm Mrs. Large and I'm here representing fifth grade team for Ms. Crow, who is not here tonight. Fifth grade just wrapped up their traditional 4-H Tropicana speech writing. Each homeroom will send two representatives to the stage on November 6, so we'll have 10 finalists on the stage competing for one spot at the county. We are buzzing into the spelling bee next and so classes will do their spelling bee test tomorrow and then we will host a spelling bee for those winners. From all the homerooms, they have to score 80 or higher on the written part and then we'll take all of those winners to the stage on November 21. We just wrapped up poetry and that is language arts news. In social studies, we have just finished unit two, "Why the Europeans Came to the Americas," and are moving into the 13 colonies. In math, they are moving into multiplying decimals for chapter 6 and families, continue practicing multiplication facts at home, say the math teachers. Then in science, they are moving into their unit of force and motion. We are taking our very first field trip of the year in December. Actually, we'll have two in December! We'll visit the symphony downtown at Ruby Diamond Auditorium on December 13, and then on December 17, we're going to go back in time to the days of pioneers and visit Agrirama up in Tifton, Georgia, on December 17. Thank you.

## Open Forum/Q&A – Ressa Tomkiewicz

No questions were asked.

## Meeting Adjourned

6:45 p.m.



Next meeting: Tuesday, January 21, 2025  
6:00 p.m. in the Media Center