

BIRCH LANE PTA

Executive/ General Board Meeting Minutes

Breakfast with the Principal

Date: October 12, 2018

Kristine Magnifico, Presiding President
Quorum/Present

- Meeting called to order at 9:50 am with Pledge

Attendance: *See attached sheet*

Pledge

President's Report: Kristine Magnifico

Thank you:

Back to School BBQ Committee - Lisa McDonald, Andrea Leckler, Caroline Hogan, Melissa Vergakis, and Nicole Clark

Kid Stuff Books - Tara Fay and Kiri Spillane. Kid Stuff Books Fundraiser was a successful one. The sale ran for two weeks and raised \$3787.50 for our school. Thank you to all who participated.

Plant sale - Terri Gein

Membership - Jenn Rose: 472 people between families and staff; may ask the class moms to contact their classes once class lists are finalized

Spirit Wear - Katie Beleckas. Spirit Wear fundraiser finished on October 3, 2018 and raised \$10,000 in sales, which is a little over \$2000, profit for the school. Everyone should be getting their apparel at the end of October/beginning of November.

School Store - Danielle Fisher

Reflections - Jen Curran. All flyers have been distributed. Currently looking for judges in six categories if anyone is interested in being a judge please let Jen know; judge packets set up by the end of the month.

Box Tops - Theresa McKeever

Vice President's Report: Crissy Mullooly

- No report

2nd Vice President: Linda Venuto

- No report

Correspondence: Katie Beleckas

- No report

Board of Education Report:

- Last night (October 11th) was the first live feed meeting
- Went over the BOE goals for the year: curriculum goals - new RTI program (Response to Intervention) if students are struggling and helps to personalize instruction
- Looking at and collecting data about the sixth-grade programs to see how they're doing. The seventh grade teachers are very happy with the students' performance (first sixth-grade group since the move to Berner last year), such as independence and the teachers are teaching material they would normally teach in December.

- Working on report cards: concerns were raised about not having a paper copy for the final report card at the end of the year
- Using a new budget program which is more detailed so that people can see where expenses are going in the district
- Technology is being updated
- There's a ribbon cutting ceremony tonight (October 12th) for the new field
- Discussed social-emotional learning at the different building levels
- Mr. McCaw (new administrator for special education) will be having a round table discussion on November 1st at the McKenna senior center at 7pm
- We are in need of a Board of Education representative so if anyone is interested please let us know

Fall Fundraiser: Jenn Rose and Stephanie Gentile

Getting a lot of responses

Please share the posts, emails, and bring friends and family

Have raised about \$500 in donations so far

Will be making baskets with those donations as well as the \$1 per student donation

If we can try to get the \$1 per student in by the end of October that would be helpful

Recording secretary: Tara Fay

- No report

Treasurer's report: Amy MacLeod

- As of our last meeting on September 14, 2018, there was a balance of \$9,464.97 in the checking account

- As of today, October 12, 2018, there's a balance of \$9,099.28 in the account

Income:

Plant Sale: \$1663.50 (has not been deposited)

Kid Stuff: \$3787.50

Picture Day: Crissy Mullooly and Kathleen McCabe

Picture Day on Tuesday October 16th and Wednesday October 17th

Submit your choice from the flyer

Each package includes a class picture it does not need to be an *add on

NYS Resolutions:

- 2018 Proposed Resolution

Despite state and federal initiatives promoting tobacco cessation an estimated 600,000 middle school and 3,000,000 high school students continue to use tobacco. In 2012 the Surgeon General declared this as a pediatric epidemic. Overall it's the single most preventable cause of death in the U.S. Increasing the minimum legal age sale of tobacco products will prevent or delay initiation of tobacco product use by adolescents and young adults, which will decrease the risk of serious health conditions across their lifespan. Raising the legal age for tobacco products and nicotine delivery systems statewide to 21 years of age is a highly effective method of deterring youth from using tobacco and its products. Please fill out the ballots on your table.

Septa Report: Amanda Varelakis

First Septa meeting was Wednesday October 3rd. Jordan McCaw, new Director of Pupil Personnel Services was there.

CSE Chairperson is Dr. Jennifer Peretti at the elementary level

Rachel Barshak is Special Education Supervisor for Birch Lane

October 19th at the McKenna Senior Center Halloween Party; \$10 if you're not a member of SEPTA to make a Halloween Bear

Movie Night (The Grinch) coming up on November 8th

Next meeting on November 14th at the McKenna Senior Center; Alissa Morris from Parent to Parent will be giving tips on how to make a binder for an IEP. She'll take all of your paperwork/documents and will build you a binder at the meeting.

Fall fundraiser is reusable Massapequa bags for \$5

Membership is \$10 for SEPTA

Grade Level Reports: Teacher Representatives Miss Signorile and Mrs. Marin
Presented by Mr. Aspetti and Mrs. Larkin

Kindergarten:

Reading: learning to write their lower case letters

Math: working on Unit 1 counting and writing numbers 1-10

Launched readers workshop

Learning how writers work in writers' workshop

Science: learning how the sun warms the earth

Social Studies: learning all about me, rules, and fire safety

1st Grade:

Excited to be using the chrome books

Learning how to use Raz kids and Fast Math

Readers' Workshop

Science: learning about sound and light and will be able to visit the science lab and conduct an experiment

2nd Grade:

Math: Foundations for addition and subtraction of numbers 1-20; also learning about different measurement tools.

