

**PTO Meeting Minutes**  
**October 19, 2022**  
**Zoom**

**Attendees:** Sabina McGuirl, Christina Valdes, Dr. Barcadepone, Bruce Winkelstein, Ms. Maroulis, Mrs. Bailey, Officer Azevedo, Jen Higgins, Jamie Noe, Karina Singh, Lori Verbel, Sharon Murphy, Jenny Mario, Bridget Adler, Lori Shekari, Jess Mays, Jill Relay, Christine Pergola, Grace Peruzzi, Nikita Singhani, Michele Putrino, Kim Bargiel, Jackie DiFrancesco, Audrey Hayek, Kanchen Shenoy “Bern,” “BK,” “iPhone”

**Meeting Called to Order:** 9:16 am,  
**Minutes Approved by:** Christina Valdes and Karina Singh

PTO UPDATES

- Treasurer's Report- Jen Higgins- We have \$24,048.33 in our Operating Account and this does not reflect the money we have collected for dues and other PTO donations. That amount is roughly \$56,240 (currently in Cheddar Up) from membership, dues, and fundraisers
  - We are in the process of figuring out which dues are still outstanding for each class and we will contact class moms so they can reach out to their classes

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

- Michael Barcadepone, Superintendent
  - Regarding the AFEE grant- the playground equipment was ordered in May but will come in April and may not be installed until the summer
  - The NJSLA scores are back, parents received these and at the board meeting the scores will be presented, information will be on the district website
    - Grades 3-8 did very well, compared to state and other similar districts
  - The Board of Education's 5-year strategic plan is expiring soon- there will be 3 opportunities for people to get involved (one night a month) and the information helps to prepare another 5-year strategic plan. Please get involved- there will be an email with details to follow
- Bruce Winkelstein, Brookside Principal
  - We just finished the Start Strong test (state required test) and when the results come back they will be mailed out. Results are not heavily weighted but will be another data point to use
  - The Book Fair is going great- the kids are so excited about it
  - The Brookside Student Council will present to the Board of Education about their goals for the year
  - 4/5<sup>th</sup> grade movie night is next week (Thursday)
  - Photo Make-ups are on 10/28
  - Regarding Halloween- at Brookside there will be no formal parade, but kids can wear costumes as long as they can function in school (no masks/sticks/weapons) and inflatable costumes can be tough for students. 4/5<sup>th</sup> grades can do a craft in class
  - Question from Christina- 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade class parents should reach out to teachers to offer to bring a craft (it should be fair among the classes)
- Anastasia Maroulis, Hillside Principal
  - It's getting cold- kids still play outside in the 30 degree and above
    - Make sure to dress appropriately with clothes

- The school will communicate if 3 or more students have an illness in the class, please communicate to the school if your child is sick
- Hillside had not received photos yet, received on 10/20. We may push the make up date to the 4<sup>th</sup>)
- The Book Fair is going really well, thank you PTO for helping students in financial need
- Hillside had Professional Development for teachers (during the recent days off)- giving teacher strategies in the classroom for behavior to enhance learning. We also brought in a non-profit group through an AFEE grant to train adults about recess time as an extension of PE (creating stations, etc.)- they will be coming back again for a half day training and another on-site visit to help work out specifics
- K-2 is now using the Foundations program (works on spelling, phonics, phonemic awareness, and handwriting) and this is going really well
- Substitutes- if you are interested in subbing as a teacher, classroom aide, or lunch aide, please reach out! Question from Sabina- Who should you contact if interested in subbing? Answer- Contact Dr. Barcedapone's office and they will get you set up for that (fingerprinting and 3-hour training)
- Veteran's Day- We are going back to the full tribute and we are looking to honor either parents, grandparents, or local people (active or retired)- if interested, please reach out. There is a breakfast and an assembly and there will be a donation sign up sent out if anyone wants to donate to the veteran's breakfast. We currently have 7 veterans signed up and would love more!
- Kelsey Snedeker + Sharon Bailey, Hillside & Brookside Representative
  - Ms. Bailey- Thank you PTO for the teachers' Halloween treat!
  - Students dressed up for respect week and a lot of students participated
  - At Brookside they are gearing up to do a food drive, information to follow at the end of the week or next week

