

## **PTO Meeting Minutes**

Wednesday, February 16, 2022, 9:15 am  
Zoom Meeting

### **Attendees:**

Sabina McGuirl, Christina Valdes, Dr. Barcadepone, Bruce Winkelstein, Ms. Maroulis, Ms. Snedeker, Lisa Ellison, Medy Murphy, Jen Higgins, Jamie Noe, Johanna Holmes, Bridget Adler, Sharon Murphy, Karina Singh, Kristen Abbatte, Anne Lacassa, Grace Perruzzi, Meghan Pagano, Nicole Weiss, Lori Shekari, Jackie DiFrancesco, Jane Yoon, Yena Kim, Jill Relay, Pete Cammisa, Melissa LaPorta, Eugenia Blackmon, Zoom User,

**Meeting Called to Order:** 9:16 am

**Minutes Approved by:** Christina Valdes and Medy Murphy

### PTO UPDATES

- Treasurer's Report- We have \$41,014.29 in our Operating Account. We finally got our book fair money and it was deposited this week.

### ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

- Michael Barcadepone, Superintendent
  - State monitoring is complete, it will be 3 months before we have results from the Department of Education. We have the informal results (100 is the highest score and you need to get 80 to be a high performing district)- we did extremely well with all scores at 100 and one at 94 (which was the highest score possible).
  - We are in the midst of budget season- Governor Murphy pushed back 3 weeks, so this date is TBD.
  - We sent out the report card survey which will help recreate the K-4 report cards. Thank you to those who filled it out. We will have a parent presentation hopefully before the year ends to explain the new report cards (this meeting will be recorded).
  - Upcoming Board of Ed meeting- we will be presenting the NJ Start Strong Data and we will be discussing the mask optional decision and will have the conversation about the mask policy.
  - Question from Christina- What is going into the decision for the mask policy? There are many factors- Will we still be within our insurance policy if we make masks optional? Dr. B. has been talking to the Allendale physicians who have advised since the start of Covid, Mental health professionals, school doctor, school nurses, NJ Dept of Health and Bergen County Dept of Health, and have looked at the current case rate since start of school (Sept-2 Oct- 6 Nov- 17 Dec- 66 Jan- 78 Feb- 4).
    - Questions for the Board of Ed to consider- Do we mask kids under 5 (preschool?), Who quarantines and when? Does live streaming go away for Covid-only? Do we mask a class for 5 days if there is a

certain amount of cases in that class? The decision is so much more than just “are masks optional” since there is a trickle down effect.

- Next year’s calendar is on the website
- Bruce Winkelstein, Brookside Principal
  - Boys basketball won sectionals last week and county this week! Congrats!
  - There are Brookside events that are to be determined- Mr. W. will look at this after the BOE meeting- for example the Student/faculty basketball game (8<sup>th</sup> grade fundraiser) and volleyball game.
  - The 6<sup>th</sup> grade movie night will be rescheduled.
  - The 4/5<sup>th</sup> grade movie night is on the calendar for a night in March- we need to follow up on this and the PTO will reach out about this and field day preparation.
  - Graduation will not be set until April 1<sup>st</sup>- ideally the date is night before the last day of school.
  - This marking period ends on March 18 (this could change if there is a snow day). Parents should double check their child’s real time to make sure there’s nothing missing.
  - Report cards will be live on March 28.
- Anastasia Maroulis, Hillside Principal
  - Thank you for the treats this week- coffee and fruit and the supplies last month.
  - Hillside is gearing up for Kindergarten registration on March 1st- Orientation will be in person at 7pm at Hillside. Please share with neighbors who may not have children in the school system yet.
  - Preschool registration will be in March after. There is limited space for the integrated preschool, the 3 year olds will be in AM and the 4 year olds will be in the PM. They will announce how many seats there will be soon.
  - State testing will be happening this May. We had a 2-year hiatus due to Covid but it’s back again and we’re finalizing the dates. It is looking like this will be on the 3<sup>rd</sup> week in May. Grades 3-8 will be tested in English/Language Arts (ELA) and Math, and Grades 5/8 also have two days of extra testing for Science.
  - We will have conferences on March 22-24- Students will have early dismissal at 12:45 for K-4. Teachers will be meeting for conferences in person.
  - International Day is scheduled for May 11 (we pushed back this date from March). This will be an outdoor event and reach out to Ms. Maroulis or Lori Verbel for more information.
  - We are working on revamping the report cards and thank you for feedback.
  - We are working on strengthening phonics and spelling and we will be having research-based training for teachers.

