

PTO Meeting Minutes

November 15, 2023

Zoom

Meeting started: 9:17am

Attendees: Sharon Murphy, Audrey Hayek, Jenny Mario, Jeanne, Bridget Adler, Bernadette Kelly, Grace Perruzzi, Jamie Noe, Jennifer Lee, Kelsey Snedeker, Karina Singh, Lucy Rosen, Natasha D, Gina, Kim Bargiel, Ms. Anastasia Maroulis, Alli Falciglia, Dr. Michael Barcadepone, Jess Mays, Sabina McGuirl, Mr. Bruce Winkelstein, Lori Shekari, Nikita Singhani, Lisa Ellison, Jenn Higgins

PTO UPDATES

- Approve October Minutes
 - Jenny Mario and Audrey
- Treasurer's Report \$19,807 in operating account

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

- Michael Barcadepone, Superintendent
 - Brookside Cafeteria
 - Will be done by Thanksgiving
 - Will move kids back into cafeteria on December 1st
 - Board Meeting tonight
 - Been having issues with behavior and decorum more recently
 - Will be discussing a strategic plan to address these issues
 - Need a partnership between home and school, want parents to help teach proper decorum to kids
 - A letter will be sent out to parents as well regarding this
 - Will also be addressing this more at school and talk to students about certain expectations to be met
 - Do not want this to start to impact teacher's ability to teach
 - May start a small parent training for incoming Kindergarteners
 - Also looking into other programs for parents from outside resources
 - Jenny Mario mentioned
 - Will try to see how PTO can help
 - Consider assemblies
 - Talk to AFEE
- Bruce Winkelstein, Brookside Principal
 - Assembly tomorrow with Rob Surette – artist who has worked for Disney
 - Puts together big paintings/murals in short periods of time
 - Brookside had aligned their first day activity and monthly follow up activities to his message
 - Going out of your comfort zone and taking risks
 - Got an AFEE grant for Joe Beckman
 - Coming in January, more information at next meeting
 - Student council started working with Ms. Maroulis

- Observing kids on playground, received specific feedback from them
 - Ultimate goal was to give some insights into where priorities should be
 - LEAD for 5th grade and 7th grade
 - Police officer Azevedo running it
 - Kids have a great relationship with him, which helps a lot
 - Winter Concerts
 - Chorus is Tuesday, December 5th
 - 4th to 8th grade
 - Band is Tuesday December 12th
 - 6th-8th grade
 - All in the evening
 - Field trips
 - Still planning 4th, 5th and 7th grade day trips
 - 6th grade Disney Trip
 - Final payment and forms due today
 - 8th grade trip to Boston
 - May 29th-31st
 - Reworked a lot of trip, information to be sent out by end of week
 - Blue man group, cruise, lots of fun activities
 - In light of what Dr. Barcadepone mentioned earlier about students decorum, if does not have confidence they can trust the child on the trip, they will not bring them
 - Wednesday, November 22nd early dismissal
 - No lunch served but will have time for a snack
- Grace Perruzzi Question
 - When is 8th grade field trip to Boston?
 - Mr. Winkelstein said May 29th-31st
 - When is 8th grade graduation?
 - Mr. Winkelstein said will have them information out around April 1st
 - Will not conflict with High School Graduation
- Anastasia Maroulis, Hillside Principal
 - Thank you for monthly teacher appreciation treats
 - Seeing same issues at Hillside about decorum and behavior
 - Kids coming from preschools or no preschools
 - Seen more issues since Covid unfortunately
 - Need help from parents, school will be coming out with a series to help parents as well
 - At school will be focusing on relationship with teachers, instructions in class, school counselors working with students
 - Also will be considering monthly assemblies
 - Want to ensure a consistent message to students at home and at school
 - Mural
 - Looking amazing!
 - Thank out Mrs. Knowlton and Mrs. Shekari
 - Want to unveil it – will consider doing so at Winter Concert
 - Ms. Maroulis to follow up with PTO presidents on this matter
 - Veterans programs at Hillside tomorrow
 - 24 veterans signed up
 - Kids learning all about Veterans day, why we honor them and why they are so important

