

BIRCH LANE PTA

Executive/General Board Meeting Minutes

Date: April 15th, 2019

Kristine Magnifico, Presiding President

Quorum/Present

- Meeting called to order at 6:45Pm with Pledge

Attendance: *On a separate sheet*

Pledge

Budget Presentation - Mr. Adcock

Budget for next school year

Bond we're proposing

Budget is in good shape. It's a challenge to stay within that 2% cap but it maintains our programs. New Math program in the elementary schools. Committee of teachers/administrators that looked at the published math programs that are out there (for a year). Next year we will be going to a program called "Ready Math" published by Curriculum Associates. We feel good about this because it's rated #1 by EdWeek and it follows along with the language we've been using. There's a lot of hands on activities and children will continue to show success and growth.

In Special Education Department, we're adding two therapeutic classes, primary and intermediate, housed here at Birch Lane. This is for students who have challenging behaviors but are cognitively intact. Birch Lane will house them for the district. IN the area of Special Ed we have a position for a transition coordinator, someone who works with our special education population. These are students who have difficulty transitioning into society, we typically educate them until age 21.

Armed Guards: last year the Board voted on including the armed guards after the budget vote, so those funds needed to be taken out of reserves. We've added one armed guard to each of our locations, the larger schools Berner and MHS have two.

Ready Math starting K-5 because it's very similar in many ways to our program. It has a lot of resources and supports but the language is very similar to what we already have.

Mr. Adcock:

Continue to provide all programs and services:**

Elementary Enhancements:

Science Program K-5/new math program/mobile technology

Foreign language/K-art, music, library/Makers Space

Secondary enhancements:

Advanced Placement Course Offerings/Capstone/Studio Art

Partnership with Hofstra university/engineering/LIHSA/Arts

Security Enhancements:

Comprehensive district wide security/threat assessment – 2007

All security guards trained law enforcement professionals

Dedicated security guards in each school building

Student and staff ID cards/entry vestibules/emergency planning

24 hour monitored video surveillance/communication systems

new classroom doors and hardware/practice drills/training

armed security guards

Budget is not the only thing you're going to be voting on on May 21st, 3 other things

1. Bond Issue: capital improvements we're recommending

-made up of existing projects and new projects

-NYS Education Department delayed approving our 2014 Capital Improvement Project plans and specifications. In that time the cost of the projects increased.

East Lake school-K canopy/air handler units/masonry \$250,000

Fairfield: hot water loop/kitchen finishes \$250,000

McKenna- General Electric/air handlers/site work \$675,000

Ames- Air Handler Units/interior finishes/flooring \$885,000

MHS network operating center/generator \$675,000

Total Estimated Cost: remaining 2014 projects \$2,735,000

New Capital improvement projects

MHS Auditorium Renovations: \$1,096,928

MHS Life Skills Classroom Renovations \$158,876

MHS Athletic Field Comfort Stations \$309,287

MHS Spillway Reconstruction \$185,000

Berner MS Auditorium Renovations \$548,930

Berner MS Music Suite Renovations \$1,135,938

Ames Exterior Entrance Renovations \$429,747

McKenna Foundation Repairs \$175,805

Payroll and Benefits Office Re-Purposing (provide confidential space) \$378,918

Total Estimated Cost-new projects \$4,419,429

Total projected cost: \$7,154,429

With community approval, NYS will pay 53.3% of approved project cost and the community pays 46.7% of the cost. If the community does not approve the projects, foundation repairs, spillway reconstruction, creation of confidential payroll, benefits and accounts payable office space, etc. will still need to occur, however community residents will pay 100% of the project costs as they will not be eligible for NYS building aid without community approval.

2. Two board seats open out of 5 member board

3. To raise the size of the BOE from 5 trustees to 7 trustees

If the community decides they want to raise from 5-7 trustees, there will be another election within the first two weeks of July to vote. Whoever gets the most number of votes will be installed immediately.

Question asked: Is there any discussion of MHS not being an open campus? Mrs. Iconis said it's always been a conversation, but there are no plans in the future for it not to be made open campus. We don't really have the facilities for lunch to have everyone stay in for lunch, but it's probably feasible. It was recommended to email the BOE with any concerns.

What's the status of the air conditioning in the schools?

Swing Space: (listen to this on recorder)

Classroom renovations this summer and bathroom renovations ...

We see this as a 3-year project for classroom renovations. The work in this building will start this summer.

The upper practice field at Berner is almost completed.

Everything is moving along, there's a tremendous amount of support from this community.

MHS bathrooms almost done.

Projected to begin summer 2020

President's Report: *Kristine Magnifico*

Thank you:

Boys Bowling - Jill Logan
Spring Fundraiser - Jennifer Rose
Box Tops – Theresa McKeever
Bulletin Boards – Tracey Lowery

Treasurer Report – *Amy MacLeod*

- As of March 12, 2019, there was a balance of \$11,150.82 in the account
- As of today, April 15th, 2019, there's a balance of \$23,529.57 in the account. Spring Fundraiser made a little over \$6000. We've also been direct depositing ticket sales for Little Ladies Dance and Bircho to pay for the events.