- The February Birthday Club is this week and hopefully the PTO can come back into the building in March to assist.
- Question from Johanna about ordering playground equipment? We ordered and replaced supplies with the budget from school for black top games. The board game boxes indoors have been so important! Christina said- if that budget is ever depleted and you need items, reach out to the PTO because we are happy to help.
- Parking and drop offs- please do not park in emergency zones!
- The Hackensack Medical Center donation drive is one of the best we've ever had and we had a tremendous response. The PTO will collect these items on Friday.
- On March 7 we will be launching the "One School, One Book program" where everyone is reading the same book throughout the month of March. The kickoff is on March 7 and each family will read 15 minutes per night as a household.
- Kelsey Snedeker + Sharon Bailey, Hillside & Brookside Representative
  - The recent dress up days (2/2 Day and Kindness Week) were so great and they brought a lot of life to the building.
  - Basketball season just wrapped up, volleyball tryouts this week for grades 7/8.
  - The snack pack collection just ended and in homeroom all students got to make these bags with the supplies collected from their homeroom. The peer leaders are running the whole thing and are counting the items.
  - The musical, Moana Jr., will be on March 18/19. Ticketing information will be sent out soon.
  - Mrs. Bailey and Ms. Snedeker have a creativity contest to kick off the Book Fair and they will announce details soon. Students can choose the mode on how they share (art, engineering, technology, etc.) so students can enter in the way they are passionate about. This is open to all grade levels and will be displayed at the Book Fair.

## PAST AND UPCOMING EVENTS

- Teacher Appreciation / Counselor Appreciation
  - We put out coffee and fruit for teachers.
  - We sent sunshine packages to the counselors on behalf of the families of the Allendale PTO.
- Tennis Tournament
  - We teamed up with AFEE for this event and rented out the Franklin Lakes Racquet Club. We had about 22 participants. This was a lot of fun.
- 2nd Grade Service Project
  - We will coordinate with Hackensack Hospital to drop off the items over the next 2 weeks.
- Cookie Kit Update (Lisa)
  - We sold almost 40 kits (Valentine-themed kits) and made almost \$400.

- Playground Update (Bridget)
  - We have funds raised from the Boosterthon event to replace equipment at Brookside. We made \$33,000 for this project.
  - Mr. Winkelstein has been working with a group of students to come up with ideas.
  - The turf estimates were above \$100,000 and a gaga pit was another option, but there were concerns regarding this.
  - We found a playground equipment company who has many options and they have installed structures for us before. They will come up with some ideas to fit within the budget and once we have the list, we will pass it along to the students to decide on what to order. This may be a new climbing structure.
- 6th Grade Movie Night - New Date (Karina)
  - The date for this is TBD.
- Greeting Card Sale (Lauren)
  - This will be going on at the end of February and has always been a successful fundraiser.
- Kindergarten Service Project (Sharon)
  - We are kicking off the Kindergarten service project. We are partnering with Trex and they will recycle the material we collect- pliable plastic (bags, packaging, bubble wrap, clean food packaging). This collection starts March 1. There will be collection sites at Brookside and Hillside and the Kindergarten teachers will also collect.
  - When we collect 500 pounds of plastic (we have 6 months but will hopefully do this faster), Trex will donate a bench to our community.
  - We hope that Kindergarten students will be able to vote on the final location.
- St Patrick's Day Scavenger Hunt 3/13 (Bridget)
  - We will be hosting a scavenger hunt around town on 3/13 from 11-2pm. This will cost \$20 per family and each child in the family will receive a treat bag at the beginning and a prize at the end.
  - Families will follow clues and this event will lead you through landmarks in town. The last location is a mystery location and to get the prize.
  - This will be a combination of walking and driving
- Silver Graphics (Medy)
  - This is a fundraiser that uses designs from our kids and it gets turned into artwork. These are great gifts. The lower grades are doing it, but this is optional for grades 7/8. You can choose different items which will be delivered to the school.
- CKO and Peloton Ride (Jo)
  - February is National Cancer Prevention Month and we want to do an event to pull in the community in March.
  - We will make a donation to a cancer foundation with 100% of the proceeds.
  - On March 25, there will be a CKO class for kids.
  - On March 26. there will do a community Peloton ride which will cost \$20 to enter.
  - These are community events to help out local businesses and support cancer research.

Meeting Ended 10:05 am

### UPCOMING DATES

2/28-3/11 Greeting Cards

3/1 Kindergarten Service Project begins  
3/13 St Patrick's Day Scavenger Hunt  
3/15 Monthly PTO Meeting @ 7:30 PM  
3/16 Birthday Club  
3/23 - 4/8 Silver Graphics Fundraiser  
3/25 Kid's CKO class