

BIRCH LANE PTA

Executive/General Board Meeting Minutes

Date: March 12, 2019

Kristine Magnifico, Presiding President

Quorum/Present

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

Attendance: *On a separate sheet*

Pledge

President's Report: *Kristine Magnifico*

Thank you:

Reflections - Jen Curran and Linda Venuto

Pasta Night - Danielle Fisher and Kathleen Mecabe

Book Fair - Crissy Mullooly and Tracey Lowrey and all of the volunteers who helped the children shop

Treasurer Report – *Amy MacLeod*

- As of February 8th, 2019, there was a balance of \$12,257.00 in the checking account
- As of today, March 12, 2019, there's a balance of \$11,150.82 in the account

Future expenses:

Arts in Ed Programs - approximately \$12,000

Field day - approximately \$4000

Scholarships - approximately \$2000

It's important that we raise money for the Spring Fundraiser on March 28th. We have a goal of \$8000 this year.

Reflections - Jen Curran, Linda Venuto

Some of the Tropical Smoothie Gift Cards that were given out as prizes weren't activated properly. An email went out notifying parents, if you received an email, you can go on the Tropical Smoothie website and check to see your card's balance.

Book Fair- Crissy Mullooly

Was a great success and we had wonderful volunteers. Thank you to everyone who volunteered, we really appreciate everybody's time.

Although there was a 2-Hour Delay, teachers rescheduled their times and the fair ran smoothly.

Spring Fundraiser - Kristine Magnifico

March 28th at Mulcahy's Pub and Concert Hall in Wantagh

We have a live band and a more casual atmosphere this year

We have lots of baskets to raffle off

This is our biggest fundraiser for the year so please join us!

We're having a spring fundraiser committee meeting tonight after the PTA meeting. The event is a lot of work and we need volunteers.

Each class makes its own basket, with a portion of the class dues that are collected in September.

There's usually about 60-70 baskets

There will be a silent auction for fun activities your child can enjoy with the teachers/faculty. The kids really love it.

We will probably put the auction online again this year. More info will be sent home about that.

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

March 30th

Last night for ticket sales is tomorrow night March 13th 6:30-7:30

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

They each sent in a letter of intent so they are interested in those positions.

We will vote on it next month.

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

Miss Signorile: Thank you for a fantastic book fair to Mrs. Mullooly and Mrs. Lowery

Kindergarten:

Reading: Currently studying nonfiction reading genre and carrying over into guided reading groups

Writing: How To unit (how to brush teeth, how to make a sandwich)

Celebrated the 100th day of school parade through the hallways

Math: continuing to work with adding and subtracting

Science: learning about forces in motion and animals from eggs

Foundations: entering Unit 4 and learning digraphs

1st Grade

Reading: studying nonfiction genre and generating ideas to write an All About book and building their stamina in independent and partner reading

Comparing fiction/nonfiction genres

Science: learning about animal habitats

Social Studies: families and communities (community helpers, places on a map, identifying roles/responsibilities of members in the school community)

2nd Grade:

Math: finishing up fractions, will be learning to tell time

Reading: finishing up nonfiction genre and moving into poetry unit

Building stamina in independent reading and reading groups

Booked the Old Bethpage field trip for May 23rd

Studying communities (rural, suburban, urban), similarities/differences between them

Children are doing a fantastic job in their All About books (research, graphic organizers, table of contents)

Science: moving into changes to the earth's surface (erosion, earthquakes, volcanoes)

Mrs. Marin:

3rd Grade:

Reading: exploring fiction chapter books

Writing: each student will be choosing a story to write his or her literary essay on

Science: starting unit on weather

Math: unit on fractions

Social Studies: learning about Mexico

4th Grade:

The fourth grade students and staff would like to thank the PTA for an awesome book fair this year!

The selection was endless and it definitely encouraged the students to read! We'd also like to thank the PTA for the Journeys program in February, the students had a blast.

Math: fraction unit in full swing

Reader's/writer's workshop: learning the steps on how to write a literary essay

Enjoying the Too Good for Drugs program as they're learning to make right choices

The students are looking forward to the field trip to Project Adventure in April

5th Grade

Science: recently wrapped up their ecosystems unit by dissecting owl pellets; will be learning about space soon

Math: learning to multiply and divide fractions

Writing: Working on literary essays

Social Studies: exploring economics and looking forward to field trip to Commerce Plaza

The students loved shopping at the Scholastic Book Fair

BOE Report

They've been presenting the budget

You can access it on the Massapequa Home Page

SEPTA Report - Amanda Varelakis (*presented by Kristine Magnifico*)

