

PTO General Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, April 20, 2022 9:00 AM
Zoom Meeting

Attendees: Sabina McGuirl, Christina Valdes, Dr. Barcadepone, Bruce Winkelstein, Ms. Maroulis, Ms. Snedeker, Jen Higgins, Jamie Noe, Medy Murphy, Karina Singh, Lori Verbel, Sharon Murphy, Lisa Ellison, Bridget Adler, Sommer Forbes, Jill Relay, Lori Shekari

Meeting Called to Order: 9:16 am

Minutes Approved by: Karina Singh and Medy Murphy

PTO UPDATES

- Treasurer's Report- We have \$29,908.54 in operating account and a little over \$200 in CheddarUp to be transferred over

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

- Michael Barcadepone, Superintendent
 - We are interviewing for staff for next year
 - We are in the process of redoing our website and students are helping. This will go live for September and we are looking for programs to streamline communication with families.
 - Parents received emails about eligibility for the summer program, please reply to accept.
 - Our district is writing a grant to AFEE. Originally the grant was being focused on redoing the cafeteria area but this is being swapped to redoing the stages/auditoriums in both schools. This will include replacing the complete audio/visual systems at both schools to be used in many ways,
 - There has been a lot of discussion about the 8th grade standards on diversity/inclusion- we will have a presentation for parents at night to talk about the standards set out by the DOE, plus what are the laws of what must be included.
 - We will also have 3 breakout sessions to focus on types of lessons and how we incorporate them, multiple perspectives, and how we evaluate resources. This is educational plus parent involvement.
 - The meeting will be in end of May/early June
 - Next Wednesday at 7pm will be the district's annual budget presentation.
- Bruce Winkelstein, Brookside Principal
 - There's a lot going on right now!
 - Battle of the Books on Thursday 4th graders in AM, 5/6 in in the PM and for those kids and their parents
 - LinkIt Testing- we are in the third round. We had the whole school yesterday and Friday will be the second day. This will give us information on which areas we need to focus on.
 - The spring Book Fair is next week

- 5th grade parents got an email with a survey for field trips next year, specifically the Disney trip, only 50% of parents replied please submit reply if you haven't. We need more information before deciding if this trip can happen.
- Will meet with all the 5/6/7th graders in early May to talk about their scheduling for next year.
 - 6th- We will discuss elective choices and how their schedule looks
 - 7th- We will discuss elective choice and math placement impact going forward
 - 8th- There are 13-14 electives to choose from, and then we will start talking about high school
 - Emails to follow and with the link to the curriculum guide
- May 16th NJ SLA- 9 full days of testing depending on your grade level-scores used for HS placement or for identifying concerns and strengths.
- Playground update- student council executive committee has discussed playground equipment versus picnic tables- they did a survey with the school and it was pretty split but close. The kids would prefer an extra jungle gym versus the picnic tables. The kids will present to us and the board on what they want
 - Christina- please send information on the picnic tables- maybe we can still get a couple with our budget
- Anastasia Maroulis, Hillside Principal
 - The 1-3 graders will be eating outside again soon
 - Preschool parents have been notified if they got into the preschool program
 - Kindergarten groupings letters are going out on Monday
 - For incoming K students, there will be a visitation in small groups to meet with academic support teachers for a baseline screening
 - This will identify kids who need extra support and to identify kids for the summer program
 - The final round of LinkIt assessment is coming up in grades 1-3 in ELA and math
 - The spring Book Fair is next week
 - This Thursday or Friday a notice will be going out to 1st grade parents- there will be a mobile food lab on site to do Stem activities to learn about food and sustainability
 - May 2nd is Theater week- 79 second and third graders are participating and the final performance will be on that Friday at Brookside School. There will be no in school dress rehearsal.
 - We are working with 3rd grade parents on the end of year activities. The end of year celebration will be a carnival theme on June 16/17. Ms Maroulis will meet with PE teachers for the school-wide field day.
 - The concert is on June 3 for Grades 1-3
 - Brookside orientation information will be coming out soon for May 25th
 - Christina- We will touch base about Alex's lemonade stand, possibly on June 3rd

