

**BIRCH LANE PTA**  
Meeting Minutes  
Date: September 20, 2019

Kristine Magnifico, Presiding President  
Quorum/Present

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

Attendance: See attached sheet

**President's Report:** Kristine Magnifico

- Welcome back
- Board introductions:
  - Kristine Magnifico – President
  - Linda Venuto – 1st Vice President
  - Tara Fay – 2nd Vice President
  - Amy MacLeod – Treasurer
  - Heather Callahan – Corresponding Secretary
  - Eileen Tumminello – Recording Secretary
- Thank you to the School Supply Committee, the Preschool Committee for the Boo Hoo Breakfast and kindergarten signs, Membership, the Twig committee, Hospitality for the staff luncheon and the Bulletin Board Committee
- Christine Zlatniski is heading up membership, we are at 65% already
- Arts in Education programs for this year are:
  - K – Singing School Bus Driver in November
  - 1st – Touch Tank in June
  - 2nd – a play at the Broadhollow Theater in May
  - 3rd – Submerge Storytelling in January
  - 4th – Journeys in March
  - 5th – Submerge Storytelling in January
  - The Blue Project is a social emotional, character-building program from Jared Campbell. The feedback from kids last year was incredible and it will be run again this year. There will be two sessions, one for K-2 and one for 3-5 with new songs and messages. The website for more information is [jaredcampbell.com](http://jaredcampbell.com).
- The website has been upgraded with information about events, meetings, board information and school happenings. Forms, including the reimbursement form are there.

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**1<sup>st</sup> Vice President's Report:** Linda Venuto

- The Back to School Barbecue is Friday. We normally sell 500 tickets, this year we've sold almost 800. We're bringing in an extra Kona truck and are having the ice cream truck come. (KM - Anyone looking for ticket swaps should go to the Birch Lane Facebook page.)

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President:** Tara Fay

- The KidStuff books went home on Monday and the deadline is in two weeks. Families can keep the one that was sent home and send in a check or order online. If you use one or two coupons the book can pay for itself. The books run through December 2020 and any unwanted books should be returned by 10/2, or any time before that. Contact information is on the parent letter.

**Correspondence:** Heather Callahan

- Thank you were sent from Mr. Aspetti and Mrs. Larkin, as well as the Kindergarten teachers.

**Recording secretary:** Eileen Tumminello

- No report

**Treasurer's report:** Amy MacLeod

- Treasury Report:
  - At last meeting on May 10, 2019, there was \$25,819.65 in the checking account
  - As of today, September 20, 2019, there's \$11,305.43 in the account
  - The statements for July 2019 and August 2019 were reconciled by Marianna Somers
- Audit report:
  - PTA records were examined for the period from July 2018 through June 2019. They were found to be correct and in good standing and the audit report was signed by Sally Napolitano.
- Budget Presentation:
  - July and August expenses are mainly from late deposits of checks.
  - September income is from membership and the barbecue. Expenses are the barbecue, the fence decoration, the back to school lunch and the signs.
  - Our budget is very heavy on programs for the kids. The bulk of our budget is in the Education Enrichment portion and most of that is Arts in Education programming brought in for kids such as plays and different performances.
  - The Boosterthon is a major fundraising event. Income is unknown at this time but the money we make from that will go towards Arts in Education programming. The budget currently includes estimated net income from Boosterthon.
  - A motion to vote on the budget for the 2019-2020 school year was proposed by Kristine Magnifico and seconded by Eileen Tumminello. The budget for the 2019-2020 was passed unanimously with a voice vote with no nays and no abstentions.

**Board of Education Report:** – Eileen Tumminello

No report

**PTA Council Report:** – Eileen Tumminello

No report

**Septa Report:** Anthony Prizzi (read by Kristine Magnifico)

- Membership is available through the MemberHub, \$10 for individual and \$5 for spouse
- For the fall fundraiser they are selling the pocket calendar, tumblers and tote bags
- Upcoming events are:
  - Bike Clinic – 9/28
  - Education Roundtable – 10/7
  - Halloween Dance – 10/18

**Plant Sale Committee:** Vicky Abbinanti

- We are using a new farm this year, Barella Farms. They have similar prices to the previous farm but a better selection.
- Fall plant sale forms were sent home and are due 9/23.
- Pick up is 10/4 and at the Fall Festival on 10/5.
- Volunteers would be helpful.
- Contact information is on the form.

