

## PTA GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, October 11, 2017 at 9:45 AM

### Meeting Open and Welcome Remarks

Meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance at 9:58 AM

Sheila Grauling opened the meeting, welcomed everyone

Motion to approve the meeting minutes from the September meeting. Minutes approved by Lisa Brzezinski and seconded by Dawn Mollica

### Teacher's Report

Mrs. Landman (Grades K-3)

- Welcomed everyone. It's October, I can't believe it! Everyone is excited about reading and writing.
- Started the new science program yesterday
- Next week Kindergarten has the "pumpkin patch" and they are really looking forward to it
- Everyone is excited for Halloween

### Principal's Report

Mrs. Dano

- Thank you for the Back to School BBQ. Phenomenal event - thank you to the parents, volunteers, and FF staff that supported the event
- Diana Hanraandts, Asst. to Superintendent for Instructional Support, will host seminars to explain and review the new report cards and grading system.

Q: Sheila Grauling asked if the grading scale is set in stone?

A: Mrs. Dano replied, yes, as of now. They have been meeting and discussing for over a year.

They are not looking for the children to master everything, but they need to understand the concept. The report cards are set up to see for example, what is a 3rd grader expected to learn, not necessarily master.

It is based on a 4 point scale.

Q: Sheila Grauling asked if they/we will get an actual grade number as well?

A: Mrs. Dano said, yes; they will still be getting a number grade as well.

After parent conferences with Mrs. Hanraandts then Mrs. Dano will go through in detail the new system. Mrs. Landman pointed out that each topic/subject will have subtopics and then an overall number. Mrs. Dano said she will have a brief presentation at the next meeting.

Mrs. Landman thanked everyone again for the Back to School BBQ, great showing

Mrs. Dano pointed out that she rolled in the lost and found rack; please take a look for any of your child's items

### Treasurer's Report

Kathleen Romano

- Opening balance as of 9/1/17 was \$18,454.17
- Activity included:
  - Paint Night line item from last school year
  - Back to School BBQ
  - Five Below Fundraiser money from last school year

- Spirit Wear sales from Back to School BBQ
- Sue Foran will verify the report
- Closing balance as of 9/30/17 is \$36,297

#### Corresponding Secretary

Sheila Grauling presented in Ilisa Polansky's absence  
Thank you letter from Fairfield Staff for the Back to School BBQ.

#### Plans of Work

##### Spelling Bee

Chairperson: Ilene Hellman

- Still have to confirm dates
- Permission slips will be distributed
- We will need volunteers
- Motion to approve Randi Jankowski and seconded by Michelle Carroll

##### Holiday Fair

Chairpersons: Allison DeLuccia and Kerri Kubat

- Dates: November 27 - November 30
- Working with Little Treasures again
- Setup date: 11/27
- Need volunteers for set-up day, and all week during the fair to help the children
- We will be reaching out to Class Parents to get volunteers for their classes, especially for the younger grades, as it can be overwhelming to the younger children
- The fair will take place on Tuesday, 11/28, which is a full day, and then during the ½ days for the rest of the week

Q: Alisha Grimm: How much should we send in for the children to spend?

A: The price range for gifts is \$1 - \$10. They will receive envelopes and you can write a list of people they will need to buy for, and most children also look to buy things for themselves. Approximately \$5 per person

Q: Donna Scheuer: Can you volunteer for other classes if your child gets emotional seeing their parent?

A: Yes, we welcome as much help as we can get. Parents restock and reload in between classes shopping.

Motion to approve Randi Jankowski and seconded by Stephanie O'Hara

#### President's Report

Sheila Grauling

- PTA membership is currently at 267 members
- Back to School BBQ was a huge success thanks to Kelly Rowland and Tina McClenahan and the many volunteers
- Picture Day went very smoothly thanks to Jaime Stanton and Dawn Mollica and volunteers. Picture retake day is November 21. Club pictures will take place on 11/21 also. There will be a new photo form for the children who missed picture day.
- Student Directory is being compiled and should go home in a few weeks
- Halloween Dance is October 27th, 6:30-8:30 pm. Response date is Friday, October 13
- Spirit Wear sales ends Friday, October 13
- Cirque du Jour begins on October 30. We are looking for volunteers for the 5th grade performance on Friday, November 3 at Berner

