

BIRCH LANE PTA

Executive/ General Board Meeting Minutes

Date: September 14, 2018

Kristine Magnifico, Presiding President

Quorum/Present

- Meeting called to order at 9:45 am with Pledge

Attendance: *See attached sheet*

Pledge

President's Report: Kristine Magnifico

Introduced Executive Board

Introduced Mr. Aspetti and Mrs. Larkin and teacher representatives Miss Signorile and Mrs. Marin

Thank you to the School Supply Committee (Katie Beleckas) and Preschool Committee (Crissy Mullooly and Tara Fay) for the Boo Hoo Breakfast and Kindergarten signs. Thank you also to Jen Rose for helping with the Boo Hoo Breakfast.

Thank you to Membership Committee: Jennifer Rose

Thank you to Twig Committee: Karen Stealy

Thank you to Hospitality Committee: Amy MacLeod, and thank you Jodi Ricardo and Heather Callahan for helping with the Staff Luncheon on the first day of school

Thank you to Tracy Lowrey for the Bulletin Boards

Vice President's Report: Crissy Mullooly

- No report

2nd Vice President: Linda Venuto

- No report

Correspondence: Katie Beleckas

- Thank You Cards from the first, second, fourth, and fifth grade teachers for the staff luncheon on the first day of school

Recording secretary: Tara Fay

- No report

Treasurer's report: Amy MacLeod

- As of June 30, 2018, we closed our books for the 2017-2018 school year with a balance of \$9556.10.
- As of today, September 14, 2018, there's a balance of \$10,026.97 in the account

Audit Report: Committee Amy MacLeod, Jennifer Horigan, and Melissa Belfiore

- An audit on the 2017-2018 books was performed on August 14, 2018 and found the books to be in good standing. Thank you to the Audit Committee.

Voted on the budget that was presented: all in favor; budget approved

Grade Level Reports: *Presented by Teacher Representatives Miss Signorile and Mrs. Marin*

Miss Signorile:

Staff and students are happy to be back at school

Students learning classroom rules and routines

Talking about ways of being an Upstander after reading the book "Believe"

Continuing the theme of Kindness

Kindergarten:

Practicing writing their names and standing on line

Starting Foundations, making letters and learning corresponding sounds

Listening to stories about being in a classroom

Will soon begin a unit on apples

Math: writing numbers 1-10

1st Grade:

Learning rules and responsibilities of the classroom

Launching reading workshop

Listening to back to school books: "We're All Wonders", "The Energy Bus"

Writer's workshop

Math: About Me unit, students answer questions with numbers (how many teeth have you lost, etc.)

2nd Grade:

Launching reading and writing workshops (what they look like, what's expected)

Taking surveys about how they feel about reading/writing

Listening to texts and applying skills

Learning the difference between fiction/nonfiction books

Completed projects on post cards about their favorite memory of summer vacation

Math: sums and differences to 100, making a 10 and decomposing numbers

3rd Grade:

Learning to multiply using models and arrays

Learning to be upstanders, learning about good citizenship

Learning to navigate their surroundings

Reading different genres

4th Grade:

Reviewing basic place value concepts

Learning about world geography

The upcoming geography unit will be about New York

Students are getting to know each other, learning expectations about this school year

5th Grade:

Children are excited about being the oldest in the building, modeling good behavior and being upstanders

ELA: reviewing writers/readers workshop

Science: beginning unit on matter

Excited to have FLES foreign language program

Membership Committee Report: Chair Jennifer Rose

Implemented the Member Hub site this year

So far, 171 families and/or staff have signed up online

Still about 32 more memberships to process

Needs to be reconciled with the class list

Total membership is currently 230

Septa Report: Amanda Varelakis (read by Kristine Magnifico)

- The first SEPTA meeting has been changed to Tuesday, October 2nd, at 7:00 pm at the McKenna Senior Center. The guest speaker will be Jordan McCaw, Executive Director for Pupil Personnel Services
- Join Septa on October 19th from 6:00-8:00pm at the Ames Cafeteria, for a “Beary” Special Halloween party where children will be able to eat, dance, and make their own Halloween bear!
- Septa will be selling reusable Massapequa tote bags at Back to School night. The price is \$5.00 for one bag or \$20.00 for 5 bags (while supplies last)
- To become a SEPTA member, visit the website at www.massapequasepta.com or see Amanda Varelakis or Angela Grisanzio at Back to School night!

