

PTO General Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, June 5, 2024

Attendees: Jenny Mario, Sharon Murphy, Audrey Hayek, Nikita Singhani, Jen Higgins, Jess Mays, Kim Bargiel, Lori Verbel, Shaziya Shaikh, Jamie Noe, Lori Shekari, Doris Juliana Dudas, Anna Chung, Liz Levine, Christina Valdes, Bernadette Kelly, Jackie DiFrancesco, Grace Knowlton, Dhvani Bawari, Jennifer Lee, Karina Singh, Danielle Taylor, Jen Higgins, Kate Auclair, Bridget Adler, Maria Crespo, Nicole Weiss, Kristine Kehoe, Grace Peruzzi, Ms. Maroulis, Mr. Winkelstein, Dr. Barcadepone, Mrs. Aughey

Start time: 9:25am

PTO UPDATES

- Approve May Minutes – Christina Valdes, Jen Higgins
- Treasurer's Report –
 - \$25,011.84 currently in operating account
 - Please submit any reimbursements as soon as you can

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

- Michael Barcadepone, Superintendent
 - Construction updates
 - All plans have been finalized
 - Will break ground as soon as school is out
 - Will be done before 1st day of school
 - AFEE auction winner student will be there on day they break ground
 - Equipment order placed, materials have shipped
 - Reminder
 - June 19th last day of school
 - Want to recognize and thank ACME
 - ACME is donating money back to our school
 - Received \$3100 in gift cards to use in district for families in need
 - Kept some for both schools for kids who need lunch
 - Thanked everyone for volunteering this year and for all their hard work
 - Wishing everyone a happy and safe summer!
 - Jenny Mario question RE: Will pavers that were purchased 2 years ago be implemented into new playground?
 - Pavers will be put in. Has spoken with contractor. Need to get them engraved.
 - Redoing the front and back of school
 - They will try to blend old and new pavers. If not, front of school will have the new pavers
 - Will relocate old pavers to a new location
 - There will be concrete pads for shaded area and benches, old pavers may be outline of those areas
 - Audrey Hayek question RE: Can we put a fence up so kids don't go into wooded area?
 - Dr. Barcadepone answered
 - Arborist came in and did a survey, identified trees that are dead or decayed
 - Removing about 20 dead trees

- Wetlands area – can remove a dead tree but cannot remove stumps or touch soil
 - There will be a fence around entire perimeter of property
 - Fence line will follow perimeter of tree line to side of building and there will be a gate at back of building
 - Will have a 6 foot walking path that will follow perimeter of fence line as well
 - Ms. Maroulis added the following
 - There will also be a lot of work underneath that we will not see to help with flooding issues. A lot of drainage will be taking place and to move water away
 - Will be reconstructing entire playground. Wanted more slides, more jumping items, swings and a shaded sail
 - Field will be open – garbage bins, recycling bins etc moved to front
 - Building a bigger grass area for kids, recognizing soccer, football
 - Wall ball will remain
 - Eliminating fenced in area for Kindergarten since whole area will be fenced now
 - No longer egress from back to front along 3rd grade wing
 - Tinier drop off circle, so drop off will be different
 - All staff parking in back eliminated
 - Losing 13 spots
 - Kristin Kehoe asked 2 questions
 - Can we eliminate the no left turn in front of school
 - Ms. Maroulis replied – Most likely related to speed because of cars coming down that hill on Hillside
 - Officer Pete Layng will ask about it
 - Can we make a walking path to church
 - Ms. Maroulis said that is part of Church's property, not schools
- Bruce Winkelstein, Brookside Principal
 - Thank you to everyone here for all your work this past year!
 - Teacher Appreciations – thank you for these, very well received
 - End of year activities and finals coming up for Brookside
 - Band concert Thursday, June 6th
 - 5h grade torch run and 7th grade Crestwood day Friday June 7th
 - Today is 5th grade LEAD day
 - Field Day is Tuesday, June 11th
 - Caps and gowns for 8th graders will be given out on Wednesday, June 12th
 - Graduation is for parents Tuesday, June 18th
 - Last day of school for kids and in school graduation is Wednesday, June 19th
 - 7th grade trip to NYC is Wednesday, June 12th
 - Working on student schedules now
 - Most are done, few 8th graders had conflicts, figuring those out now
 - Need to make any changes now, harder to do in summer and next year
 - Grace Peruzzi asked a question RE: SLP date and time for next week?
 - Mr. Winkelstein answered

