

## **PTO Meeting Minutes**

Tuesday, November 16, 2021, 7:30pm  
Zoom Meeting

### **Attendees:**

Sabina McGuirl, Christina Valdes, Bruce Winkelstein, Dr. Bardadepone, Ms. Maroulis, Ms. Snedeker, Mrs. Bailey, Bridget Adler, Sharon Murphy, Medy Murphy, Jamie Noe, Karina Singh, Jen Higgins, Katharine Miros, Lauren Sacks, Stacey Wang, Nicole Weiss, Laura, Krishna V., Jillian Cook, Chrissy, Bill Semanczuk, Tara Mansouri, Erica Belasic, Sommer Forbes, JD, Lori Shekari, Lolade, Victoria's Phone, LM, Donna Koch, Yolanda's Phone

**Meeting Called to Order:** 7:32 pm

**Minutes Approved by:** Medy Murphy and Bridget Adler

### **Sabina McGuirl and Christina Valdes- PTO Co-Presidents:**

#### PTO UPDATES

- Treasurer's Report- \$26,425.21 in operating account which is reflective of all class dues with funds for memory books, similar place financially as last year

#### ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

- Michael Barcadepone, Superintendent-
  - Cathy Danahy is leaving Allendale and is now superintendent of River Edge Public Schools. We have been interviewing and have a candidate to recommend to the Board to start in January.
  - He sent an email about the drone for footage for the website and they did a great job. The digital arts students from Brookside are going to meet with Dr. B to put together the internal pictures of the school and combine with video footage which will not only save us thousands of dollars but will also make students active participants. It is amazing that students and teachers think they are capable of doing this for the website!
  - We met with the K-5 report card committee and in late January/early Feb an email will be coming out with a survey for parents to fill out to revamp the report cards to see what parents are looking for and what would be helpful to them. Look out for this survey.
  - We have been doing well with COVID-19, even with our increases we are nowhere near what other districts have had with many cases. Please contact the school nurses immediately if your children are not feeling well.
  - Question from Christina- is it helpful to let the school know if your child has been vaccinated? Realtime just gave us the green light to be able to input this information, there will be an email going out which will allow you to upload vaccination information for your child into the system. If vaccinated, you will not need to keep your child home if not symptomatic.

- Bruce Winkelstein, Brookside Principal
  - Next week is conferences- there will be 12:45pm dismissal K-8, middle school and Grade 5 sign-ups are on real time, let them know if there are any issues with scheduling. The 4<sup>th</sup> grade teachers are setting up conferences themselves.
  - For next week, the lunch period normally scheduled for the kids is a time for snack, but that will only happen if we can take the kids outside. There will be no eating in the building, send with snack and coat in case.
  - Next Wednesday is the next SEL activity with Robin (to work on big concepts)- they come in and do conversations with the kids that are age-appropriate about social-emotional topics. There will be a follow up in SEL classes with our guidance counselors (combination of what teachers see and what kids report as issues for them).
  - Concerts- An email was sent out to explain that the chorus oncerts for 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Grades will be on December 7<sup>th</sup>. This will be a short concert with only 3 songs and the kids will be separated by 3 feet and wearing masks. The 4<sup>th</sup> will perform and then everyone will leave, and after that will be 5<sup>th</sup> grade. Each concert will likely be about 15 minutes each.
  - The middle school concert is December 9<sup>th</sup> for chorus and similarly to above, there will be 3 separate concerts.
  - The Band concer will be on December 16<sup>th</sup> for grades 6-8. The 4/5<sup>th</sup> grades will be done in February. The 6<sup>th</sup> grade will perform on its own and then the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades will be combined.
  - For spring, the plan is to be outside with the full concerts.
  - Question from Kat- What time are concerts? Concerts are at night likely starting at 6:30, they need a better sense of how long it takes to get kids on and off stage, etc. before setting the time officially.
  - Question from Kat- Can conferences be in person if requested? Yes- conferences CAN be in person, contact the teacher to make arrangements and let the teacher know.
  - Question from Christina- Will the concerts be limited to how many people can come? No- family members can come and families can separate by a few seats.
  
- Anastasia Maroulis, Hillside Principal
  - Thank you for the Veteran gift bags! We celebrated Veteran's week last week and each homeroom adopted a veteran. There were about 14 vets who either came in or did a virtual session and the students made tributes and it was very well-received and a great opportunity to make it a little more intimate.
  - Conferences are next week. If you or the teacher feels the need to meet in person that can happen as long as you stick to the schedule- teachers will focus on academics and social/emotional growth. It is important to grow the independence of our students and anything you can do to foster independence at home is critical. There will be 12:45 dismissal for K-3 next week regardless of kindergarten grouping.