Science: learning all about the properties of matter and classifying materials by observable properties

Look for their pumpkin creations throughout the building

3rd Grade:

Readers' workshop: fiction genre

Math: multiplication and division

Science: learning about forces

Social studies: learning map skills and where we are located in the world

4th Grade:

Fourth graders are in full school mode

Math: learning place value and rounding

Science: learning about various forms of energy

Social studies: learning about the land and waters of New York state

Writers' workshop: learning about how great writers get their ideas

5th Grade:

Science: studying matter and have been conducting experiments in enrichment

Social studies: about to start studying Aztec and Mayan civilizations

Writers' workshop: about to start writing their own memoirs

Looking forward to celebrating Halloween

Reports from Administration:

Mr. Aspetti:

- Thank you to Kid Stuff committee and for giving teachers and front office staff a free book
- Thank you to Mrs. Gein for running the fall plant sale. It ran smoothly and pick up of plants went well.
- Fall Fundraiser, wreath making this year, is always a fun night
- Halloween is coming up! 9:45 am students will parade around the parking lot in their costumes and then make their way back to their classrooms. Just ask parents to stay on the outside and not impede the students while they're marching. Typically after that parade most of our parties are in the morning. Once the parade gets started, please don't drop off anymore items until the parade is finished.
- Clubs are starting next week for students in grades 3, 4, 5. Registration was done online.
- Some clubs have gotten a huge response (new Broadcast club for morning announcements, green screen, iPad, etc.). Starting a digital arts club as well. SADD has a new link up on the website to register.
- Going to be implementing a drop/go procedure for morning arrival on Nassau Street. It is efficient and safe. No longer going to utilize the 3rd grade entrance. Only going to be using the 1st and 2nd grade doors and the 4th grade hallway, which will be used for 3rd and 5th. Cannot park on the north side of Nassau Street. We'll have staff out there to guide students so that they get into the building safely. Beacon Drive will still be a park and walk. The door on Beacon Drive (playground) is accessible to everyone. Letters will be going home next week and hoping to start October 22nd.

Mrs. Larkin:

- Blue Project Assembly on October 24, 2018 (PTA bringing in this program) about being a good citizen, being kind, not bullying. We have two different assemblies (K-2, 3-5 grades) so message is geared differently towards the age group. We're excited about this for our students. Thank you to the PTA for finding and suggesting this program.

Questions for Mr. Aspetti and Mrs. Larkin:

Q: Buddy Bench? A: We started it last year and had the HS students come up with designs. It's in shop class right now, then goes to our students to paint it. We are currently working on the buddy bench and should hopefully have it soon.

Q: What happened to the Power Walking Club? A: Clubs are run every year by teachers who want to and have time to be an advisor. The advisors could not run that club this year.

Q: The 3rd Grade field trip is a waste of day, waste of money, that venue is better suited towards kindergarteners. A: The kids love it, the teachers give great feedback. Every trip is discussed. The trip is aligned perfectly with the 3rd grade curriculum (adaptations, habitats, etc.).

Q: 5th Grade Trip: In the past the 5th graders have seen a play every year in December, why is this year different? The Grinch is age appropriate with great lessons and meaning. As far as security issue, the MAGNET trip still goes to the city to see a show. My child and I were disappointed to learn about the cancellation of the 5th grade trip.

A: Answer from Mr. Aspetti: We talk about concerns, issues, and appropriateness of the trip. Last year, within the same week of the trip there was a subway bombing and the terror threat went up. We needed to make a decision if we were going to send the students into the city. We ultimately decided that we were going to send them. On high alert all day to make sure that everybody was safe all day. We had kids that parents didn't allow them to go when that happened. We sat down and looked for another trip to do with our fifth graders. We booked a show at the Tilles Center in February (a magician from Ireland). I don't feel that we're in a different situation with the terror threat to be making that decision for your children. My job is to make decisions on what I think is best for 600+ kids. We'll give them the experience of going to a theater with their friends.

Question was asked if a trip could be set up through the school but not officially run by the school. And the parents can make the decision if they want to send their children.

The fifth grade committee set up a great trip for the 5th grade in May.

Q: *Why does Magnet still get to go?* A: That's a district wide program set up by the District. Questions can be directed to Mrs. Haanraadts about that.

Q: *Why is the 4th grade trip changed?* A: The 4th Grade has been doing the Project Adventure trip for many years so we decided to change it up. Looking into the Teddy Roosevelt house in Sagamore Hill.

Q: *Are grandparents allowed to help shop at the Holiday Fair?* A: All Fairs, Sales, are open to volunteers or PTA members. If grandparents are Birch Lane PTA members they can put their names in to volunteer to work at the fair but they will have to be selected. In the past, any child who wanted a family member to come help shop with them could. This year procedures in the building have been changed. You can now volunteer to "work" at the fair, but not just come shop.

Q: *Goose population and therefore goose droppings. For sanitary purposes, is there anything that can be done? Possibly using mats for the younger kids to sit on?* A: Something we battle every year. We have the custodians out there and we will continue the discussion with the PE staff to be more aware of it. We'll keep on top of it the best we can.

Upcoming Events:

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| • October 16 th & 17 th | Picture Day |
| • October 28 th | SADD Halloween event at MHS 1pm-4pm |
| • October 31 st | Halloween Parade, 9:45am |
| • November 5 th & 8 th | Reflections Projects due |
| • November 6 th | Election Day -- School closed |
| • November 7 th | Fall Fundraiser/Wreath Making Night |
| • November 6 th | Election Day -- School closed |
| • November 12 th | Veterans Day -- School closed |
| • November 13 th | PTA meeting at 6:45 in the GP room |
| • November 14 th | Picture retake day |
| • November 15 th | Board of Ed meeting at 8 p.m. |
| • November 22 nd & 23 rd | School closed for Thanksgiving |
| • November 26 th -29 th | Holiday Fair |
| • December 10 th | Blood Drive |

Meeting Ended at 10:55 am