- SLP will be Monday, June 10th at 1:30pm in Brookside auditorium
 - Should be done by 2:30pm
 - Lori Verbel asked a question RE: Is it too late to sign up for Torch Run?
 - Mr. Winkelstein answered
 - Parents are invited to run, however unsure if too late to sign up
 - Thank you again for a great year!
- Anastasia Maroulis, Hillside Principal
 - Thank you for breakfast, great to see and meet everyone in person
 - Every month staff loved the treats and food
 - Hillside events
 - Today is June Birthday Club
 - Next week Wednesday June 12th is summer birthday club
 - Spring concert Friday this Friday, June 7th
 - Note change in times
 - 2nd Grade – 9am
 - 1st Grade – 10am
 - 3rd Grade – 11am
 - Next year will work around Torch Run
 - Children will get to see performances tomorrow afternoon
 - Friday, June 7th is Alex's Lemonade Stand Fundraiser
 - Monday's sale did great, sold 350 boxes
 - Monday, June 10th the Kindergartners will get to eat lunch in cafeteria for first time
 - PTO absorbed the pizza into price of dues – will get pizza, juice and Italian ice
 - Next Friday, June is 14th Hillside field day
 - K/1st in morning, 2nd/3rd in afternoon
 - Will get permission slips out soon
 - Monday, June 17th the PTO providing ice cream trucks for Hillside and Brookside students
 - Wednesday June 19th is early dismissal at 12:45pm
 - Pizza parties at 12pm, can start setting up at 11:30am
 - Clap out for 3rd Graders at 12:30pm
 - We are looking at all needs of students when deciding classrooms for next year
 - Will be informed of teacher placement by late August
 - Try to get teachers to set up class communities
 - Trust the process
 - Thanks for a great year!
 - Audrey Hayek question RE: Are clappers provided for the clap out?
 - Ms. Maroulis said yes, we have some, not enough for everyone but will be giving out
 - Christina Valdes question RE: Are any staff moving between schools and will there be any new staff?
 - As per Mr. Winkelstein, no staff moving between schools as of right now, but that can change in summer
 - Dr. Barcadepone said there is budget for new staff, but as of right now they are not planning on it
- Kelsey Aughey, Hillside & Brookside Representative
 - Had to leave early

PTO EVENTS

- Thank you!
 - Thank you to everyone for coming and helping with planning, donations, volunteering
 - August will send out new volunteer sheet
 - Thank you to administration and teachers for listening and being open minded to our ideas
- 1st grade service project - Alex's Lemonade Stand
 - Will be on Friday June 7th
 - Hillside service project sold this year during lunch as well
 - Want to involve students more
- Field Days
 - June 14th Hillside
 - June 11th Brookside
- Ice Cream Truck Monday, June 17th after school for Hillside and Brookside
- End of Year Pizza party Wednesday, June 19th
- Toolkits - order before July 1
 - Still able to order
 - Have link on website and through class parents emails
 - Lori Verbel question RE: Can we buy our own school supplies and is there is a list of supplies
 - Ms. Maroulis answered and said under Parent Resources on website there is a list
- Thank you to everyone and Board this year
- 2024-25 PTO Executive Board Introduction
 - Jenn Higgins and Jess Mays will be rolling off the board
 - 2 new people will be joining
 - Jennier Lee and Sanchita Damania
 - Always looking for more help or volunteers
 - Co- Chairs for Book Fair and Apparel Sale
- Juliana Dudas had a comment
 - Has not been able to join PTO, but always try to help when able
 - Thank you to everyone who has helped!
 - Want to highlight the work by Art Teachers at Art Show
 - People love the artwork, such a wonderful event
 - SLP projects
 - Didn't know that these initially existed
 - Truly feel this has helped to Empower the kids and make them aware of what is happening in communities
 - Thank you for this opportunity – such a great thing for the kids

End time: 9:54am

UPCOMING DATES

- 6/6 Brookside Band Concert
- 6/7 Hillside Spring Concert
- 6/7 Torch Run
- 6/7 Alex's Lemonade Stand
- 6/11 Brookside Field Day (6/13 rain date)

6/12 Birthday Bees (Summer)
6/14 Hillside Field Day (6/17 rain date)
6/17 Ice Cream Social Hillside and Brookside
6/19 Pizza Party/ Last Day of School
9/4 First Day of School