- Lunch and snack are still being eaten outside. We always have accommodations inside if necessary, which likely will happen in December.
  - Food Drive is going ok, please keep bringing items to donate!
  - Thursday 11/18 School Photo make-up day
  - For Grades 1-3- In September we spoke of the Pomptonian process for ordering lunch and we will likely launch the new ordering platform on December 6<sup>th</sup>. Look for email about this. We will likely require parents to order a week ahead with ordering done by Fridays for the following week and more information will be coming out,
  - The Hillside Holiday Concert will be on 12/17 during the day during 3 different increments at 9am, 10am and 11am for grades 1-3. This will be a different format versus a traditional concert and will be limited to 2 people per family due to lack of space in Hillside. Families will be masked and distanced and more information will follow.
- Kelsey Snedeker + Sharon Bailey, Hillside & Brookside Representative-
    - Veteran's Day was such a wonderful week at Hillside!
    - The Food and Turkey Drives are at Hillside and Brookside. For Brookside, it was organized by students with a collection in the Learning Commons.
    - Winter sports getting ready to start for grades 7-8. Please make sure forms are ready for try outs.
    - A musical theater interest survey went out today for 5-8<sup>th</sup> grades, please fill out the survey so they can plan for the musical season.
    - There is a possible contest in the works to gain interest in the book fair.

### PAST AND UPCOMING EVENTS

- Book fair update and Spring read-a-thon- For book sales in school and online we sold over \$21,000 of books and the proceeds of that will be sent to us in Scholastic money. We are planning to do a Readathon or essay contest to give a bigger focus to the book fair and literacy with possibly a digital choice of how to submit. This may be an essay, poem, digital format of a book trailer, cartoon, etc. to hit many interests. Mrs. Bailey and Ms. Snedeker are brainstorming ideas for this.
- Bridget- "The Great Pumpkin Carve" was at the Red Barn in October and was a big success. We had 38 families and made over \$600 and we are looking forward to doing it again next year.
- Monthly Teacher Appreciation- Every month we try to show our teachers and staff our appreciation and we do a monthly appreciation. This month we will do a thankful theme luncheon which is being arranged by Jackie DiFrancesco and Lori Shekari. Lunch will be sent on behalf of the families from the PTO on the 22<sup>nd</sup> from 12:45-1:30pm.
- Kat- The apparel sale we did really well. We sold about 285 pieces and the Brookside sweatshirt was a top seller. There were so many adult and teacher sales. thank you so much! The items will be here in 2-3 weeks and will be shipped directly to you.
- The 8<sup>th</sup> grade apparel sale is happening now with bleached out sweatshirts. Lisa Ellison has them and will be delivering in the next couple of days. There has been amazing support from teachers again- thank you! This sale goes on until December 6<sup>th</sup> so it can be delivered before the holidays.

- Box Tops (Sharon)- This is all digital on an app now. We will continue this through the app but will no longer have to collect receipts. Please encourage everyone to take pictures of their receipts so we can earn money for this.
- DEFINE night out- This Thursday night there will be a class at Define taught by Kim Muscarella and \$15 from each person will be donated back to the PTO.
- Fundraiser - Periwinkle Designs- selling ornaments and small gifts in combination with the PTO
- Charity event- Unite With Light and recipient (Bridget)- Coming up on December 12<sup>th</sup> we will be doing an event like a holiday house tour where families can decide if they want to be added to the map if they want to participate with lights by their house. This is a way for families to go around and see decorations in town and also benefits a charity instead of a fundraiser. All of the proceeds will go to a charity called CASA which works with foster children in Bergen County and we are hoping to join forces with APD. This charity will provide birthday and holiday gifts for children in need and we are hoping for at least 10 families to sign up. This can be any family in Allendale and you can donate even if you are not involved in the light show. 100% of proceeds will be donated to CASA and your donation will include a map and treat bags for kids.
- Community Event - Tubing at Campgaw- On Thursday, January 6<sup>th</sup> from 6-8pm, Campgaw lowered the rate to \$20 per person. This is not a drop off event and you must be 42 inches tall. We are looking forward to this event in the community- more information to follow.
- Karina hosted 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade movie nights at Brookside, and we are now expanding to 6<sup>th</sup> grade.
- 6th grade movie night- Students will be watching "Tuck Everlasting"- we will be picking a date for this.
- 7th and 8th grade events- we would like to poll students since we want to do an event for these grades and figure out an event they would like. We will be asking for feedback from these grades for their input on what they would enjoy so we can come up with a few ideas and they can be sent out as a survey to choose 1 or 2 favorites or rank them.
- 2nd Grade Service Project ideas- We are trying to revamp the service projects to make a bigger connection to the students. Please reach out with ideas.
- Hillside Winter celebration- In years past we have done a winter celebration for our students and we would like to try to do a bagel breakfast/lunch on December 23<sup>rd</sup> with a winter theme. The PTO is looking into this.
- Gift Cards for Staff & Admin- The PTO is meeting with administration to get a list of all staff members to give everyone in the district gift cards at the holidays.
- AFEE/PTO Tennis Fundraiser- This will be on January 29<sup>th</sup> and more information to follow through Constant Contact.
- International Day- This is currently scheduled for March 3<sup>rd</sup> and we need to figure out the night portion of the event but we can play that by ear. We have time to think about this and will start sign ups in January.
- Memory books- Parents should share the share site with the class to make sure there's enough photos.

Meeting Ended at 8:20pm

### Upcoming Dates

November 8-19	Food & Turkey Drive
November 18	Spin class at DEFINE - 7:30 pm
November 22	Token of Appreciation Lunch for staff

November 23	Carousel Cakes and Pies distribution
December 1	Birthday Club
December 1	Ornament and gift orders due
December 12	Unite with Light
December 23	Winter celebration
December 24	Winter break