

PTO Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, September 20, 2023

Hillside Cafeteria

Started at 9:25am

Attendees: Jenny Mario, Sharon Murphy, Dr. Barcadepone, Bruce Winkelstein, Ms. Maroulis, Lori Shekari, Lori Verbel, Jess Mays, Audrey Hayek, Nikita Singhani, Kim Bargiel, Jamie Noe, Hillary DeVincenzo, Officer Alex Helmer, Officer Justin Hugerich, School Officer Peter Layng, School Officer Alex Popov, Chief Mike Dillon, Lindsey Kuczma, Anna Chung, Sabina McGuirl, Jackie DiFrancesco, Karina Singh, Anna Lafiosca, Carolyn Comparato Rueda, L Bryan Fares, Grace Perruzzo, Marisa Cali, Paulina Rugg, Bernadette Kelly, Hillary DeVincenzo, Natasha Driscoll, J Sollitto, Julie Kenny, Gina Young, Kristin Allert, Chris Cervelli, Eligia and Edwin Abreu, Sweta Dhand.

PTO UPDATES

- Approve June Minutes
 - Lori Shekari, Lori Verbel
- Introduction of board members
 - Jenny Mario – Co President
 - Sharon Murphy – Co President
- Treasurer's Report
 - We have \$27,860.25 in the operating account

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

- Michael Barcadepone, Superintendent
 - Brookside project
 - Meeting with contractors recently
 - Supply chain issues delaying the project
 - Once all supplies in, will then shut down cafeteria
 - Goal is to shut down the first week of November during teachers convention and hopefully it will be done by Thanksgiving
 - NJSLSA
 - Testing for grades 3rd through 8th
 - Did extremely well!
 - Science results still coming in
 - Avg was 54% but relatively speaking it is very good
 - Parent Square
 - Please register and download app
 - This will be the main means of communication
 - Good option for parents who don't want pictures shared, they are secure on app and not shared anywhere else
 - Safer because they are able to shut down someone's account right away if an issue occurs (i.e. someone's phone gets stolen)
 - Ramapo College
 - No aides this year - 8 student teachers from Ramapo College are helping
 - Goal is to have 1-2 stay in Allendale School system in the future
 - Board Goals
 - Professional development with staff
 - Working to incorporate Mental Health with Physical Health as part of curriculum
 - Working with PE teachers, Counselors and nurses
 - Want to give students tools to deal with different stressors and situations that may arise in their future
 - 6th, 7th and 8th grade student council
 - Want to also have a simpler version for graded K-5
 - Brookside student council will work with Hillside students

- Teach them about their projects and have younger students give their input
 - Goal is to have student voices heard more
- Bruce Winkelstein, Brookside Principal
 - Great start to the year!
 - 4th grade students still in transition stage
 - Donut Festival a huge success – thank you PTO
 - Last night meeting with 6th grade parents for their trips
 - 6th grade trips
 - Local trips or Disney
 - Information sent out this morning
 - 8th grade trip
 - Boston at the end of the year
 - NJSLA
 - Results going out today
 - 8th grade Car wash
 - Will move to Sept 30th due to weather
 - Cafeteria construction
 - Recommend considering packing lunches when cafeteria is closed
 - Working out options for school lunches during this time
 - Student council
 - 6th, 7th, and 8th grades
 - Doing their speeches today and voting will take place tomorrow
 - Will be working with PTO in future with their proposals
 - Different subcommittees will be formed this year
 - Some examples
 - Principal advisory council – advise to board/architects about playground area
 - Will get some input from Hillside students
 - Fundraising committee
 - QUESTIONS
 - Will cafeteria closing affect hillside?
 - Will be using Northern Highlands kitchens for 3 weeks and transporting food down to Hillside/Brookside
 - Working out all details
 - Cold items are easy to transport. Hot items will be more difficult, may have more limited options during this time
 - Where do we view lunch menus?
 - Under meals and nutrition on allendalek8.com
 - Who do we contact for Parent Square?
 - Pete Gomez
- Anastasia Maroulis, Hillside Principal
 - Great start to school year!
 - Kindergarteners settling in well
 - 10 new families this year
 - Teachers
 - Working on building classroom community focused on good behavior, earning trust, instructional work
 - Evaluating students at math, reading
 - If any student needs more support, they will get that information soon
 - Back to School night next week September 28th
 - Thank you for Bubble party!
 - Exciting up for next week
 - Getting a Safe Route To School award - Silver level!
 - State puts out grants/awards

- Encourages safe walking, drop off, safety protocol, assemblies, using cross walks
 - We are being recognized for our protocols and practices
 - School Picture Day
 - Monday Oct 2nd
 - Using a new company this year
 - We will get a link once pictures are taken and will be able to pick proof and background
 - Thank you to the PTO for all the events you help with!
- Allendale Police Department
 - Special guests for today
 - Officer Alex Helmer
 - 8th year as a police officer in Allendale
 - Today discussing pedestrian safety
 - Especially important during school hours in am and pm
 - Walk at a cross walk- look left, then right, then left again
 - Make yourself visible, make eye contact with driver
 - Don't look at your phone, be alert and aware
 - Always walk against traffic if no sidewalk
 - If a sidewalk can walk in same direction as traffic
 - Always use a cross guard (8-9am and 3-4pm present)
 - Don't cross between parked cars on main street
 - Huge safety hazard
 - Use cross walks
 - Make sure kids being mindful of driveways
 - Illuminated signs at Crestwood and downtown area- please cross at these locations
 - At night, try to cross where there is a light or traffic light so you can be seen
 - Question
 - How do we ask for another crossing guard? Requesting one at George Street
 - Would need to be brought up at a Town Council Meeting or Supervisor of Police Department
 - Lights also not flashing at school signal
 - County has to come out- will bring to their attention
 - Ms. Maroulis joined discussion
 - Don't let you kids walk into traffic in parking lot
 - Not as much visibility with big cars
 - Parking at a premium and always a lot of cars
 - Drop off line going well
 - Please don't double park or block people in
 - There will be an assembly with AAA where students will learn and practice pedestrian safety
 - Question regarding the Protocol for Front of Hillside
 - Hillside street backs up as people are trying to get into parking lot in the morning, people park over cross walks
 - Worried about being safety and being late
 - Ms. Maroulis responded:
 - Usually happens at 8:40am or after
 - Ms. Maroulis and Chief Dillon will be out there next few days to help with traffic and set protocols for drop off at beginning of year
 - Back of hillside runs well with cars and drop off

