

PTO General Meeting Minutes- September 13th, 2021 at 7:30pm

Brookside Learning Commons

Attendees:

Sabina McGuirl, Christina Valdes, Administration, PTO Board, and roughly 34 people

Meeting Called to Order: 7:38 pm

Minutes Approved by: Lisa Ellison and Medy Murphy

Sabina McGuirl and Christina Valdes- PTO Co-Presidents:

PTO Updates

- Introduction of the Board
- Treasurer Report by Bridget Adler- Operating Account \$14,620, Boosterthon Account \$33,693.79

Administrative Reports

- Mr. Winkelstein-
 - We has a good start to school, thank you to custodial staff for helping get the 4th graders set up and back in their classrooms
 - Picture Day is tomorrow (9/14) for Brookside
 - Back to School Night is Next Week- Tuesday- Elementary, 30-40 minutes for 4th graders, 5th grade parents will rotate, Thursday- Middle, 6:30-7 open house for specials, slot in the middle for specials, possible students as tour guides
 - Student council elections start next week- they will deal with school spirit-committees to form after elections- includes a playground committee for kids to take a more active role (kid designed, like the Brookside Learning Commons) and how to spend the money most effectively- looking for something different and unique- Christina said we can put a fundraising goal in place if what the kids plan is more we will fundraise, we can work towards a goal
 - Peer leadership is in charge of community outreach (Mrs. Bailey)
 - Book Fair is coming up
- Ms. Maroulis-
 - Kindergarten meet and greet was great, every child received a yellow Hillside t-shirt
 - The coffee was very well-received by the staff
 - Good opening of school, a lot feels familiar and a lot is new, the days off have been helpful to acclimate to the full days and weeks again, only 3rd graders know our school very well, these kids have not really been in school
 - Lunch- 1:20 minutes to feed everyone, grades 1-3 will eat outdoors tomorrow, Kindergarten will stay in their classrooms on the half days, Kindergarten ate in the Cafeteria or all-purpose room today, back to back schedules with recess and lunch

- Lunch ordering is going well, about 130 kids ordered last Friday (mostly 2 slices of pizza each) across multiple locations, so many moving parts, we were low on supervision
 - Birthday club is coming- this Wednesday we will celebrate in Innovation Lab or Art Room
 - Picture Day on Wednesday, individual photos only
 - Book Fair in mid-October
 - Sept 30- Hillside Back to School Night, the agenda will be going out tomorrow 7-7:40 AM/K/1, 7:40 2/3
 - Playground Committee- looking down the line to revamp Hillside playground, after Brookside we may be looking ahead
 - Drop off is going better, the drop off line is working well
 - Christina- will Back to School Night be limited to one parent? To be discussed tomorrow morning, a few options are being discussed
 - Kim O'Sullivan- Any chance for ALEOOP activities? YES- that will be happening, no parents have gotten communication yet, supposed to start on the 27th.
 - Sabina- Class parent info from teachers? Will have more information next week
 - COGAT assessment will be next week, group IQ test used in-house for gifted and talented purposes
 - Virtual Author Visit- Peter Brown on 9/28
- Ms. Goodell (Supervisor of Special Services)
 - Supervisor of Special Services- started last year
 - Planning to have a new special education parent advocacy group on 10/13 (Wednesday) at 9:30am, spread the information (Christina said- please send us a copy and we can post)
- Ms. Snedeker (Enrichment)
 - Thank you for the donuts and coffee
 - Morale is high, kids are happy and doing well, so much life coming back to the building has been nice, very happy to be back
 - Cross country started today, soccer starting next week
 - BTV program is revamped for this year, Ms. Brook and Mrs. Lopes revamped the program. They are working hard to find great things going on within the school. The first game has to do with teacher's yearbook photos, they are working very hard, students do have to be to school early to participate
 - Mrs. Bailey is doing Peter Brown (author of "The Wild Robot") and bringing into her classes
 - 4-5th grade play- a grant is being written, hopefully will happen
 - Sabina asked- Concerts? Musicals?- We are planning on doing them, but aren't sure how they are going to look yet

