

PTO Meeting Agenda

Wednesday, October 20, 2021 9:15am
Zoom Meeting

Attendees:

Sabina McGuirl, Christina Valdes, Bruce Winkelstein, Dr. Bardadepone, Ms. Snedeker, Bridget Adler, Sharon Murphy, Medy Murphy, Jamie Noe, Lori Verbel, Johanna Holmes, Karina Singh, Jen Higgins, Lisa Ellison, Lauren Sacks, Colleen Barrett, Stacey Wang, Mitzi Knapp, Andrew Shin, Tara Mansouri, Erica Belasic, Anna Lacassa, Scott Rose, Meghan Pagano, Grace Perruzzi, Stacey Artale, Jackie DiFrancesco, Debbie Lebnikoff, Diana Doumato, Erin Pilipiak, Prince Paulraj, Colleen Brennan, Lauren Kuczma, Eugenia Blackmon, Abhishek P., Jason Braff, Krisley Rose, Audrey Hayek

Meeting Called to Order: 9:16 am

Minutes Approved by: Lauren Sacks and Jen Higgins

Sabina McGuirl and Christina Valdes- PTO Co-Presidents:

PTO UPDATES

- Treasurer's Report- Operating Account has \$13,178.92 and the Cheddar Up (membership, shop sales, event) has \$8,700 – total \$21,896.92. There is \$25,835 in class dues and class and grade parents are working to collect anything outstanding

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

- Michael Barcadepone, Superintendent-
 - Referring to the email about the US News World report, it is a big deal after the last 18 months to be recognized for student achievement
 - Public speaking initiative from K-8 will be starting back up this year, we are working on building student voice and have students more involved with active roles and sharing ideas
 - The first student AFEE grant ever was submitted (done with a teacher) and shows that students are taking self-initiative
 - We will start bringing children to board meetings to practice speaking in different environments and will have groups of students coming to present at the board with authentic presentations
- Bruce Winkelstein, Brookside Principal-
 - Conferences- November 8th sign ups will be on Realtime for conferences which will take place on Google Meet or Zoom, and possibly in person
 - Concerts- we changed the format this year:
 - Chorus will be by grade-level and will sing with masks on two different nights- grades 4/5 will be on the 7th and grades 6/7/8 on the 9th

- They will follow up with times later in mid-November
 - The band concert will be pushed off until February for 4/5th grades
 - Middle school band concerts will be in December- 6th grade will be separate and 7/8th will be together
 - We will keep students distanced
 - Hopefully in spring will be able to do this outside
- It is starting to get colder outside, we will still be going outside for lunch/recess, but may split 4/5 and 6/7/8 and will coordinate if needed
 - Encourage your child to wear a jacket
 - Plan on outdoor eating for as long as possible, which is preferred to eating in the hallway
- School events/clubs will go out on the monthly update sent out, also a Brookside school event calendar is on the website, anything that's not a daily thing will be posted on the website
- Question from Christina- 4th graders don't bring Chromebooks home, do they have time to check their student emails? Answer- Sometimes during homeroom, but most communication from the school will be sent through email to parents, email to students is not the primary way of communication
- Anastasia Maroulis, Hillside Principal
 - Not able to join us today, presented by Sabina
 - Looking forward to Bingo night tonight, splitting the times Pre-K/K and 1-3
 - Halloween parade on 10/29- 11:00 for PreK and K and then 2:30 for Grades 1-3 as well as K Group B, B day Kindergarteners will march twice
 - Parents line up around the building and please stay clear from the walking path
 - Veteran's Day-
 - We are seeking to have each homeroom honor a veteran and students will make tributes to their veteran
 - This will be virtual or in person
 - We need more veterans, if you know of anyone, please let Ms. Maroulis know
 - The PTO may need help making cards
 - Teacher Professional Development- we have been working with a consultant Patty McGee
 - She is working with staff and going into the classroom to do a demonstration, and then is meeting with teachers again
 - Meal ordering system will change in November, parents will be entering lunch options through mymealorder.com
 - More information to follow
 - Reach out with any questions
 - Friday December 17th Grade level concerts for Grades 1-3 starting at 9am
- Kelsey Snedeker + Sharon Bailey, Hillside & Brookside Representative-
 - Ms. Bailey is working on the same initiative as mentioned previously to give more students a voice

- We celebrated the Week of Respect, dressed up in themes, in Brookside the homerooms chose their themes (student choice/voice) and they earned points based on participation
- Peer leaders at Brookside this year have more responsibility/options
- Door decorating contest for the Week of Respect is still going on, meeting during lunch, and judging will be at the end of this week
- Brookside sports are off to a great start
 - Cross country is doing great- boys came in first, girls second
 - Soccer is wrapping up, girls may be going to post-season for the semi-finals
- 8th grade peer leaders will be meeting with 4th graders next week to develop meaningful contact between grades
- There is a badge system in the learning commons- 60 badges for kids who participate in different activities
 - We can see measurable contributions students have, she will post some on her website
 - For example, students created pinatas for the cardboard construction badge
- Book club is starting this month, teacher and student book club in the afternoon for 4-8th grade, will meet once
- BTV is off and running, the trivia and point system is booming! Students reps are in charge of submitting for their classes
- Comment from Christina- We would be happy to highlight/share any of these on our social media, Ms. Snedeker will ask Bruce where he wants the door contest posted
- Question from Medy- Is there anything going on for fall theater? Details for club meeting times, etc.? Ms. Snedeker- Check student emails or reach out, check website
 - We got a grant for 4/5th grade production and the 6th grade will start after that

