

PTO Meeting Minutes

October 18, 2023

Zoom

Starting time 9:19 am

Attendees: Jenny Mario, Sharon Murphy, Dr. Michael Barcadepone, Mr. Bruce Winkelstein, Ms. Anastasia Maroulis, Kelsey Snedeker, Nikita Singhani, Audrey Hayek, Lori Verbel, Lori Shekari, Jill Relay, Grace Perruzzi, Alli Falciglia, Pinar, Karina Singh, Jeanne Sollitto, Jen Higgins, Bernadette Kelly, Julie Kenny, Michael Yan, Liz Levine, Meghan Pagano, Kim Bargiel, Jess Mays, Shaziya Shaikh, Jamie Noe

PTO UPDATE

- Approve September Minutes
 - Lori Shekari and Audrey Hayek
- Treasurer's Report
 - \$24,254 in operating account

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

- Michael Barcadepone, Superintendent
 - Presentation tonight on the NJSLA testing data for this past year
 - Also will include report out on HIB from this past year and training session
 - Newsletter
 - To be send out end of month
 - District wide news
 - Will be sent every other month
 - Construction at Brookside
 - Still on target for shutdown of cafeteria November 1
 - If lights do not show up in next 12 days, then will have to postpone shutdown
 - Security and school safety
 - Was at a training done with FBI and police department for school district
 - They had discussed Parkland, FL school shooting
 - Went over what they did well and what they need to improve upon and gave recommendations
 - There was nothing on their list of recommendations that we do not already have in place in Allendale
 - We have one police officer in each school right now
 - Every time school is closed, they are practicing lockdown situations with teachers, greeters and police department
 - One was done this past October and they were to neutralize threat between 18-30 seconds
- Bruce Winkelstein, Brookside Principal
 - Thank you for snacks for teachers
 - Book fair in full swing

- Going very well, organized very well
 - 4th grade author Gordon coming tomorrow
 - He will be doing a presentation and writing workshops
 - October 27th weekend
 - PTO Halloween party
 - Open house at Northern Highlands over weekend
 - Email about Halloween costumes
 - No masks allowed
 - No large accessories (i.e. broomsticks, bats)
 - Small accessories ok i.e. wand
 - Early November plans
 - Language arts teacher organized a murder mystery event
 - Kids will write plays and a company will send actors to help facilitate
 - Mrs. Palmieri will be out for now due to a family tragedy, so working on long term plan on how to help her and what her future plans are
 - Student council getting into full swing
 - First full meeting on Friday where they will be picking committees
 - Principal advisory committee
 - Structure and make recommendations to Superintendent and board for Hillside playground project
 - Finalizing plans on how to get older kids to get info from younger kids and make it presentable to construction group
 - School spirit, community service groups committees
 - Mrs. Bailey and Mrs. Touw are supervisors
 - Jenny Mario asked– maybe the student council members can come to a PTO meeting?
 - Mr. Winkelstein responded – They will be doing this later in year and will also be presenting at board meeting tonight
- Anastasia Maroulis, Hillside Principal
 - Walk to school day wonderful, well attended
 - EZ ride NJ had done a pedestrian safety presentation with students
 - Seeing increase in walkers which is great but also seeing more carelessness once on school grounds
 - Cutting in parking lot, in between cars, not on cross walks so want to make sure we work on this
 - Silver award given to our schools from this group after walk to school day
 - PTO assembly David Harold
 - The Boy who would be Captain Hook
 - How he overcame adversity and need for prosthetic arm
 - Talked to older and younger students – adapted based on age
 - Very inspiring, some students wanted to send him letters

- Book fair
 - Some confusion with e-wallet
 - People thinking they can check out books for free – need to clarify
- Kindergarten assessments
 - Going on right now
 - Will help us see those who need academic support or other support in classroom setting
- Substitutes and lunch aides
 - We do need more help so if you are interested in the above, please contact the office

- Staff luncheon
 - Ideal to do in December in conjunction with parent conferences – either that Thursday or Friday
- Veteran’s Day program Thursday, November 16th
 - So far we have 9 Veterans signed up
 - Last year had 25
 - Jenny Mario will do another social media post for this event

- Kelsey Snedeker - Hillside & Brookside Representative
 - Thank you for breakfast at brookside school
 - Speaker for Hillside was wonderful and well received and interactive with kids
 - Fall sports wrapping up
 - Cross country team had final county meet
 - Girls won
 - Volleyball participating for first time in fall for full competition across the county
 - Nov 6th
 - Staff vs. 8th grade volleyball game
 - Soccer teams still playing for 2 weeks
 - Winter sports
 - Form going out to 7th/8th grade parents soon
 - Due November 1st
 - In need of a girls basketball coach
 - School store is up and running and student council getting started
 - Just voted on Mr. Winkelstein’s Halloween costume
 - Veterans day
 - Please fill out form as soon as you can if able to participate
 - Mrs. Diomede loves being a part of this event
 - Adding some things to make Veterans feel special and recognized
 - 4th/5th grade musical
 - Jungle Book
 - Cast list going out this week Thursday night or Friday
 - Staring rehearsals first week of November 1st

- December 1st is show opening
- Lori Shekari had a question in regards to Veteran day
 - There is a QR code to register, but is there also a link?
 - Ms. Maroulis will send out a link with next reminder

