

PTO Meeting Agenda

November 16, 2022, 9:15am

Zoom

Attendees: Sabina McGuirl, Christina Valdes, Dr. Barcadepone, Bruce Winkelstein, Ms. Maroulis, Ms. Snedeker, Jen Higgins, Jamie Noe, Lori Verbel, Lori Shekari, Sharon Murphy, Karina Singh, Jess Mays, Natasha D., Anna Lafiosca, Lucy Rosen (Bergen CASA), Phillip A Benyola, Jr., Grace Perruzzi, Meghan Pagano, "Kate," "iPhone"

PTO UPDATES

- Approve October Minutes- Approved by Sabina McGuirl and Karina Singh
- Treasurer's Report- We have \$24,938.76 in the operating account, but we have not transferred the Cheddar Up money yet since we have been doing a final push for dues and membership fees. We have \$45,000 in Cheddar Up and this money will go to the operating account and then will be transferred to the grade accounts

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

- Michael Barcadepone, Superintendent
 - We will be doing a quick test of the emergency system- make sure all of your numbers and information is up to date in RealTime to make sure we can contact you
 - We will be transferring to a new system soon called Parent Square- look out for an email regarding this which will have more effective communication plus an associated app. This is critical to have updated information on RealTime before the transfer
 - They are looking at a whole cafeteria redesign- with PTO/AFEE, outdoor picnic tables from the PTO will come into play then
 - Security- Dr. Barcadepone presented at Seton Hall and was chosen from over 250 districts regarding safety, which is a huge honor
 - We have to rethink some safety measures- specifically bags being left outside. We will come up with a new tagging system for backpacks and lunch boxes to make our schools as secure as possible
 - We have new cameras this year which are monitored by the Allendale Police Department (very high quality) and we are looking at adding more
- There are staffing issues in schools everywhere- please spread the word that the Allendale School District is looking for quality resumes, even if only to keep on file to a future position if there aren't currently openings in specific areas
- Question from Sabina- are our doors and windows bulletproof? They are all bullet resistant- they do not shatter. Bulletproof glass is incredibly expensive. All exterior windows are bullet and shatter resistant
- Bruce Winkelstein, Brookside Principal
 - We are nearing the end of November and there is so much going on before the end of the calendar year
 - Next week the 8th graders will be sharing their wind turbines (which combines group work and public speaking)
 - We have parent/teacher conferences next week

- Grades 5-8- only schedule the conferences you need for the teachers you want or need to see. You are not obligated to see all of your child's teachers- feel free to email the teacher if you need an additional time slot
 - Next week Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday there will be an early dismissal at 12:45pm- please have students bring a snack but not a full lunch
 - The 6th grade trips have been a challenge to schedule- the Disney trip will be \$700 for the second assessment, and we are not sure on the Imagine Next trip cost yet
 - Concert season is coming up- Thursday, December 8th is the chorus concert and it will be separated by grade- 4th grade starting at 6pm and others to stack after-time confirmation to follow
 - Band Concert on is on Thursday, Dec 15 for grades 6-8, more information to follow on timing
 - Comment from Christina- the PTO will reach out about 4/5th grade winter crafts
 - Question from Christina- On the half days leading into winter break, can we do pizza again? Yes for grades 4-7, 8th grade may be doing something separate, so check back
- Anastasia Maroulis, Hillside Principal
 - The Halloween costume drive went so well!
 - Veteran's Day assembly is coming up- we have 35 veterans to honor
 - We may need to set up the space that morning
 - The PTO will be in that morning to set up the breakfast in cafeteria and will gladly help Mrs. Diomedede set up the assembly as well
 - The tribute ceremony will begin at 9:15
 - We have parent/teacher conferences next week, which we set up through RealTime this year, which was the first time doing this
 - We have a new report card which we will be distributing in mid-December, which is not too different from the previous one, and it will be electronic distribution
 - Food Drive- the 3rd graders had a video of a public service announcement to promote the food drive
 - We had a therapy dog come to visit the Group A Kindergarteners, and the B Group Kindergarteners will follow with their visit next
 - The grade-level teachers are working on field trips for the spring time. As of now, these are 3rd grade-Bronx Zoo, 2nd grade- Waterloo Village, 1st grade- Wyckoff Wildlife Center, K- to be decided
 - The physical education teachers and playground aides and paraprofessionals have another round of training coming up from PlayWorks
 - This will train them to help the students find more structured, safe ways on how to play. It will teach them how to give out reminders for stations and guidelines and they will regroup at the end. This has been working really well so far.
 - We have half days next week until 12:45 on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday
- Kelsey Snedeker + Sharon Bailey, Hillside & Brookside Representative
 - Basketball sign ups and forms are due shortly
 - We are so excited for Best Day for Brookside School
 - Veteran's Day- a big thank you from Mrs. Diomedede- the teachers have taken an inter-disciplinary approach for this
 - The Brookside Food Drive is underway right now- peer leaders are organizing and tracking points
 - The 4/5th grade musical is Frozen and will be on December 2nd