Reports from Administration: Mr. Aspetti

- School year is off to a great start! Everything has been running smoothly, arrival/dismissal, bussing, etc.
- Kindergarten has had a wonderful start to the school year
- We’re always looking for new themes to bring into our school; this year the focus is on making kind choices and being “Upstanders” – talking about ways that our students can be upstanders and giving them strategies to be kind
- Purchased the book “One” by Kathryn Otoshi for every classroom; the teachers are reading the book with the students and will work on a follow up project to be displayed on our bulletin boards
- We want to thank the PTA for all of their help in preparation for the school year
- Kindergarten Play Date had a nice turnout (about 40 students) and had a wonderful hour of interacting with and meeting new friends
- Thank you for the Kindergarten Signs!
- Thank you for the Boo Hoo Breakfast! It’s a great start for our incoming kindergarten parents
- Thank you Mrs. Lowrey for the bulletin boards and coming in over the summer to do them
- Thank you Mrs. Mullooly and the Scholastic Book Fair: we earned over \$14,000 in Scholastic Dollars
- Thank you to the PTA for the luncheon on the first day of school, it’s a treat for our staff
- We’re looking forward to a really great year!

Mrs. Larkin:

- Working on Arts and Ed program: would like to thank Mrs. Fisher. The PTA brought in an event for each grade level
- In addition, trying something new called the “Blue Project” , an anti bullying assembly in October

Questions for Mr. Aspetti:

Timing for Kindergarteners to eat lunch:

Adults are in the lunchroom to help students open up their packages, waters, etc.

Looking for ways to make it more efficient.

Modified the lunch schedule this year: everyone eats lunch first (20 minutes) and then goes out for recess (20 minutes); hoping this helps with them getting down here on time and having enough time to eat.

If you have a specific need for your child (e.g., not more than 1 snack) write a letter to the school.

Turn-around time for Meeting Minutes:

A question was asked about the timing of when meeting minutes are sent to the parents via email. The parent asked if the minutes could be emailed sooner. Minutes are not updates about the PTA meetings; they are emailed to the parents to see if there are any corrections so that they can become official PTA minutes.

Mr. Aspetti discussed the schedule for Back to School night and time slots for each grade/special area teachers. He also discussed the Halloween Parade on October 31st at 9:45 am and procedure for parents who will be dropping off items for class parties (dropping off once all children are back in the building) and/or chaperoning class parties. There will be a list with parents' names at the front desk.

Upcoming Events:

- September 17th-October 1st Kid Stuff Books for sale
- September 19th School Closed for Yom Kippur
- September 20th Plant Sale order forms due
- September 20th Back to School Night
- September 21st Back to School BBQ, 4-6pm, Birch Lane Field
- September 27th BOE Meeting @8pm at MHS Board Room
- September 28th Back to School BBQ rain date, 4-6pm, Birch Lane Field
- September 19th October 3rd Spirit Wear for sale
- October 2nd First Day of School Store
- October 9th School Closed for Columbus Day
- October 11th BOE Meeting @ 8pm, MHS Board Room
- October 12th PTA General Meeting- Breakfast with the principal, 9:45am
- October 16th & 17th Picture Day
- October 31st Halloween Parade, 9:45am
- November 7th Fall Fundraiser/Wreath Making Night

Fall Fundraiser at the Massapequa Elks Club on November 7th: Make a holiday initial wreath Will have cheese plates for sale. Details will be finalized over the next few weeks and a flyer will be going home.

Please let us know if you're interested in joining any of our committees

Please reach out to us directly via our emails/telephone numbers

School Supply Kits: There was an error with the 4th grade folders, replacement folders were distributed yesterday to whomever purchased a kit.

Meeting Ended at 10:37 am