- The Winter Wonderland dance was a huge success! The kids had a great time dancing, eating, and getting their photos taken with special surprise guest, Elsa!
- Our next event is the annual Bicycle Clinic on May 4th at MHS. Feel free to bring any age appropriate child to learn how to ride their bike. Details will be sent in a flyer shortly.
- Our next meeting is tomorrow, March 13th at 7pm at the McKenna Senior Center. Our guest speaker is Kristie from the Office of People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD). The topic is "Support and the Process for Applying for Eligibility". We will also be presenting our new Slate of Officers.
- March 21st is World Down Syndrome Day! Please show your support by wearing a fun pair of socks that day!
- Massapequa reusable totes and district calendars are still on sale. Please contact Amanda Varelakis or look on the Massapequa SEPTA website for details.

Reports from Administration: *Mr. Aspetti*

- Thank you to Mr. and Mrs. Fillingner for PARP, tallying minutes and encouraging everyone to read.
- Thank you to Mrs. Venuto and Mrs. Curran for the Reflections Ceremony, it was really wonderful.
- Thank you to Mrs. Mullooly and Mrs. Lowery for the Book Fair. It was really great! Everyone who put in for the book fair was able to come in and volunteer. Thank you for all your work over the last five years, we're going to miss you Mrs. Mullooly.
- Thank you to Mrs. Fisher and Mrs. Mecabe for Pasta Night, I apologize I wasn't able to attend.

Building News:

- Student government is running their Pennies for Patients. Over the past years we've raised over \$28,000 for cancer patients. Tomorrow is the first collection day, \$1 donation (not mandatory for students to participate) in "Super Hero/ Sports Hero day". This Friday coming up it's 4-Leaf Clover Friday for St. Patrick's Day. We're going to move "Crazy Sock Day" to next Thursday to honor Down Syndrome Day, Thursday, 3/21. We'll send an email reminder. 3/22 "Fuzzy Friday" kids are asked to wear their PJs to school. 3/25 "Mix It Up Monday", students are asked to wear their clashiest outfits.
- I wanted to touch base on the geese issue as it's been coming up at a few meetings. We need to look at methods of divergence. The town used to run a program called Geese Peace. I called TOB but waiting to hear back. If they're still running the program I'm going to try to get our school on a daily rotation. If the town is no longer running that program, we spoke to the head of Buildings and Grounds to bid out on that type of a service. We're continuing to do our best to keep the grounds clean.
- Grade 5 has Commerce Plaza coming up next week. It's always a favorite among the kids. They're assigned a certain job and they come dressed up as that job and learn what it's like to make a living in that position/occupation.
- Grades 4 and 5 Cyber Bullying Assembly coming in next week (Officer Gallagher coming in to address the students). There's been talk about getting the information out to the parents. We've been talking to the technology department about possibly having a live feed available to the parents, but we don't know that our building has the capability for that. We'll keep you posted.
- On Monday, March 18th, 7-8:30 pm in the Cyber Café, there's a parent information meeting about social media. Children can attend.
- High School heroes coming on Monday, March 25th. They will be visiting our second grade classrooms and spending the day teaching the 2nd graders.
- Faculty Recital coming up on March 25th at 7pm at MHS. All faculty members are invited to come and show off their talents and put on a show for our students.
- Foreign Language Festival Wednesday March 27th at 7-8:30pm
- Our ELA is fast approaching on April 2nd and 3rd. If you're not having your child take the assessment, please send a letter to refuse the test. You'll receive a follow up letter from me confirming which tests your child is refusing. Math test is May 1st and 2nd.
- March 28th Touch Tank coming in from the PTA Arts in Ed program. The students will look at marine wildlife from the area (crabs, starfish, etc.). The kids have a great time with it every year.
- We have the Color Run in Massapequa on Sunday April 7th. The Bednar cup goes to the elementary school with the most student participation. Named after one of our staff members, Kristen Bednar. She was one of our phys ed coaches who was killed tragically in a car crash. She was loved by everyone. Online registration is open. First 500 registrants receive a white Color Run t-shirt.

Question(s) Asked:

What do students do who refuse the test? And for how long do they do that?

A: The State sends a suggestion for how long they think is an appropriate amount of time to take the test. We keep them in that location (ex. 70 minutes), then we take the students who are still

taking the assessment, and then move them to another location to finish the test. The students who refuse the test are then returned to their classrooms.

Upcoming Events:

- March 13th SEPTA Family Fun Night
- March 21st Board of Ed meeting at 8pm
- March 28th Spring Fundraiser
- March 30th Boys Bowling Bash
- April 4th Board of Ed Meeting at 8pm
- April 12th PTA General Meeting at 9:45am
- 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

Meeting Ended at 7:30 pm