Sabina McGuirl and Christina Valdes- PTO Co-Presidents

- Feedback form- parents felt there was a disconnect about what the PTO does, so Christina created a sheet about the PTO outlining what we do versus what AFEE does (they have to be educational/grants), we want to make this a fun year back for the kids to build back the morale, please introduce yourself to us

- Year at a Glance sheet, monthly meetings via Zoom to bring the meetings to more people, usually around 35 minutes, administrators are there and are happy to answer questions, can bring up ideas or ask questions
- Joining the PTO- Directory/Cheddar Up
 - Joining the PTO helps us do what we do, you receive the directory as an added benefit
 - We will advertise this week, we will send information this week about the directory, there are still families who haven't given ok through Real Time
- Jen Higgins- We saw a need for a platform to make collections, Cheddar Up is our best options since it is made for nonprofits or groups- don't need app or login, can pay via credit card, e-check (easy just like paying with a check, secure), one-stop shop for everything we need to pay, will streamline our finances and will help with reporting and will make donations more accessible- reach out with any questions, and please consider covering the costs for the PTO when using CheddarUp
- Class parents will be out next week- there will be a night where your class parent will release the document for parents to sign up to volunteer
- Upcoming fundraisers-
 - Karina- Nirvana- Community Night Out- order out or make a reservation
 - Sharon- Box Tops are now digital- download the app and scan your receipt and make an account, will automatically send money to our school, will follow up with more information soon to encourage this more
 - Kat- Fall Apparel sale will be launched in October to purchase great Allendale Apparel- for both Hillside and Brookside
- Book Fair- Kim O'Sullivan and Heather Chin- October 18-21- Goes for the whole week
 - Setup on the Friday before in the Brookside Learning Commons, need volunteers on 10/15
 - No parents at the book fair with kids this year, some to help walk the kids K-2 and help at the book fair
 - Family night on the Thursday Night
 - Wednesday Morning- "Donuts with Grownups" Grab and Go
 - Will be completely cashless- Scholastic has offered an e-wallet option
 - Clean up on Friday 10/22
 - Plan to offer \$20 for the teachers for their classrooms, we will do through Scholastic money, happy to be able to do this
 - Incentives for kids to win \$10 vouchers
 - Wish Lists for teachers? Can kids use in their e-wallet- they will work on this, put money towards teachers, hopefully teachers can make wish lists earlier
 - Also you can order online during the time when the Book Fair is running so parents can order and we will still get credit
- Monthly e-Bulletins and outline of events in packet- we will be sending an update every month, please send any ideas, suggestions, questions
- Andra Strudler will act as the Community Liason
- Community Events- Drive in Movie/ Fall Festival

- Bridget- Drive-In Movie Fundraiser, cannot use the parking lot at Crestwood, but possibly can use Northern Highlands- Oct 7 will not work, so they will send more dates that can work
- Fall Festival- October 24th (Sunday) at the Red Barn at Crestwood- pay per family and sign up for a time slot, about 10 families per hours- would get your own pumpkin and carving tools, take a photo of your pumpkin and upload to padlet and judges will pick a favorite
- 8th Grade Car Wash- Sept 25th at Brookside at the flagpole
- Are You Board Recess Boxes?- We will go through these items
- Walk to School Day- October 6th- Community and Covid-friendly
- Activities for Tuesday of Columbus Day- We have off that day and would love to do something fun so any ideas please email us
- Follow us on social media!!!
- Anything you want to volunteer for or any ideas you have, whatever time you have is so helpful! If you hear of anything someone else does in another district, we are open to any ideas.
- Memory Books- Last year the only grade that got a memory book was the 3rd grade book in a yearbook style, we will keep the 3rd grade style the same and will do individual books for the other classes. The cost of the 3rd grade book will go up a little bit, creative ideas for memory books
 - We collected fees for memory books last year and those funds are being rolled over. We are combining the dues cost with the overage of the memory book costs, more to come on this

Fall Dates-

Sept 14- Brookside School Photos

Sept 15- Hillside School Photos

Sept 21- Brookside Back to School Night (4-5)

Sept 23- Brookside Middle School Back to School Night (6-8)

Sept 30- Hillside Back to School Night

Meeting ended at: 8:32 PM