- International Day is coming up. The display by Mrs. Knowlton is great. We are submitting a grant for International day through AFEE for the performance.
- Kelsey Snedeker + Sharon Bailey, Hillside & Brookside Representative
 - The volleyball team was very successful. They only lost 1 set all season, and it was when they played the staff
 - Spring sports are in full swing- opening day for softball and baseball, track starting soon
 - Book Fair contest was really great, some participants entered more than once- the winners work will be displayed in the school by Ms. Snedeker and Mrs. Bailey

PAST AND UPCOMING EVENTS

- Board Positions for 2022-2023
 - We are looking for some new members to join as we have some of the board rolling off
- 6th Grade Movie Night Recap
 - "Tuck Everlasting"- about 60 children came and the kids had a great time. The Language Arts teachers also came
- 4th and 5th Game Night Recap
 - The kids really enjoyed this night
 - It was a big investment but was worth it
- Anthony's Coal Fired Total (Sharon)
 - This was on April 6th and we raised \$305.77
- CPR Class Recap
 - This took place last night and was taught by Officer Ace and Chief Dillon and school nurses were there
 - There as great feedback
 - If anyone is interested in the full certification, Officer Ace would be willing to do that- please reach out to Christina or Sabina
- Bergen County Band Concessions 4/28
 - Brookside is hosting the auditions for the Bergen County Band
 - Mrs. Mathers is the point person for the band
 - We have volunteers so we're set for 4-8 on Thursday night
- Book Fair May 25-28, Donuts with Grown Ups 4/28
 - The kids are very excited!
 - We need more people to help set up on Friday and Monday mornings to set up, as well as for the break down- need more sets of hands. Please volunteer if you can.
- Kindergarten Service Project Total to Date (Sharon)
 - We finished up this project right before spring break- we collected 543 pounds of plastic!
 - This brought awareness about how much plastic we throw away
 - We are working on picking the color and location now
- Playground Decision (Bridget)
 - See Mr. Winkelstein's update
- Teacher Appreciation Weeks (Karina)
 - Hillside is starting on May 2 and we have a whole week of treats lined up

- There will be a sign up going out to the parents who can help out
 - We will be asking for student involvement to show their appreciation as well
 - Ms. Snedeker is happy to help if needed
- Walk to School Day 5/4
 - Thoughts on crossing guards to hand things out to the kids?
 - The feedback is that the crossing guards were running out of items since some kids were taking too many items
 - The crossing guards are actually employees of the police department, not the BOE
- International Day (Lori)
 - Day and night activities
- Apparel Sale - Hillside/Brookside (Kat/Sharon)
 - We just started our new sale and class parents should have sent out a link
 - There are lots of new items and this will be ongoing and ending on May 20 for local pickup
 - There is a discount code for teachers and staff
- May Testing Ice Pops
 - The PTO will be providing ice pops for all of the students who are participating in state testing at the end of the week as a pick me up. We will be asking for volunteers to hand these out
- 3rd Grade Crestwood Day
 - We are planning for June 16/17
- Volunteer Thank You Night- June 8th
 - Instead of our typical thank you breakfast, we're going to be doing a night event at the ABG and we will get information out to anyone who has helped out as well as those who are interested in taking on roles
- Silver Graphics (Medy)- We had 319 orders for silver graphics and this totaled \$3845. These items will arrive at Hillside and we will distribute

UPCOMING DATES

4/20 Book Fair Begins
 4/28 Donuts with Grownups, Book Fair Ends
 4/28 Bergen County Band
 5/2 Teacher Appreciation Week for Hillside
 5/4. Walk to School Day
 5/4 May Birthday Club at Hillside
 5/9 Teacher Appreciation Week for Brookside
 5/11 International Day

Meeting ended at 10:00AM