

PTO Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, January 19, 2022, 9:15am
Zoom Meeting

Attendees:

Sabina McGuirl, Christina Valdes, Bruce Winkelstein, Ms. Maroulis, Ms. Snedeker, Bridget Adler, Sharon Murphy, Medy Murphy, Jamie Noe, Karina Singh, Jen Higgins, Johanna Holmes, Lisa Ellison, Stacey Wang, Lori Shekari, Meghan Pagano, Tori Weil, Jenny Mario, Audrey Hayek, Grace Perruzzi, Anne Lacassa

Meeting Called to Order: 9:16 am

Minutes Approved by: Jen Higgins & Karina Singh

Sabina McGuirl and Christina Valdes- PTO Co-Presidents:

PTO UPDATES

- Treasurer's Report- We have \$32,255.34 in the operating account, which does not include the check for the book fair which totaled \$4,474. We are having trouble getting this check from Scholastic, but this will be resolved soon. This also does not include the \$1,960 currently in Cheddar Up which is related to ongoing events (tennis event, Valentine's sale, etc.) The Boosterthon account is still the same.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

- Michael Barcadepone, Superintendent
- Bruce Winkelstein, Brookside Principal
 - Dr. Barcadepone couldn't make it today
 - We're starting the 8th grade transition to Northern Highlands. The head of Highlands came to Brookside to talk about electives, general information, and what the day will look like, and showed them the curriculum guide.
 - On Monday at 7pm there will be a parent and student meeting
 - On January 26th there will be small group meetings for kids to select electives in the learning commons- more information to follow
 - Peer leaders will be starting on Monday with their community service snack pack drive- the homerooms will collect items through February 18th- the homerooms will set up the snack pack bags and then they need to be delivered to the Center for Food Action
 - Sabina asked- Can Hillside participate? Yes- Hillside parents can participate and they will place a bin at Hillside to donate as well
 - Friday January 21st- 4/5th Grade play
 - All grades K-8 had a virtual assembly on Tuesday with Robin which covered social/emotional learning. They will be coming two more times this year, future topics are responsibility and communication. They gave

clear strategies about how to be kind and what to do and our guidance counselors (Mrs. Vassallo and Mrs. Webber) have been doing amazing lessons in the classrooms as well

- Playground- the school committee finished the first round. They got different kids of ages and grade levels to pick things and analyzed what would be best and they narrowed it down to 5-6 options. The PTO is looking for vendors to present to the playground committee for them to make a decision
 - Bridget- we are looking at vendors to come back with prices
 - Jen- We have \$33,694 for this budget
- Anastasia Maroulis, Hillside Principal
 - The staff wants to thank us for the TD gift cards!
 - We have been focusing on SEL (social-emotional learning) to create a school guidance curriculum for grades K-8. This would focus on skills, standards, and behaviors and will be narrowed down to 4-5 themes a year to incorporate as separate lessons (ex: empathy, self-control, cultural sensitivity, regulation)
 - Monday was a staff day- we have realized that one consequence of Covid is a delay in social/emotional skills which is noticeable- we are looking at school-wide behavioral expectations and rules and how do we intervene and teach these things. Behavior is interfering with the learning environment so we are setting up expectations across the school with new goals.
 - PTO- February is Kindness Month- Feb 14 is Kindness Week, more information to follow
 - Report cards- we are working to update the K-4 report card and we are identifying goals. Parents will get a survey in Feb/March about what would be most informing to parents in a report card.
 - Kindergarten registration will kick off in March- and then preschool registration will start after that
 - The 2nd grade community service project will be with Hackensack- they need crafts/games/cards/coloring books for patients
 - January's Birthday club is set for 1/31 (pushed from 1/5) with no volunteers this month, we will also push back the February date (maybe to 2/16). We will touch base in a few weeks.
- Kelsey Snedeker + Sharon Bailey, Hillside & Brookside Representative
 - Thank you for the TD gift cards- they are very appreciated!
 - The 4th/5th Grade show on Friday night will be 101 Dalmations. Instead of paying for a ticket, please make a donation to Hounds and Pounds.
 - The Great Kindness challenge is happening with Kindness week
 - Mrs. Bailey and Ms. Snedeker are going to do a fun activities to kick off the Book Fair in April

PAST AND UPCOMING EVENTS

- Flowers to Nurses- We sent flowers to say thank you, and we want to welcome Mrs. Mansouri (new nurse at Brookside)

- 6th Grade Movie Night - new date (Karina)- postponed due to Covid- we will hold off on this for a bit and may wait until the spring
- Birthday Club - new date (Lisa)- New date is above for January and February
- Monthly Teacher Appreciation- Next week we will be dropping off baskets for our January Teacher Appreciation- they will be “stay healthy” baskets for the teachers. If anyone hears of anything needed in the teachers rooms that need to be refreshed, please let us know
- The AFEE + PTO Tennis Outing- is on 2/29. There are still spots open and they are looking for more males
- Week of Kindness- See Above
- 2nd Grade Service Project- Hackensack Meridian Children’s Hospital- Each grade will have items to donate, more information to follow
- Kindergarten Service Project- NexTrex- This is a new project- we are partnering with Trex to collect plastic bags and they will donate a recycled bench to the community. The plan is to start in February to finish by Earth Day. We will collect 500 pounds of plastic bags, #4 and #7 any plastic that can be stretched or bent (Amazon box fillings too). Hopefully the K class can vote on where this bench will go.
- Two Too Day (2/2)- Coming up with ideas for this using 2’s- the Wellness committee has ideas for this as well
- Cookie Kits - Valentine’s Day (Lisa/Kat)- We are selling these cookie decorating kits until this Friday for Valentine’s Day
- Feb- National Cancer Prevention Month (Johanna)- We will be doing a CKO event and also group Peloton ride from home to get the kids and parents active and tied into a community event
- International Day - interest meeting date (Lori)- The event is postponed from March and we are planning to do this in the spring outside. It will be as similar to the past as possible. April 28 or May 5 are possible dates and we will start recruiting soon. Please reach out to Lori Verbel if you’re interested.
- St Patrick’s Day Scavenger Hunt (Bridget)- We are planning another family event on Sunday March 13. It will be \$15 per family and you will get clues and they take you to landmarks/businesses in Allendale. There will be prizes and gifts along the way and the winner will get a gift card as well.
- Teacher Appreciation Week- (Karina)- We are looking for dates for the luncheon and how you’d like us to plan this- we’ll start meeting in February to start working on this- breakfast one day and lunch another day, schools we’ll do apart as well- week of May 2 or May 9th. We will do Tuesday May 3 for breakfast and Thursday May 5 for the lunch for Brookside and Tuesday May 10 breakfast, and Thursday May 12 lunch for Hillside.
- K-4 conferences will be happening in the spring, K-4 half day, 5-8 full day
- Any parents who want to help with any of the above, please let us know!
- Field Day Plans- Mrs. Lyons handles ordering the big things and we have paid in the past, we usually have volunteers to run the day. We have two different dates for the Field Days- for Brookside Tuesday June 14 is the planned date (June 16 is rain date). For Hillside- Ms. Maroulis reached out to 3rd grade teachers, they would like to do the picnic after the clap out which felt like a bigger family

celebration and is a nice send off for the families. There will be more to follow on this, but possibly June 16 for the Hillside Field Day and we'll touch base and plan specifics as it gets closer.

UPCOMING DATES

- Week of Kindness
- PTO General Meeting, 2/16 @ 9:15 am
- AFEE + PTO Tennis Outing, 1/29 from 6-9 pm