- Projects, songs
 - Thank you to PTO for your support with this event and helping to honor our guests
 - Friday school pic makeup day on Friday November 17th
 - Cold weather coming up, try to get kids outside if able
 - Snack packs for 3rd grade service drive
 - Working with CFA
 - Students will be creating the snack packs after Thanksgiving
 - Goal is to create 500 snack packs
 - Holiday Shop Dec 5-7th
 - Mrs. McGuirl and Mrs. Driscoll setting up
 - Prices - \$0.75 to \$11
 - Kindergarten through 5th grade
 - Sabina asked if we can get bins outside of classroom for kids
 - Ms. Maroulis responded that she will make sure they have them
 - Winter Concert for grades 1, 2 and 3
 - Friday December 8th
 - 2nd grade Bingo Night
 - Thursday Nov 30th
 - 6-7:15pm
 - Free event, pizza will be served
 - LEGO Club
 - Within next 1-2 weeks will be offering a LEGO club for 2 and 3rd graders
 - Held after school in January and February
 - It will be a lottery
 - Will also run a spring session
- Kelsey Snedeker, Hillside & Brookside Representative
 - Tomorrow is Veterans Day Assembly
 - Songs, projects and getting to know about role of military in community and honor that it is and take the time to say thank you to the Veterans
 - Rob Surette coming tomorrow
 - 2 presentations on creativity and mindset
 - After Thanksgiving
 - Basketball team tryouts
 - Boys are Tuesday November 28th and Wednesday November 29th
 - Girls are Thursday November 30th and Friday December 1st
 - Friday Dec 1st Jungle book kids musical premiers
 - PTO will be providing concessions
 - B.E.S.T Day at Brookside
 - Brookside Engineers Showcase Turbines
 - 8th grade science project on turbines
 - Presentation to parent's will be Friday, December 15th at 1130am

PTO EVENTS

- Unite With Light (Sharon)
 - Sunday, December 10th
 - 3rd time it has been run

- Drivable tour around Allendale for holiday lights/decor
 - Sign up to have your house on the tour goes out next week
 - Vote on which is favorite light display at the end
 - Tickets will be available to purchase after Thanksgiving
 - Also get a map of tour and treat bag for kids
 - Proceeds all go to 100% CASA
- CASA Representative - Lucy Rosen
 - Nonprofit organization
 - They help to recruit, screen, and train volunteers to be court appointed special advocates for children in foster care
 - Last year they helped 127 children in Bergen County
 - Take care of kids from birth to 21 years old
 - Please check our website for more information
 - Ms. Maroulis question about program
 - Lucy Rosen responded
 - One advocate for every child
 - Goal is reunification if possible
 - Help teenagers who have not been adopted with life skills – finances, cooking
- Community Night Out- Moshi Moshi (Nikita)
 - Take out night is tonight
 - Please show canva to them, PTO gets 20% back from all orders
- 3rd Grade Service Project - Snack Packs (Jess)
 - Discussed above as well
 - Runs through November 22nd
 - Please look at amazon wish list
 - Run by Liz Gomez
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- Veterans Day Breakfast (Audrey)
 - 75 people signed up to come
 - Parent and PTO donations for breakfast
 - Event is being run by PTO
- Nov and Dec Monthly Teacher Appreciation (Audrey)
 - Friday November 17th
 - Soft pretzel treats from ABG
 - Luncheon will be in December during the conferences on either Thursday December 14th or Friday December 15th
- 2nd Grade Bingo (Jenny)
 - Thursday, Nov 30th
 - 6-7:15pm
 - Drop off event the PTO will be chaperoning
- Holiday Shop (Jenny)
 - Covered previously in meeting
 - December 5th to 7th

- Tons of Toys/Treasures (Jess)
 - Thursday November 30th and Friday December 1st
 - If you checkout please tell them you are making a purchase for Allendale PTO
 - PTO gets 15% back of all purchases

- Holiday Pizza Party (Lori/Jamie)
 - Friday December 22nd is a half day
 - Hillside
 - 11:30am to set up, pizza distributed starting at 12pm
 - Brookside
 - 11:15am to arrive and distribute the pizza
 - Ms. Maroulis mentioned that last year they did bagels for preschool children – will most likely do the same again for this year

- Gift Cards for Staff & Admin (Sharon)
 - Portion of class dues are used for this
 - They will be given out in December

Meeting ended 10:01am

UPCOMING DATES

November 6-22	CFA Snack Pack Drive
November 15	Community Take Out Night Moshi Moshi
November 16	Veterans Day Breakfast and Assembly
November 16	PTO Sponsored Assembly at Brookside
November 17	Picture Day Retakes
November 22	12:45 pm dismissal
November 30	2nd Grade Bingo Night
Nov. 30/Dec. 1	Tons of Toys Shopping Days
December 5-7	Holiday Shop
December 6	Birthday Bees
December 10	Unite with Light
December 14/15	Half Days/Teacher Luncheon/Conferences
December 22	Winter Celebrations