RECAP AND UPCOMING EVENTS

- One River and Superdome Recap
 - Columbus Day events- they gave us \$10 back per student- in total \$430 made for that day
- Nirvana Recap (Karina)
 - Successful event considering the carnival was at the same time, we made over \$300 and Nirvana rounded up to \$500
- Brookside and Hillside's Monthly Teacher Appreciation
 - We are trying to change up the offerings every month, last month was granola bars and fruit bars
 - November will be scheduled soon, send any themes/ideas to the PTO
- Box Tops (Sharon)
 - We are possibly thinking about a school-wide incentive, going back and forth with ideas

- We need ideas on how parents will do this and scan their receipts
- Memory Book Pictures
 - All of the memory book coordinators are set up, there will be a meeting soon about how to set up share sites
 - Please take photos for the memory books!
 - If any class parents know of anyone going into the classroom, please remind them to take photos
- Hillside Bingo Night
 - Everything was sent home and links were sent with class parents today
- 4th & 5th Grade Movie Nights (Karina)
 - Great response for the movie night, split the 4th and 5th grades
 - 90+ students for the two grades
 - No snack during the movie, goody bag after, this should be a fun night!
- Scholastic Book Fair
 - This is in full swing! Donuts with Grown Ups yesterday, did \$1000 more than last year for that event
 - We went cashless this year using Ewallet
 - Family Night from 6:30-8:30 Thursday
 - You can donate a book to your child's classroom, there are slips there
 - Teachers received \$20 for their classrooms to spend
 - Question from Sabina- 4th grade teachers lost a lot of books- can we help donate Scholastic dollars to help? Dr. B- We have insurance money and teachers can use that to purchase, or will reach out if needed
- The Great Pumpkin Carve (Bridget)
 - This Sunday October 24th 10-6 at the Red Barn
 - Family event and families can sign up for a 1-hour time slot for \$30 which includes a pumpkin, tools, and a tea light
 - There will be music and a bubble machine, and they will be selling donuts, cider, and candy
 - There are still tickets available through CheddarUp
 - We need volunteers during the event
 - Open to everyone!
 - After the event, we will upload photos to the PTO social media pages, and there are Allendale celebrity judges and will award prizes for 1/2/3rd places with prizes for the top 3!
 - You can bring any of your own props and get as creative as possible
- Drive-In Movie Night-
 - We are looking to do this somewhere local
 - Possibly Demarest Farm in the spring
 - Dr. B- sometimes Stryker will allow this, we have a \$1 million insurance policy which covers school events, reach out to a company to use their parking lot on a Saturday night
- Fall Fundraisers
 - Apparel (Sabina)
 - The store will close next Friday the 29th
 - Faculty members we given a code for 20% off

- Wrapping Paper (Sharon)
 - Charleston Wrap fundraisers packets were sent home
 - This ends November 15th, we have made over \$1,000 so far
 - Purchases will be sent directly to your homes and will be to you by the holidays
- Carousel Cakes (Lori)
 - This is a Thanksgiving Fundraiser
 - We are selling an assortment of pies/cakes that will come in time for the holiday
 - More information to follow, we will come up with an online form
- 12/1 Shopping Day at Tons of Toy/Treasurers (Johanna)
 - On 12/1, they will be giving us 15% back in both stores, great for holiday shopping
 - They will be sending us a flyer to send out in a couple of weeks
 - Buy your holiday gifts on 12/1!

- Unicef at Halloween
 - In the past, kids have gone trick or treating with boxes, but instead this will be done the same way as last year
 - Family members can donate via a link versus door to door and this information will be sent out closer to Halloween
- Halloween Parade
 - Updates above, see Ms. Maroulis
- Glow Run Update
 - This is still in the works of getting a meeting set up and discussing what the best option is for that, more to come
- Playground Update
 - This committee has been in touch with Mr. W and the student council will be getting involved
 - Once committee is put in place, we will get more updates out
 - Students can present to the PTO regarding their selections
- Service Projects
 - Thanksgiving food and turkey drive- 3rd grade-level parent will work with the students to advertise for when/where to drop off leading to the holidays
- Veteran's Day Idea
 - Looking for more veteran's, see updates above
- Grade-level parent Activity
 - We are looking to foster more socialization for parents
 - The grade level parents will be planning grade-level activities for parents
- If anyone has ideas for fundraisers or community nights, please reach out!
- November at Define- one of our members Kim Muscarella offered on Thursday November 18th she will teach a spin class at Define and they will donate \$15 for each person back to the PTO, there are 25 bikes in the room!

- Question from Grace P.- Are there any thoughts on the Disney trip? Dr. B- this trip is OFF for this year, too many risks associated and may explore it for next school year
- In Zoom Chat- Mitzi wrote: For Box Tops - could you have the students come up/vote for what the money raised would go towards to tie them back into the fundraiser?
- From Mitzi via email- what about a community service event? For example "Clean up Allendale Day" depending on how many people sign up we could have multiple locations 1. Brookside 2. Celery Farm 3. Crestwood, or even helping at the John Fell house - with yard clean up? We would pick up trash/litter/clear trails, etc. and have coffee/donuts for volunteers

Meeting ended at 10:05 am

UPCOMING DATES

10/18-10/21 Book Fair
 10/20 BINGO Night
 10/21 Family Night at the Bookfair 6:30pm-8:30pm
 10/22 Break down the Bookfair
 10/24 Pumpkin Carve
 10/25-26 AFEE Night Out @ AB&G
 10/27 4th Grade Movie Night
 10/28 5th Grade Movie Night
 11/9 Carousel Cakes Order Due