- There are 53 kids in the show
- Concessions for PTO is available (505 seats available)
- Instead of collecting for ticket costs, they will be collecting donations

PTO EVENTS

- 3rd Grade Service Project - Food & Turkey Drive video by 3rd grade students
 - Volunteers will be in on Friday to help transport
- Unite With Light (Bridget)
 - The event is on December 8th and participants will collect a map after school and on Sunday December 11th you drive around and vote
 - Please let PTO know if you want to decorate your house to be included on the map
 - Proceeds of this community event benefit CASA (see below)
- CASA Representative - Lucy Rosen, director of CASA
 - Thank you for the donations of gifts last year
 - What Bergen County Casa does- they advocate for children in foster homes and train advocates
 - Children in foster care see a variety of different therapists, case workers, different judges- and having an advocate allows ONE constant person to stay with one child (and with their siblings) until their case is resolved
 - They have two goals- to address abuse/neglect and the effects of that, and to support educational services (to speak to teachers and school team)
 - Advocates go to court with a full snapshot report for the judge to inform them about this child's life and to make recommendations on this child
 - Advocates ask questions, follow leads, make sure things don't fall through the cracks- work closely with child protection services
 - We have a low removal rate in Bergen County
 - CASA has an incredible distribution setup in place and gifts are funneled to the people who need them most
 - All of our gifts go directly to the children
 - Please share with people you know about CASA advocates, since every child has an advocate
 - Question- do you need more backpacks? Yes- they start collecting in the summer, must be all new items
- Veterans Day (Karina)
 - Thank you to the parents who have volunteered
- Multi Purpose Room Murals (Lori S)
 - We are collecting ideas to repaint the all-purpose room (there was an older mural and over time it needed to be covered)
 - We had one meeting with an artist where we heard ideas and got our initial quote (\$18,000), which is beyond what we were expecting it to be
 - We may circle back and revisit for more ideas
 - In regards to the actual painting, the PTO falls under the board's insurance- Dr. Barcadepone will check into this if painter needs to reach up high to move off the ground (painting high)
 - We can also look into artistic students from Northern Highlands (Dr. Winkelstein will check with the Northern Highlands principal in case there's an option to earn credits in exchange for painting or assisting in the mural)
- Playground Installation

- Are we scheduled for December to have the piece installed? YES
 - Is there a photo to share with the community? This could be a pull for the Glow Run- YES
- Glow Run- Lori Verbel and Bridget will get in touch
 - We need to choose a date very soon
- Monthly Teacher Appreciation- Thankful theme (Karina)
 - We are doing a thankful luncheon for the staff at both schools, we are providing salads and Moshi Moshi will be donating sushi and Goldberg's for bagels
 - Karina will send the invitation to principals to share with the teachers
- Holiday Shop (Sharon/Jenny)
 - We will be running a Holiday Shop on December 12 and 13 in Room 5 at Hillside
 - Students in Grades K-4 can do shopping for friends and family during the school day
 - The gifts start at 50 cents and the majority of items are under \$5
 - The schedule setup is like the book fair
 - We will need parent volunteers especially for the younger grades (and set up/clean up)
 - Students from the 4th grade will be walking up to Hillside to do their shopping
 - Maybe next year we will include 5th grade as well
- Tons of Toys (Sharon)
 - We have a fundraiser on December 7 and 8th
 - Make sure to mention the Allendale PTO on those days and 15% will be donated to our PTO
- Gift Cards for Staff & Admin
 - Whenever Dr. Winkelstein and Ms. Maroulis have a chance, please send a list of names
- Holiday Pizza Party
 - We will be in touch for logistics on this
- Question from Grace P.- Is TREPS happening this year? Not yet, there is currently no one to run it
- There will be no meeting in December, please reach out to any of us in the interim with any questions!

Meeting ended at 9:56am

UPCOMING DATES

November 8-17	Food & Turkey Drive
November 17	Veterans Day Celebration
November 21-23	Half Days
November 30	Birthday Club
December 11	Unite With Light
December 12-13	Holiday Shop
December 23	Winter Celebrations