

PTO Meeting Minutes
January 22, 2025
Zoom

Start time: 9:18 am

Attendees: Jenny Mario, Sharon Murphy, Nikita Singhani, Lori Verbel, Audrey Hayek, Jennifer Lee, Mr. Bruce Winkelstein, Dr. Michael Barcadepone, Ms. Anastasia Maroulis, Lisa Ellison, Stefanie Morton, Bernadette Kelly, Jamie Noe, Steven Liu, Jeanne, Jackie DiFrancesco, Sabina McGuirl, Erin Pilipiak, Varvara, Utsumi

PTO UPDATES

- Approve November Minutes
 - Sharon Murphy and Lori Verbel
- Treasurer's Report
 - \$39,532.12 in operating account
 - Main activity has been gift cards given to staff of both schools
 - Part of funds from dues transferred for this
 - Payment for assemblies

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

- Michael Barcadepone, Superintendent
 - Welcome back!
 - January 20th was a professional development day for staff
 - Differentiation and Language Arts focus
 - Guest speak Mike Kuczala speaking in Hohokus tonight
 - Movement and learning on the home front
 - E-Sports
 - More than just a gaming center
 - Children developing friendships they otherwise might not have
 - Staffing
 - Mrs. Bailey teaching language arts (ELA) since has certification
 - Not in media center/library for now
 - Staffing has been very difficult across the board
 - Must move teachers based on that they feel is most important for students
 - DOE completed QSAC process
 - Anticipate we will score very high
 - Results should be out in June
 - Jenny Mario question
 - Are there any measures being taken or ideas the district has to deal with shortages of teachers?
 - Dr. Barcadepone answered
 - Posting virtually in NJ school jobs
 - Forming relationships with local universities, e.g. Ramapo College
 - Now teaching requires more specific certification
 - Can only teach in what they are certified in

- Bruce Winkelstein, Brookside Principal
 - Thank you for the Holidays cards and gifts
 - 8th grade dance this weekend
 - 6/7th grade Skyzone at end of this month
 - School Project – Mural
 - Artist coming in soon to stencil out mural in foyer
 - Next week kids are painting, and the artist will finish it up end of next week
 - Student council picked final images that were submitted by students
 - 100 students helping to paint it
 - Next week Chrome Book Checks 5th to 8th grade
 - If damaged, will have to pay for it
 - If chrome book in good shape, reward is an item from school store
 - Feb 4th is student faculty basketball game
 - High School updates for 8th graders
 - On Jan 28th students are meeting with their high school counselors
 - Will be focusing on electives
 - Parent/student orientation will take place in the evening
 - Working on recommendations for high school placements
 - Math (level and performance)
 - Science (2 different levels)
 - Placement test being done today, could not study for this
 - Language
 - Ms. Cannici (8th grade Spanish teacher) will ask which language each kid wants to take
 - Recommendations will be given to the high school by end of February
 - Review all at end of year and will potentially make changes as needed or requested
 - There is an appeals process to change to a higher level
 - Lori Verbel question
 - When we get more information on Disney?
 - Mr. Winkelstein answered
 - Monday the 27th parents will receive airline flight numbers and packing list
 - How many students are going?
 - 24 kids staying here, rest going to Disney
 - Jenny Mario question
 - When will the survey results for future trips be announced?
 - Dr. Barcadepone answered
 - Board will be discussing this at next meeting
 - Most people want both trips to continue
- Anastasia Maroulis, Hillside Principal
 - Happy New Year and Thank you for gift cards
 - More indoor recess
 - Cycle through the all-purpose room so get some activity
 - Doors open at 8:30am in morning, do not have staffing prior to this time
 - Assemblies coming up
 - Aesop Bobs for Hillside
 - Mad Dog for Brookside
 - Asked Sabina to check for certificate of insurance

- Build-a-bee was a huge success – thank you for setting that up!
- Kindergarten orientation Feb 5th
 - Registration will start there after
 - Please spread the word to people who don't have children in Hillside
- Trying to figure out another day for Hot Cocoa to be brought in
 - Any day next week works for both schools
 - Will do both schools, most likely Friday the 31st
- Had international day meeting last night
 - Liz Gomez will be chairing starting next year
 - March 26th with snow date of March 27th
 - Thank you, Lori Verbel, for chairing it for the past few years!
- See a lot of growth with the students in January which is great, see more academic jumps

PTO EVENTS

- Pre-K/K Build-a-Bee (1/13)
- PTO Assembly (1/24)
 - Hillside: Aesop Bops
 - Brookside: Mad Dog
- 6th and 7th Grade Sky Zone Outing (1/30)
 - Next Thursday
 - 6th grade 40 kids signed up
 - 7th grade 30 kids signed up
 - Hopefully more will sign up
- 4/5th Grade Game Night (3/5)
 - Evite coming soon – early to mid February
- 3rd Grade Dodge Ball (3/6)
 - 7pm in Brookside Gym
 - Ms. Maroulis will get us T-shirt sizes for staff
- St. Patrick's Day Scavenger Hunt (3/16)
 - Bridget Adler hosting it again
 - Sign up coming in February
 - Need volunteers for this event
- International Day (3/26)
- 2025/26 Board Positions
 - Will be having many open positions next year
 - If anyone interested in joining board, please let us know
 - Parent square post will be going out soon as well
 - Can reach out to any of us on board
- Audrey Hayek question
 - With regards to grade kindness week next week, is there a daily theme (in particular for Friday)?
 - Ms. Maroulis answered
 - Will let you know of theme for Friday
- End time 9:44 am

UPCOMING DATES

January 18	8th Grade Dance
January 24	PTO Assemblies at Hillside and Brookside
January 30	6/7th Sky Zone

February 4	8th Grade/Faculty Basketball Game at Brookside
February 5	Birthday Bees
February 5	Kindergarten Orientation
February 17-19	Winter Break
February 26	General PTO Meeting 9:15am, Zoom
March 5	4/5th Game Night
March 6	3rd Grade Dodge Ball
March 16	St. Patrick's Day Scavenger Hunt
March 26	International Day/Night