

# PTO Meeting Minutes

## January 18, 2023, 9:15am

### Zoom

**Attendees:** Christina Valdes, Bruce Winkelstein, Mrs. Bailey, Jen Higgins, Jamie Noe, Lori Verbel, Lori Shekari, Karina Singh, Jenny Mario, Jess Mays, Erica Belasic, Anna Lafiosca, Audrey Hayek, Nikita Singhani, Natasha, Kim Bargiel, Meghan Pagano, Shaziya Shaikh, Jackie DiFrancesco, Stacey Wang

Meeting started at 9:20am

#### PTO UPDATES

- Approve November's Minutes- Jen Higgins and Karina Singh
- Treasurer's Report- We have approximately \$57,000 in our Operating Account, but we are waiting for checks to clear regarding the playground equipment for Brookside so this amount will decrease by about \$10,000 very soon

#### ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

- Michael Barcadepone, Superintendent
- Bruce Winkelstein, Brookside Principal
  - There's a lot going on before the break at Brookside School
  - On January 24<sup>th</sup> there is a Highlands orientation for 8<sup>th</sup> graders, this will be in school for students only and there may be another meeting- more to follow on this
  - On January 26<sup>th</sup> at Highlands there will be a parent orientation which will go over requirements for graduation
  - If you have an 8<sup>th</sup> grader you should start looking at the curriculum guide for electives- students only pick one at the 9<sup>th</sup> grade level
  - The Glow Run is on Thursday 1/26 (see below for more details)
  - On January 26<sup>th</sup> Highlands is coming to Brookside for chorus workshop
  - On Friday, February 2<sup>nd</sup> there is LEAD graduation with a party afterwards for 5<sup>th</sup> graders
  - For the 6<sup>th</sup> grade trip, one group is going to Disney and the other group is going on trips locally. This year, most kids will be traveling to Disney (historically it has been an even 50/50 split). There are over 70 kids going to Disney and about 30 staying for local trips
    - There will be orientations for each group separately
    - For anyone whose child is going to Disney, please pack only the things from the list, there will be no extra time for other things
    - Both trips are from Monday through Thursday
    - The Friday right after we get back the kids are expected to come to school
    - They will work on the share out on Friday and Monday parents will be invited into the school to hear about the trips with connections to academic components
    - There will be more information to follow closer to the trips
  - On February 16<sup>th</sup> the 4/5<sup>th</sup> grade band concerts are at night
  - Brookside finished the LinkIt testing with students last week, they will be analyzing the data for all of the kids in the building to see how we are doing

- The new playground equipment should be ready to be installed within the next month
- Student council students are finalizing their grant for the picnic tables outside.
- The student council is also working on the dress code committee and they will go to the board to review the dress code for implementation next year
- Anastasia Maroulis, Hillside Principal
  - We are launching Kindergarten registration and we are curious to see enrollment numbers this year, the trend seems to be going up
  - Kindergarten orientation is on February 1<sup>st</sup>, there is information on the website
  - The website was updated recently
  - We have been getting questions about PreK for next year but they are still analyzing numbers and needs for our students at this time
    - We are starting to see babies born during the lockdown and the effects of that, including increased needs of students
    - There may or may not be a lottery, more information to follow
  - In Grades K-8 we are doing a data sweep, academic support is on hold while we assess all students
    - We are using assessments to inform decisions about our curriculum and services
  - We are in need of a lunch aide at Hillside, please pass along if you know of someone looking to pick up extra hours
  - The Glow Run is on 1/26- The PTO met their first goal, so there will be a pajama day on 1/19. As a district we are working on the next goal. There will be more incentives at the goals of \$20,000 and \$40,000
    - Make sure to sign consent for your child to attend
- Kelsey Snedeker + Sharon Bailey, Hillside & Brookside Representative
  - Mrs. Bailey- next week is Kindness Week at both schools
    - There are dress up days to follow for next week with challenges and activities
    - We will talk about kindness
  - In 4-8<sup>th</sup> grade battle of the books is starting- this is a book competition where groups of 5 form teams and they read the books. As a group in April they do a jeopardy style challenge to test their knowledge
    - In 5-8<sup>th</sup> grades, the top two teams will get to go on to the county level
    - There is still time to sign up- this is a great reading opportunity and there will be an ice cream party at the end
    - The first battle is in April sometime with more info to follow and parents will be invited
    - The County level would be in May or June for the top teams
  - Peer leaders are hosting a baby product drive and they are asking for help from Hillside and Brookside Schools
    - The Center for Food Action asked for help and they are happy to help
  - One Book, One School will be launching right after break, book announcement to follow

## PTO EVENTS

- Join our PTO board next year!
  - If anyone is interested in joining the board for next year please reach out

- Pass on to any friends who may be interested
- January Staff Appreciation
  - We are working on confirming dates for this
  - More information to follow
- International Day
  - Lori Verbel- we had our informational meeting, about 28 countries signed up to do booths on March 30<sup>th</sup>
  - There will be an assembly funded by an AFEE grant for the morning
  - Students will come through with their classes during school
  - For the evening portion, parents can come back with their kids from 6-8pm
  - We are looking for volunteers so if anyone to help you can join a country or start a new country, or you can be a floater wherever help is needed
  - Please reach out with any questions
- 2nd Grade Service Project-
  - We are still finalizing details for this
  - We will most likely be working with Families to Families to help with families in Paterson, details will follow
- Glow Run
  - Lori Verbel- This event will be Thursday 1/26
  - We have a registration platform, people are pledging and encouraging kids to get excited about the event
    - You can make videos to send to supporters-
    - If you have any questions about the site, please reach out to Lori Verbel, Bridget Adler, or Lindsey Kuczma
    - This event will take place in the Brookside Gym- each grade (K-3) will come through paired up with older kids and their partner will track their laps with stickers on their shirt
    - We will have a DJ and the event will be a lot of fun!
    - The most kids can do is 35 laps, keep that in mind when pledging
    - As stated above, we reached \$10,000 for pajama day
    - For reaching the \$20,000 goal, there will be a no homework day (1/23)
    - For reaching the \$40,000 goal, there will be a candy buffet where kids will go home with big candy bars
    - The money we raise from this fundraiser will go towards picnic tables for Brookside School and murals and playground equipment for Hillside School
    - Please reach out with any questions
- Medieval Times-
  - We have a family outing coming up on Saturday 1/28 at 5pm
  - We have about 215 tickets purchased and we will send information this week to the families who purchased

Meeting ended at 9:47am

#### UPCOMING DATES

January 25	Hillside Birthday Club
January 26	Glow Run
January 28	Medieval Times
February 3	5th Grade LEAD Graduation