Future expenses:

Arts in Ed approximately \$12,000
Field Day approximately \$4000
Scholarships approximately \$2500

Spring Fundraiser - Kristine Magnifico

Correspondences - Katie Beleckas

- No report

Vice President's Report: Crissy Mullooly

- No report

2nd Vice President: Linda Venuto

- No report

Recording secretary: Tara Fay

- No report

Boys Bowling Bash - Jill Logan

Was on Saturday, March 30th

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

Miss Signorile:

Kindergarten:

Reading: finishing up their nonfiction unit and moving on to different nonfiction poetry

Writing finishing up how to books

Math working with teen numbers and number bonds

Science life cycles of plants and animals,

Earth day in spring in the area of social studies

Getting ready for field trip to library

1st Grade

reading poetry and identifying similarities/differences

writing learning difference between realistic fiction and fantasy

math working in geometry on the attributes of shapes

telling time to the hour and half hour

social studies learning about themselves and where they live on the map compared to others as well as community helpers

field trip on May 28th to the Bellmore Playhouse to see frog and toad

2nd Grade:

finished up nonfiction unit and moving onto ?? unit

publishing their own nonfiction books

concentrating on persuasive letter writing using mentor texts to try and understand POV

math: working on addition and subtraction using number bonds and tape diagrams

science unit changes to the earth's surface

enrichment sessions are aligned to what they're doing on science (using sugar cubes to demonstrate weathering, using skittles and water to learn about erosion)

Mrs. Marin:

3rd Grade:

finishing up literary essay unit

science now studying weather working on variety of weather projects

gathering data and graphs in math

in social studies studying Mexico (geography, lives of people that live there)

4th Grade:

social studies learning about the American Revolution

science learning about different

5th Grade

working on exploring space in science

social studies studying countries that declared independence

ela fully immersed in writing their literary essays

BOE Report – Eileen Tuminello

- We were named _____ for 12th year in a row

The Disney Trip was a big success for the music department

59% refusal for grades 3-5

69% refusal rate when calculated...

All on the district's YouTube channel

Smart Boards are 10 years old so they're reviewing those

This year's fifth graders are the first group who has gone through all three years in the foreign language program to select their language for Berner.

One thing that came up was moving the 9th grade to the MHS. They had a bump in kindergarten enrollment for the first time in years

All of the presentations are on the YouTube channel

SEPTA Report - Amanda Varelakis

We had our last SEPTA meeting for the year last Tuesday

Skye Burke was our presenter she has dyslexia and dysgraphia, she's also an author who has written a book called "I am Just Me". Very inspirational 17 year old child making a difference in the world.

Saturday May 4th having our second annual bicycle clinic from 10am-1pm in the Berner parking lot. It's a free event for all children of Massapequa Septa members. Bring your own bike with training wheels off.

Friday May 10th annual spring fundraiser at Massapequa Bowl

April is Autism Awareness month. MSD came together and decided they're going to make it all abilities awareness month and have been selling bracelets that say "include" on them, \$10 a bracelet.

Massapequa tote bags are still on sale

Council Report – Kristine Magnifico

PTA Board Nominations for 2019-2020 - Gina Scarola and Katie Beleckas

Presented the slate:

President: Kristine Magnifico
1st Vice President: Linda Venuto
VP Ways and Means: Tara Fay
Treasurer: Amy MacLeod
Recording Secretary: Eileen Tuminello
Corresponding Secretary: Heather Callahan

All approved in favor of the Slate.

Reports from Administration: *Mr. Aspetti*

Plant Sale flyers are going home when we get back from Spring Break

Volunteers will be notified Monday May 6th if they were chosen to volunteer

We raised \$8758 for Pennies for Patients, most of it was change. We don't have our ranking yet but once we have that information we'll share it with you. We increased by a few thousand dollars from last year.

We have spring parties coming up this Wednesday and Thursday. If you did volunteer to chaperone you'll be hearing from the classroom teacher or class parent.

Advanced Concert 4/17 at MHS at 7pm

The Mural Club has been showcasing their work on the glass blocks in the lobby

Math assessment coming up May 1st and May 2nd. Please get your refusal letters in before that day.

ELA testing is finished.

4th grade Science Test: written assessment on June 3rd and performance piece is 5/22 and 5/23.

Light it up Blue on 4/30 we're inviting all of our students to wear blue and we'll be presenting them with a check with the money that's been collected for that as well.

We won the Bednar Cup for the Color Run! As soon as we get the cup we'll take a picture and tweet it out to the community.

Charlotte's Web for Grade 2 coming up on May 30th for Arts in Ed.

Question(s) Asked:

What time is graduation for 5th grade? June 21st, 10 am start time. Students are asked to come at 9:30am. We'll send out a letter with more information.

Upcoming Events:

- April 17th Birch Lane Advanced Concert
- April 18th Board of Ed Meeting at 8pm
- April 19th School Closed for Good Friday/Passover
- April 22nd-26th Spring Break
- May 1st and 2nd Math Assessment
- May 2nd BIRCHO
- May 9th-10th Plant Sale
- May 10th Little Ladies Dance

- May 12th
- May 21st
- May 24th
- May 27th

PTA General Meeting 9:45am
Beginner Concert
School Closed
School Closed for Memorial Day

Meeting Ended at 8:08 pm