

PTO Meeting Minutes

April 17, 2024

Zoom

Start time: 9:19am

Attendees: Sharon Murphy, Jenny Mario, Audrey Hayek, Nikita Singhani, Lori Verbel, Lori Shekari, Kim Bargiel, Jess Mays, Jamie Noe, Jill, Natasha D, Karina Singh, Bernadette Kelly, Jackie DiFrancesco, Grace Perruzzi, Lisa Ellison. Ms. Anastasia Maroulis, Dr. Michael Barcadepone, Mr. Bruce Winkelstein, iPhone

PTO UPDATES

- Treasurer's Report
 - We have \$47,667.36 in the operating account
 - This includes funds that will transferred to each grade account
 - Audrey will be meeting with Jen this week to work on transferring a percentage into each grade account

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

- Michael Barcadepone, Superintendent
 - NJSLA
 - Biggest advice he can give parents – please treat it like another week/test/quiz
 - Be cognizant of how you engage your kids with the testing
 - We are a high performing district so usually always do well
 - Brookside project
 - Coming along well now, did have a delay
 - Planning to have a fun opening event for students
 - Sushi/Barbeque
 - Hillside project
 - Received final plans
 - Will be ready to break ground as soon as students go on summer break
 - Hillside Tree concern
 - A tree recently came down in the back of the school in areas of wet lands
 - 2 trees have fallen in past 14 days
 - Has been talking to DEP
 - Have an arborist coming today to evaluate area and trees
 - Need permission to remove dead trees
 - Has received permission to cut trees down, cannot remove root of tree, cannot use crane (cannot touch the ground)
 - Next Board Meeting
 - Will be adjusting last day of school since have not used all emergency days
 - Last day of school will be June 19th
 - Jenny Mario asked a question
 - If last day changes, will 8th grade graduation change?
 - Mr. Winkelstein responded

- If last day changes, may change 8th grade graduation, but will only happen if there is enough time to notify parents of change
 - June 19th is a federal holiday, so graduation can only be on 18th or 20th
- Bruce Winkelstein, Brookside Principal
 - Last sprint towards end of the year
 - Book fair next week
 - 8th grade set up to help K and 1st graders
 - Will have about 7-8 older students per a group to help younger students
 - Brookside going Monday and Thursday and Hillside going Tuesday and Wednesday
 - Thinking ahead to next year
 - Will be meeting with 5th-8th graders to go over their schedule, decisions they have to make and what things look like going forward
 - 5th graders will be deciding their electives
 - Music class vs. band vs. band and chorus
 - 7th graders decide their electives
 - Digital media vs band vs. band and chorus
 - 8th graders have a lot of electives to select from
 - Will also be discussing how 8th grade impacts high school
 - Incoming 4th graders
 - 3rd grade teachers help to make 4th grade classes, then Mr. Winkelstein assigns them teachers
 - Trying to diversify classes as much as possible
 - Will be same process for incoming 5th graders
 - Requests for next year
 - None taken for teachers. If there is a situation where an older sibling had a teacher and you do not want that teacher, they will try to accommodate if possible
 - If there are students your child needs to be separated from, again will do their best to separate if possible
 - State testing coming up
 - Will send out notifications closer to date
 - Information for parents
 - NJSLA not a sole determinant for students
 - Results used for high school placement
 - Start looking from 7th grade onward for math and science placement
 - Goal is to do the best they can
 - Use the scores to determine how school is doing collectively to ensure our program is as strong as it could be
 - Field days and field trips coming up
 - Will get calendar out for all events
 - 8th grade graduation
 - Tuesday, June 18th

- Anastasia Maroulis, Hillside Principal
 - Thank you PTO for your support and the flowers
 - International day was a great event
 - Thank you Lori V. and your committee
 - Monthly snacks much appreciated by staff
 - Bingo was this past Monday April 15th
 - 1st graders did a great job, very well behaved
 - Thank you to all those who helped with the event
 - Year end now starts- closer to April
 - Try to keep things consistent for kids as much as we can
 - K screening next Wednesday and Thursday for incoming students
 - Theatre week
 - The week of April 29th for 2nd and 3rd grade students
 - Sponsored by AFEE
 - 3rd graders and standardized testing
 - Letter coming out with more information soon
 - Standardized testing can only be offered starting 3rd grade
 - Nothing for students to prepare for
 - Covers topics learned from K-3
 - Book fair
 - Weather looks good
 - K and 1st grade will have help from older students at Book Fair
 - 2nd and 3rd grade classes are grouped together
 - Should help with efficiency and flow
 - Preschool lottery ended this past Monday
 - Will notify parents by this week if your child got in
 - Class placement
 - Will be getting a letter out to families to explain process
 - We think critically how we split up kids
 - Long process
 - Playground project
 - Will be a wonderful change to Hillside
 - Will change drop off process for next year – Dr. Barcadepone may elicit your help with this as well
 - May start to gear up parents end of this year to help with drop off and pick up process
 - Jenny Mario mentioned to please ask the PTO for any help that may be needed as well
- Kelsey Aughey, Hillside & Brookside Representative
 - Not present