#### PAST AND UPCOMING EVENTS

- November's Monthly Teacher Appreciation - Gratitude Lunch
  - Karina Singh- November 22<sup>nd</sup> luncheon will be on the last day of school before the Thanksgiving break
- K Service Project
  - Lori Shekari- we are collecting Halloween costumes and candy for Oasis, which will end on Friday- Jill Romano has been leading this as the Kindergarten grade mom and the donations will be brought to Oasis on Friday. Kindergarten students made a cute video to spread the word.
- Halloween Safety with APD- Glow Sticks for Brookside
  - We partnered with the Allendale Police Department to make a video for BTV about Halloween safety. The PTO will be providing glow sticks for trick or treating safety on Halloween night
- Holiday Shoppe-
  - Sharon Murphy & Jenny Mario- We picked a company to use for kids to shop for their family, these will be inexpensive gifts up to \$5 per gift. Students will go in with their class and shop for their family in a similar setup to the book fair
    - This will be at Hillside and the 4/5<sup>th</sup> graders will walk up from Brookside
    - We are thinking of the Week of Dec 12 for 4-5 days, Ms. Maroulis will work on a date
    - If any families need funding, please reach out to the PTO

- We offered to Mr. Winkelstein to see if the older kids are interested in helping the younger kids shop (he will have to check because of the band concert but he will get back to us on that)
- Family Events
  - Bridget Adler- The Great Pumpkin Carve- The event is this Sunday from 10-4. It is the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual and is a great family event. The cost is \$30 per family and you get a pumpkin, carving tools, and a tea light included. You sign up for an hour long slot. There will be prizes for 1,2,3<sup>rd</sup> place with Allendale celebrity judges (police chief Dillon, children's librarian Ms. Hilary, SLEO at Hillside Officer Poplov)
  - Medieval Times
    - Jenny Mario- We are planning a night out most likely on a Saturday night in January (date TBD). This will be a group outing which includes a meal, beverages, dessert and will be about \$56 for adult \$30 per student. The show is 2 hours long (may be daytime or evening) and we need to give them a rough estimate by the end of October and finalize the number two weeks before. We will finalize the date and go from there
- Book Fair
  - Family Night- Thursday from 6:30-8:30 for parents who want to bring their kids
- 4th/5th Grade Movie Night (Karina)
  - October 27<sup>th</sup>- The Evite for this event went out and a sign up for parents to volunteer. So far, 62 students and 12 volunteers signed up!
  - A reminder will go out on the 22nd
- 2nd Grade Bingo Night
  - Jen Higgins- This event will be on 10/26 at 6:30. It is a drop off event with Ms. Maroulis. We will serve pizza and kids should bring their own water
- Thanksgiving Food Drive
  - This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade project which will run the two weeks prior to Thanksgiving- more information to follow
- Murals/ Painted Multipurpose Room
  - Lori Shekari- Mrs. Diomedea and Ms. Maroulis had the idea to have murals painted at Hillside in the All-Purpose room to refresh the walls. We reached out to one of the women who paints murals and we will schedule that to start the ideas moving
  - One possible idea could be to reach out to High School art students? Do we turn this into a contest of some sort? We will set up a committee for this and get the ball rolling.
- Veterans Day (see above)
- Our next meeting is on 11/16

Meeting ended at 9:56am

### UPCOMING DATES

10/20	Family Night at the Bookfair
10/21	Break down the Bookfair
10/23	Pumpkin Carve
10/26	2nd Grade BINGO Night
10/27	4/5th Grade Movie Night
11/7-18	Food Drive