

# PTO Meeting Minutes

## March 20, 2024

### Zoom

Start time: 9:17am

Attendees: Jenny Mario, Sharon Murphy, Audrey Hayek, Jen Higgins, Lori Verbel, Karina Singh, Jackie DeFrancesco, Bernadette Kelly, Grace Peruzzi, Shaziya Shaikh, Jamie Noe, Kim Bargiel, Nikita Singhani, Ms. Anastasia Maroulis, Mr. Bruce Winkelstein, Sabina McGuirl, Lori Shekari, Jeanne

#### PTO UPDATES

- Approve February's Minutes – Lori Verbel and Jen Higgins
- Treasurer's Report
  - We have \$55,588.31 in operating account
    - Includes funds that will be transferred to grade accounts
    - Jen and Audrey are working to transfer a percentage into each grade account
    - Will be done before the next general meeting

#### ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

- Michael Barcadepone, Superintendent
  - Not present
- Bruce Winkelstein, Brookside Principal
  - Brookside play this weekend – Chitty Chitty Bang Bang
  - 5<sup>th</sup> grade taking the COGAT test
    - Mainly for gifted and talented placement
    - Also helps to see if any students struggling academically
  - Mural
    - Continuing to work on this
  - TREPS
    - Wednesday March 27<sup>th</sup>
    - Marketplace during which kids sell their wares
  - Grades
    - Encouraging parents to check grades on real time frequently
  - Absences/Tardy
    - Problem since Covid
    - Procedure for kids who miss too many days of school
    - Required by state to send letters
    - If student is absent for 18 days or more, the principals must review whether that student can be promoted to the next grade
- Anastasia Maroulis, Hillside Principal
  - Absences/Tardy
    - Increased this year
    - Partially due to illnesses
    - Required by state to send tardiness/attendance letters
  - Brookside musical

- Hillside going this afternoon
  - Tomorrow group B Kindergartens to go
- International day
  - 26 countries
  - Want to be careful so no fire alarm pulled again, will block off part of building that evening
- On going kindergarten registration
  - Smaller than normal number have registered so far
  - Please try to spread the word, especially to new people
- Kindergarten screening
  - Email to go out today
  - Has some social emotional screening as well
- Preschool lottery launched for integrated preschool
  - Closes out April 15<sup>th</sup>
  - Afternoon program
    - Limited space, only 6 spots available
    - Program where general education students are paired with students who may have language/motor delays
- 3<sup>rd</sup> graders working on Bridges project with Ms. Costanza (Brookside technology coach)
  - Building Bridges
  - Taking into account physics/architecture
  - Trying to make a bridge that holds a certain amount of weight for a prolonged period of time
- Playground project
  - Plan put out there at AFEE
  - Break ground as soon as school finished for the year
  - Need to address drainage – hampering playground from being operational
    - Infrastructure being done underneath ground
  - Looking to also create a bigger footprint
  - Cannot touch trees in back, protected woodlands
  - Dumpsters/recycling bins will also be removed
  - Redoing jungle gym
    - Will incorporate slides and swings
  - Also create a bigger field and minimize black top
  - Eliminating back parking where staff parks
    - Queue will be much shorter for pick up/drop off however we will have a bigger play area for kids
  - May reach out to PTO next year to help out with drop off
  - No staff parking
    - Will be in the front now
    - 13 spots
  - May put some parking in driveway by entrance of school
  - One side will be dedicated to emergency parking
  - Question
    - Jenny Mario asked if drop of line will be shorter
    - Ms. Maroulis responded – large U- shape is what we have for drop off now, will be much shorter/tighter circle
    - Could impact traffic coming in on Donnybrook
    - No egress from front of school to back of school

- Working with emergency personnel to see if they would need that access
  - Book Fair
    - Working on schedule
    - Hillside will be going on the Tuesday/Wednesday of that week
    - Brookside will be other days
    - Will have K and 1<sup>st</sup> grade be only classes there individually
    - Trying to spilt up groups better and doubling up on homerooms for grades 2 and up
  - Staff appreciation Friday
    - Looking forward to it
- Kelsey Aughey, Hillside & Brookside Representative
  - Not present