## BOE Report

Marie Festa

Presenting meeting notes from 2 meetings 9/14 and 9/28

- **September 14 meeting**
  - Our new Board of Ed member Brian Butler was absent
  - Marie Velte, who was a Physical Education teacher at Berner Middle School, was promoted to Assistant Principal at East Lake
  - Yvonne Knott is the new Director of Information Management
  - Dr. David Gaines, Curriculum Associate for Music, will be retiring on 6/30/18
  - There are 6,890 students in the MSD
  - An overview was given of the beginning of the school year by Thomas McKillop, Principal at East Lake, representing all 6 elementary schools and Jason Esposito, Principal of Berner Middle School and Jordan McCaw, Principal of Ames representing grades 9-12
  - It was explained that grades 3-5 will have Chromebooks for all students
  - Superintendent Lucille Iconis spoke about the opening of school
  - Resolutions were approved and consultants were hired for Adult Education, Special Education, the Twilight Evening Alternate High School Program, etc.
  - There was information and discussion on the possibility of an Aquatic Center at Berner Middle School. Operating expenses could be \$293,924 plus cost of building the center
- **September 28 meeting**
  - Our new Board of Ed member Brian Butler was absent again
  - Massapequa High School was recognized as a Blue Ribbon School, one of 5 on Long Island
  - There was a proposed Capital Improvements, a \$51,500,000 on a 15 year bond. Voting will be on January 30, 2018
  - We had 3.57 million Bond Issue in 2014 that was not paid off as of yet
  - The current Bond Issue would include upgrades to all elementary classrooms (though not all bathrooms), field renovations at Berner, air conditioning in buildings, etc. Entire project was not made clear.

Q: Kathleen Romano asked if the upgrades are an "all or nothing" type vote?

A: Bill Selvaggi answered by saying that BOE President, Tim Taylor said they were looking at breaking it out

## SEPTA

Marie Festa

Next meeting 11/15

## Additional Questions/Comments

### Windows

Q: Lisa Brzezinski asked Mrs. Dano about the status of the windows.

A: Mrs. Dano said that she thought the project was going to start sooner, but plan is to start last winter/early spring after school hours. Window measurements are done.

Q: Marie Festa mentioned that the auditorium is a beautiful room and asked if the plan was to keep the same look?

A: Mrs. Dano said, yes, she picked them herself.

Q: Marie Festa asked if the window would open from the top, as it seems safer?

A: Mrs. Dano said they would be similar to what we have now, as they are heavy and need to open from the bottom for exiting. Mrs. Dano explained that there are several regulations to follow.

Q: Lisa Brzezinski asked if they plan to refill the panels on the top that you see from the outside of the school?

A: Mrs. Dano explained that we will still have the panels because that is wall space on the inside of the classroom.

#### **Drop & Go/Pick-up**

- Kathleen Romano mentioned that parents are parking on Prospect during drop & go.
- Mrs. Gerhard said she spoke with parents today.
- Others mentioned that parents getting out of cars in the drop and go lane each day to drop. Same people each day.
- Mrs. Gerhard said she will speak with security guards
- Lisa Brzezinski also mentioned that parents are pulling into the parking lot during pick-up and then exiting the wrong way where the crossing guard is on Prospect. There is not a chain up.
- Mrs. Dano explained that there should be the chain, and it is a "Staff Only" parking lot, but staff is also leaving during that time so the chain may be down. She said she will look into it.

#### **Additional Business**

Sheila Grauling made a motion to approve our by-laws

Approved by Randi Jankowski and seconded by Sue Foran

Next PTA Meeting is 11/8 at 7PM

Meeting concluded at 10:30AM

#### **Meeting Attendees**

Randi Jankowski, Allison DeLuccia, Olympia Matthews, Colleen Amaya, Lisa Mildeberger, Billy Mildeberger, Melisa Byrns, Michelle Carroll, Stephanie O'Hara, Nafini Hayes, Dawn Mollica, Lori Dorsi, Laura Lucchi, Kim Mueller, Julia Santiago, Alisha Grimm, Patti Parente, Eileen Curran, Donna Scheuer, Jenny Isaacs, Marie Festa, Tara Ferrara, Patricia Despagni, Nicole Young, Ilene Hellman, Merry Chin, Agnieszka Sulawa, Lisa Brzezinski, Kerri Kubat, Sue Foran, Kathleen Romano, Tatum Salembier, Sheila Grauling, Mrs. Landman, Mrs. Gerhard and Mrs. Dano