UPCOMING EVENTS/INITIATIVES

- Book Fair - Family Night
 - Tomorrow night Thursday 10/18
 - Scholastic Dollars
 - These are accumulated over the years from the book fairs
 - This money is given to the District Instruction Coach, Pam Koutrakas, who has a background in literature
 - She then purchases books for K-5, ESL, World Language teachers and Special Ed
- Pumpkin Carve
 - This Sunday at Red Barn
 - Celebrity Judges
 - Mayor Amy Wilczynski, Ms. Hilary from the library and Police Officer Layng
 - Sign up went out from class moms
- Brookside's Spooky Social (Lori V/Shaz)
 - Friday October 27th
 - 4th/5th grade - 530pm -7pm
 - 85 student so far signed up
 - 6th/7th grade - 730pm -9pm
 - 55 students so far signed up
 - Hoping to get some more students
 - There will be a DJ, pizza and donuts and the gym will be decorated
 - Please spread the word!
- Halloween Safety with APD- Glow Sticks for Brookside
 - PTO partnering with APD to promote trick or treating safety
 - On BTV, officer Kevin Azevedo will be there and give an overview for how to trick or treat safely
 - Will hand out glowsticks to all Brooksidiers
- Brookside PTO sponsored assembly (Sharon)
 - Thursday, November 16th
 - Rob Surette
 - Artist for Disney, DC, Marvel
 - Uses art to show messages about kindness and self empowerment
 - He has been on The Today Show and GMA
 - Mr. Winkelstein commented

- They had used his messages as part of opening day activities and with SEL as well
 - Great connection for this year
- Inclusion Initiative (Sharon)
 - Starting a new initiative to make things more inclusive for all students so that everyone can be involved
 - Idea brought about by Liz Levine
 - Plan is to look at all events and improve upon them to make people more comfortable and included
 - Example
 - For Welcome Back party – had a separate table for donuts/cider away from the loud music and bubbles
 - Less overwhelming this way for the kids
 - Supplied donuts to PreK and Pretop kids during the morning
 - Will be talking to Dr. Dries and staff about forming this committee and different ideas
- Murals/Painted Multipurpose Room update (Lori S)
 - Met last night for 3 hours to work on mural- great turnout
 - Plan is to this again next Tuesday and the following Saturday (tbd)
 - Going very well, Grace Knowlton leading the design
 - This project is supported by Glow Run last year
 - Gotten great feedback from parents and kids
 - Ms. Maroulis commented – looks wonderful. Some Brooksidiers had stopped by Hillside and mentioned they loved it!
 - Dr. Barcadepone commented
 - Please include him on emails for dates so he can ensure they happen on the dates that have been requested
- K and 3rd grade service projects (Jess)
 - Kindergarten service project wrapping up this Friday
 - Drive with oasis in Paterson for back to school supplies
 - Amazon wish list, 120 items purchased so far!
 - 3rd grade Service Project
 - Weekend Snack Pack Program for Center for Food Action
 - Lots of children have food insecurities and sometimes come into school on Monday tired and hungry
 - Plan is to put together food for kids and snack packs for the weekend
 - Will put together a list of all foods on amazon
 - Will be starting early November
- Parent's Night Out at Shannon Rose (Lori V/Nikita)
 - Thursday November 2nd from 7-10pm
 - No entry fee, food and drink for purchase
 - Fun night to mingle with other Hillside and Brookside parents!

- Community Take Out Night at Moshi Moshi (Nikita)
 - Fundraiser will be on Wednesday, November 15th
 - PTO will get a percentage of each takeout order
 - Information to go out this week

- Teacher's Convention Camps at One River and Superdome (Nikita)
 - Camps were very successful and we had great feed back from both locations as well as students
 - We will be planning camps for the Teachers Convention week (Thursday and Friday) as well so please look out for sign ups coming out soon

- Veteran's Day breakfast
 - Thursday, November 16th at Hillside
 - Invites all Veteran's
 - Have a Breakfast set up for them in cafeteria and then there is an assembly
 - Sign up genius for breakfast has gone out

- PTO Website (Kim)
 - Please take a look at updated PTO website
 - Has all the sign-up information
 - Volunteer forms page on website
 - Events page where all flyers and links to register are located
 - Meeting minutes are also there

- Audrey had question on Veteran's day
 - Has a Veteran from the family who is signed up
 - What happens during assembly?
 - First, there is a breakfast since spouses and grown children do come
 - Also a chance for Veteran's to meet each other
 - Then there is assembly in all purpose room
 - Songs, letters and tributes that children create for the Veteran's
 - There is a portion where we do ask a Veteran to introduce themselves and share who they are connected to. Sometimes they will also say a few words about their experiences

Meeting ended: 9:58am

UPCOMING DATES

10/19	Family Night at the Bookfair
10/20	Break down the Bookfair
10/22	Pumpkin Carve
10/27	Brookside's Spooky Social
11/1	November Birthday Bees
11/2	Parent's Night Out

11/9, 11/10 School Closed - Teacher's Convention/Camps
11/15 Moshi Moshi Community Take Out Night
11/16 Veterans Day Breakfast at Hillside
11/16 Brookside PTO-Sponsored Assembly