PTO EVENTS

- Book Fair (Set up: 4/19; Fair: 4/22-4/25; Donuts: 4/25; Breakdown: 4/26)
 - Starting next week on 4/22
 - Donuts with grownups on 4/25 from 7:30am-8:30am
 - Volunteer sign up sent out via class parents if any parents want to help
 - Teacher donations for classroom
 - Switching from a tower to a bin with all the books so parents can just pick up the books that are needed
 - Should be more streamlined

- Brookside Staff Appreciation (4/29-5/3)
 - Sign up genius will be going out today for class parents
 - Planning underway
- Hillside Staff Appreciation (5/6-5/10)
 - Planning underway
- Hillside 2nd/3rd VIP Dance (5/10, 5:30-7pm, Brookside Gym)
 - Luau theme – tropical attire encouraged but not required
 - Free event
 - Kids bring a VIP- Very Important Person (adult)
 - Invitation has been sent out
 - Next week sign up genius will go out for parent volunteers for the event
- NY Boulders Game/PTO Night Out (5/11, 6pm)
 - Clover stadium, about 20 minutes away
 - Kids can line up at 6pm on field and take part in a parade
 - 92 tickets sold so far
 - We have two sections blocked off
 - Will put fliers in Hillside so staff can join as well
 - Tickets will be available until the morning of the game
 - Jenny Mario will send out parent square post
- May Testing Ice Pops (5/15, 2:15 Hillside, 2:45 Brookside)
 - Will hand out after testing
 - For Brookside students and 3rd graders
- Art Show (5/16)
 - Jenny Mario has been in touch with Mr. Sousa to see what parent help needed
 - Once he has date set, he will be asking parents to help set up
- 3rd Grade picnic (5/30, rain date 5/31)
 - Meeting on Friday to start planning
- 1st Grade Service Project - Alex's Lemonade
 - 1st grade service project will take place during the Spring Concert and after school
 - Finding ways for students to participate more in this fundraiser
- Apparel Sale
 - Teachers and staff receive 20% discount
 - Ends on Friday 4/26
 - Ms. Maroulis asked for a link to send to staff
 - Should have everything delivered within 2 weeks of sale being done
- Toolkits: now through 7/1
 - Great way to have your child set up with all supplies they need for next year
 - Jen O'Connor and Kelly Sullivan are in charge of this
- Retiree gifts
 - Reached out to Lisa Knudsen to get list of staff that is retiring

- List will be available after the next board meeting
- Planning for field day
 - Will take place in June
 - Being set up by Sabina McGuirl and Jill Romano
 - Met with Mr. O'Neill (Hillside gym teacher) to change structure
 - Will be more of a competition this year
 - Games have been ordered
 - Mr. Winkelstein mentioned that usually they have 8th grade students help run the events
 - Will talk to Ms. Lyons about what parent volunteers are needed
- Hillside/Brookside End of Year Ice Cream
 - Would like to plan to hand out ice cream with a vendor either on last day of school or close to last day of school
 - Want to do at Hillside and Brookside
 - Both principles agreed should be able to make that work
- Question in chat
 - Karina Singh asked if there will be an art show this year
 - Mr. Winkelstein answered and said yes, it is scheduled for May 16th

End time: 9:48am

UPCOMING DATES

4/22-25	Book Fair
4/29-5/3	Brookside Staff Appreciation
5/1	May Birthday Bees
5/6-5/10	Hillside Staff Appreciation
5/10	2/3rd VIP Dance
5/11	NY Boulders game
5/15	PTO general meeting via zoom 9:15am
5/15	Ice pops post-testing
5/15	Community night out at Chipotle
5/16	Art Show
5/22	Brookside chorus concert
5/28	3rd grade orientation at Brookside
5/30	3rd grade picnic