- Officer Justin Hugerich
 - Alex Helmer's partner
- School Officer Peter Layng
 - Hillside officer
 - Will now be there permanently
- School Officer Alex Popov
 - Brookside officer
 - Will now be there permanently
- Hillary DeVincenzo- Youth Service Librarian
 - Re-organizing library sections so easy readers will be much easier to find, working on changing it this year
 - Literary magazine will be starting soon
 - Will include contributions by students
 - Goal is to send it out 4 times a year
 - Wants to be more involved in Hillside as well

PAST AND UPCOMING EVENTS

- Board Introductions
 - Lori Shekari – Vice President
 - Lori Verbel – Vice President
 - Jess Mays – Vice President
 - Audrey Hayek - Treasurer
 - Nikita Singhani – Secretary
 - Kim Bargiel – Vice President
 - Jamie Noe – Vice President
 - Board members not in attendance today
 - Jennifer Higgins, Shaziya Shaikh
- Past Events
 - Kindergarten Orientation
 - Before school started, received their Hillside shirts, saw classrooms
 - Welcome Back Staff Breakfast and Survival Kits
 - Welcome Back Bubbles and Donut Party
- Always open to new ideas!
- Future Events
 - Kindergarten Service Project (Jess Mays)
 - Today through Oct 20th
 - In partnership with Oasis
 - School supplies needed
 - Created an amazon wish list – will be sent to all parents
 - Will be updating weekly as items purchased
 - Walk to School Day 10/4 (Lori Shekari)
 - Working with Allendale Police Department and Principals to coordinate spots to meet
 - Prizes for kids
 - More information to come
 - Activities 10/9-10/10 days off (Nikita Singhani)
 - One River and Superdome
 - Half day and full day camps
 - More information and links to follow this week
 - PTO Assemblies (Jenny Mario)
 - Sabina helping with assemblies
 - 2 scheduled for Brookside
 - 2 scheduled for Hillside
 - Oct 12th

- The Boy who would be Captain Hook
 - International day
 - Book Fair (Jamie Noe)
 - Runs October 16th-19th
 - Donuts with Grownups October 17th
 - Family night October 19th
 - 3rd annual Pumpkin Carve 10/22 (Bridget)
 - At the Red barn
 - 1 hour timeslot, \$30 a family – pumpkin and carving tools included
 - Can participate in competition - 3 celebrity judges from Allendale
 - Brookside Halloween Activity Night (Lori Verbel)
 - Friday Oct 27th
 - 530pm-7pm 4th/5th grade
 - 730pm-9pm 6th/7th grade
 - Costume party
 - Hillside mural update (Lori Shekari)
 - In Progress, talking to Ms. Maroulis about potential dates to continue working on mural
 - Lead by Grace Knowlton
 - Will be more volunteer opportunities to help complete
 - Class and Grade Parents Updates
 - Reach out to PTO presidents or email us if you have not been getting their emails
 - Jenny Mario
 - jennifercmario@gmail.com
 - Sharon Murphy
 - sfazio28@gmail.com
 - General PTO email
 - allendaleptok8@gmail.com
 - Upcoming Fundraisers
 - Apparel (Jess Mays)
 - On sale through Oct 20th
 - Once all orders placed, takes 3-4 weeks for us to receive items
 - Once we receive them, you will receive and email with distribution information
 - Charleston Wrap (Sharon Murphy)
 - Students should come home with packet with all information
 - Due by Oct 6th, delivery is usually in November
 - PTO gets 40% of the sale – it is one of our biggest fundraisers
 - Volunteer Opportunities
 - Thank you for volunteering!
 - If interested please reach out to us! Can email the presidents (jennifercmario@gmail.com, sfazio28@gmail.com) or email allendaleptok8@gmail.com
 - Future meetings will be on zoom – links will be sent out
 - Directory app
 - Will be getting access soon – being updated right now
 - Ready the end of this week
 - An email will be sent out once it is live
 - Question
 - For class dues, do you have to pay per a student?
 - Yes
 - Do you have to pay separately?
 - Yes
 - Are we selling any apparel at Back to School night?
 - Yes, blankets will be sold

Meeting ended at 10:26am

UPCOMING DATES

September 21	Brookside Grade 4/5 Back To School Night
September 25	School Closed for Yom Kippur
September 28	Hillside Back to School Night
October 2	Hillside Picture Day
October 3	Brookside Picture Day
October 4	National Walk to School Day
October 4	Hillside Birthday Bees
October 9-10	School Closed for Teacher In Service
October 12	Hillside PTO Assembly
October 16-19	Book Fair
October 22	Pumpkin Carve