### PTO EVENTS

- 3rd grade Dodgeball (Jen/Audrey)
  - Tomorrow night 7pm at Brookside
  - This year it is a fundraiser for 3<sup>rd</sup> grade picnic
    - \$5 a ticket
  - Sold 183 tickets (60 families)
    - 50 parents playing
  - Concessions will be sold
  - Parent volunteer from another grade to come and be the judge
  - Classes are making posters for the event
  - Can buy tickets at the door
  - Question
    - Ms. Maroulis asked if she should do a push out again on facebook for the event
    - Jen Higgins replied yes that would be great
- International Day- PTO sponsored assembly (Young Audiences: Puerto Rican Folkloric Music) to kick off the day and family portion 6-8pm (Lori V)
  - 26 countries
  - PTO is sponsoring assembly that morning for the kids from 9:15 to 10am
    - Then kids coming through with their classes
  - Evening portion
    - Want to get word out for families to come
    - 4 performances
  - If any questions, please reach out to Lori or anyone on committee
  - Please do not park at church that evening
  - Ms. Maroulis thanked PTO for assembly they have set up for that morning
    - Puertorican folklore appreciation
    - Every year is a different country that is highlighted which is very exciting for the kids
  - Question
    - Jenny Mario asked about parking at church – is it not being allowed just this time, or is this in general going forward that we cannot no longer park there
      - Ms. Maroulis answered – We are trying to figure that out. They have something going on the evening of international day. They

did ask us to let the know when they have big school day events going on in future.

- Can park on George Street or StoneRidge Street
- 1st grade Bingo Night (Jenny)
  - Monday April 15<sup>th</sup>, 6-7:15pm
    - Thank you Ms. Maroulis for hosting
- Spring Book Fair (Jamie)
  - Setup help on 4/19 and cleanup on 4/26
  - Donuts with Grownups will take place on Thursday 4/25 7:30am-8:30am
  - Classes will come through during the day
  - Smaller grades will come separately, older grades will come more in groups (may be some doubling up in grades)
  - Questions
    - Ms. Maroulis asked if there is a night portion
    - Sharon Murphy responded – not in Spring this year. Usually there are sports and activities in evenings and it is not as well attended
- Staff Appreciation Week (Shaz)
  - Brookside will be week of 4/29-5/3
  - Hillside will be week of 5/6-5/10
  - Luncheons on Thursdays of those weeks
  - Smaller events earlier in week
- Boulders Family Night- ticket sales starting soon (Lori S)
  - Saturday, May 11th
  - Game starts at 6:30pm
  - Putting together a parade lineup at 6pm for kids to go onto field
  - Fireworks after the game
  - Tickets will go on sale either this week or next week – there will be a direct link
  - Each ticket will be about \$18
  - Finding out about cutoff date to purchase tickets
  - Will also send the link to the teachers as well
- Fundraisers
  - Greeting Cards (ends 3/22)
    - \$31 dollars for a box of cards
      - Have all occasions – holidays, birthdays, etc
    - Distribution after spring break
    - Will come home in childs bookbag
  - Silver Graphics (ends 3/27)
    - Papers came home last week
      - K-5 has artwork child has made
      - 6th-8<sup>th</sup> grade can upload childs artwork to website
      - Can upload artwork for younger kids as well if you want additional items
    - Distributed by end of April
  - Spring Apparel Sale Coming Soon
    - Finalizing soon
    - Should be live in next week

- Toolkits
  - Teachers give list of supplies and company we work with has it boxed and ready to go
  - Setting up for next year as well- sale will end around June 30<sup>th</sup>
  - Question
    - Sharon Murphy asked how to get this information to incoming Kindergarteners
      - Ms. Maroulis responded – said we do a push out to incoming Kindergarten families
      - Going live week after Spring break, so Ms. Maroulis asked if can be forwarded to her and Ms. Stripeikis and they will send out to their emails
    - Fliers will be going out as well
  - Question
    - Ms. Maroulis asked if sale ending June 30<sup>th</sup>
      - Sharon Murphy responded – said yes

End Time: 9:47am

UPCOMING DATES

March 10-27	Silver Graphics Fundraiser
March 21	Third Grade Dodgeball
March 26	International Day/Night
March 29-April 5	Spring Break
April 10	Birthday Bees
April 15	1st Grade Bingo Night
April 17	General Meeting Zoom
April 22-25	Book Fair
April 29-May 3	Brookside Teacher Appreciation Week
May 6-10	Hillside Teacher Appreciation Week