**Reports from Administration:** Mr. Aspetti and Mrs. Larkin

- Welcome back. All grade levels are working on the same things – getting back to their routines. We have three straight weeks uninterrupted by breaks. It's nice to have these full weeks to get back into the swing of things.
- Classes are setting up small group instruction and guided reading.
- Back to School Night was a great night, we always look forward to it. There weren't a lot of follow-up questions, so we assume parents got all the information they need from the classroom teachers. If anyone has any questions or need to speak with a teacher, give a call and we'll set it up.
- The new math program has been rolled out. It's very heavy on manipulatives. The first few weeks they are distributing these manipulatives and then they'll be off and running. The program has a lot of discourse, student discussion, turn & talks, articulating their understanding of how to solve problems.
- In the building they're continuing to bring in the themes of kindness, bucket filling, positive energy and a growth mindset through classroom messages and bulletin boards.
- Each year they purchase a classroom book for each class. This year it's the Koda bench book put together by the Chiefs Challenge Club. It will be read and discussed as a school. It encourages friendship and kindness and is a nice addition to the school.
- To clarify the Remind app – teachers do utilize it but due to the company now charging for over 150 users, it can't be used schoolwide. Instead we'll be using Parentlink, which is used by MSD and ties into the Parent Portal. They'll be using it to get information out through texts, emails and email blasts. It requires nothing on the part of parents, other than verifying that the info from the Parentlink letter. Please review it and send back any corrections. If anyone is not getting the emails, please call to verify their information. Parents should also check their spam folders.
- NWEAs are beginning in the fall for grades 2-5. Reading is the week of 9/16 and Math the week of 9/23. Aimesweb is used for K-1. The information from these benchmark tests are inputs for support services and are used to track progress over the year.
- The Back To School luncheon was great. That first day is so busy and it's nice to be able to take a break and have lunch.
- The Kindergarten playdate was a nice time and the signs were a wonderful way to start their Birch Lane careers.
- We have a huge Kindergarten class this year. We have 115 kindergarteners and went from four sections to six.
- Thank you to Mrs. Magnifico and the Board for their time and energy volunteering and all they do to make Birch Lane a great place. Hopefully more people will volunteer to help out. Thank you also to Mr. Fay for dropping off the KidStuff books.

- Upcoming schoolwide activities:
  - 10/10 – MFD program: K-3 assembly, the poster contest will begin. There are winners by grade level and for the district, with the winner getting a ride to school on a firetruck.
  - 10/11 – Breakfast with the Principal
  - 10/17 – Boosterthon begins: it was very successful at other schools. After discussions with the other schools, we will have a classroom kick-off with daily classroom visits. This was found to be more effective and less disruptive than a full school assembly each day.
  - Week of 10/21 – Red Ribbon Week: We are changing it up with a different activity every day to promote a healthy lifestyle. There will be age appropriate discussions.
  - 10/28 – Boosterthon Fun Run: this will be during the school day and is rain or shine.

**Upcoming Events:**

9/26 – BOE Meeting, 8 pm at MHS  
 9/30–10/1 – School closed for Rosh Hashanah  
 10/1–10/11 – Spirit Wear Sale  
 10/5 – Fall Festival  
 10/9 – School closed for Yom Kippur  
 10/10 – BOE Meeting, 8 pm at MHS  
 10/11 – PTA Meeting, Breakfast with the Principal, 9:45 in the GP Room  
 10/14 – School closed for Columbus Day  
 10/15 – 10/16 – Picture Day  
 10/24 – BOE Meeting, 8 pm at MHS  
 10/27 – Safe Halloween at MHS, 1-4 pm  
 10/31 – Halloween Parade and class parties

Meeting Ended at 11:30 am