

PTO Minutes April 21, 2021

On Zoom

Attendees: Colleen Barrett, Stacey Wang, Anastasia Maroulis, Michael Barcadepon, Bruce Winkelstein, Lisa Ellison, Bridget Adler, Jamie Noe, Shveta Dhand, Medy Murphy, Lori Verbel, Laura Woodland, Lauren Sacks, Sabina McGuirl, Joann Meyer, Grace Peruzzi, Lynn McCarthy, Katharine Miros, Mitzi Knapp

Meeting Called to Order: 9:20 am

Minutes Approved by: Lauren Sacks and Shveta Dhand

Colleen Barrett- PTO Co-President:

PTO Updates

- Treasurer's Report-
 - **Bridget Adler:** \$32,558.44 in the account
- Food Truck recap-
 - Katharine Miros- This was a huge success! The community donated over \$4,000 to show appreciation for our teachers, feedback seemed really positive and teachers were appreciative, it was nice to see them be treated to something after all of their hard work, we will use the extra funds to supplement teacher appreciation (May 7)
- Virtual Spring Book Fair-
 - This is starting Monday for 2 weeks (4/26-5/7), people can log in and order books- (question from Grace about getting books for teachers for their classrooms, info to follow)
- Memory Books Status-
 - Due to this unprecedented year we cannot complete memory books for grades Pre-K through 2, but there will be a 3rd grade yearbook. Christina Valdes is creating this and is organizing a drop box and parents will submit photos
- Creative Moms Night out recap-
 - We made bath bombs virtually, about 20 moms joined and we made \$300. It was a fun community night and we got a lot of positive feedback
- 1st Grade Service Project –
 - Alex's Lemonade- in June, may be in person or virtual, details to follow
- Tool Kits-
 - This runs in June for next September and is ready to go
- Wine Fundraiser-
 - We are looking into this and are potentially partnering with a local wine shop for the community to do together (maybe May 14 or 21). We will iron out the date by the end of this week
- End of Year Pizza party, field day-

- PTO is interested in helping in any way, looking for a little guidance on what the administration thinks we will be doing
- 3rd grade clap out/picnic; shirts ordered for class of 2026-
 - We are thinking about what we can do for this year and are looking for guidance from the administration. The shirts for the class of 2026 have been ordered
- PTO recruitment for 2021-2022-
 - There will be an email going out to parents in the community to see if they are interested in helping with the PTO and potentially joining the board
- Music & Arts-
 - Medy Murphy- last week the kids at Brookside had a great time learning about the underground railroad. Next month there will be another assembly focusing on music and art for both schools.
- Apparel Update-
 - Laura Woodland- School spirit store closed 244 items. We raised \$1,160 in this sale!

Administrative Reports

- Michael Barcadepone - Superintendent-
 - Thank you PTO for the food trucks, everyone was surprised and appreciative.
 - School performance reports are normally presented at a board meeting but there was no NJSL testing last year, so they put together performance reports which are now on our website (no new information, comes from 2018-19 and 2019-20).
 - May 5 will be the Board's budget presentation and we have a 7-day window to present it for next year's budget. (Question from Stacey about anything being taken away from the budget- the answer is that we are adding to the budget, not taking anything away).
 - An email went out about the last transition for this school year on May 12 to determine virtual or in person.
 - The Bergen County Health Department seems to be backing off their quarantining protocols, moving to a 6-foot radius of contact versus a whole class and they are following other health departments.
 - We have been getting questions about September and we are talking about hopes. We are hopeful that we are back to business as usual for September, but one thing is for certain- everyone will still be wearing masks.
 - Every summer we have an academic program for grades 1-5. We have always been able to coordinate with ALEOOP and this year we are looking to expand this program to grades 6-8 (9:30-11:30) and looking to do a Kindercamp to help out for these incoming K students. We are looking to expand in grade 1-5 more than ever before. This will be a live program only, no virtual option. Not mandatory (optional) and we are looking at what is best for students.
- Bruce Winklestein - Brookside Principal-

- Thank you for the food truck, it was fantastic! Thank you from all of the teachers, staff, and custodians.
- Teacher Appreciation Day- first week of May (May 7).
- The May virtual day is an assembly and will be a music/art day. However, the 8th grade will come into school that day and this will be their build day for their wind turbines. They will do the virtual activities the following two days.
- Field Day is scheduled for June 9th, currently virtual.
- 8th Grade Events Planned-
 - Graduation is June 23rd- if nice weather it will be at Northern Highlands and socially distanced with their setup. If it rains, it will move back to Brookside and then may have to be a split graduation to AM/PM cohorts be able to have 2 family members. We are still working out the details.
 - The following day the kids will see the slideshow and there will be a speech for the whole school and parents.
 - On June 23rd the plan is to bring the class to Crestwood in the morning with early dismissal to prepare for graduation.
 - The next day will be yearbook signing (location depends on weather).
 - Red Barn on June 18th.
- Finally, we are getting set for next year to go over scheduling- elective choices, math, and general school day. A video will be sent to parents to help make choices on electives. Mr. W. will sit down with every child to get their choices and this is a good opportunity to ask questions. There was no band or chorus this year and we haven't finalized chorus for next year. Northern Highlands is running band and chorus as of now, and these are good electives to help with social integration at the high school level. There will be several 8th grade electives for next year.
- The last day of school is Thursday June 24th and will still be AM/PM for everyone except 8th grade.

- Anastasia Maroulis - Hillside Principal-
 - The food truck was amazing and was special and exciting. The crew worked really hard and it was so appreciated.
 - Junk Jam was great (last remote day assembly) and the kids had a lot of fun. The next remote day is art/music theme.
 - Teachers sent out a reminder for art pieces for a virtual art show, parents should send 2 pieces to Mr. Souza
 - NJ State testing- we received a waiver so there will be no formalized state testing this spring. There are talks about doing something modified in the fall but grades 3-12 testing is not happening this spring in any district. English language learners will do their separate testing.
 - End of the year updates- For the lemonade sale this may need to be virtual due to taking off masks while drinking. We will be able to do the clap out, will need to do two at 11:30 and 3:30 (on the 23rd or 24th, whatever the last day of school will be and we will spread everyone out. The picnic is on hold right now, they need more information and will get back to us, but likely not happening. Remote field

day- PE teachers will put it together for June 9th. Pizza for the 3rd grade will likely not be happening either. Last year the PTO did buckets of chalk instead of pizza party, that is up to PTO.

- Tomorrow night is Kindergarten registration, the school will be screening but not in the classrooms as in past years. They mentioned doing a meet and greet for September 1st (children start on 9/2)- so incoming K students can get into their classrooms, see the space and meet their teacher- if PTO could do an ice pop treat that day- and maybe tables for PTO and ALEOOP. We are thinking of something for incoming preschoolers because they didn't have an open house either. (Stacey said we are ordering shirts for incoming K students and preschoolers and new incoming students (currently about 15 students). June has the extra shirts and maybe she can do an inventory of what she has left.
- Teacher appreciation thoughts for May 7 for both schools- coffee, donuts, bagels and a small gift is perfect.
- Ice cream truck is a good idea for 3rd grade and we can call out kids by class
- Summer program- literacy and math- invitation is going out to families in academic support (tiered system for intervention)- inviting tier 1/2/3/4 students in grades 1-5 to the summer program
- Summer Kindercamp for incoming K students- recognizing that the preschoolers and K families are most in need and this cohort coming in may be weaker, so they want to be able to offer something. They will be doing K screenings and will identify those kids who may need extra help. The program will be offered to that population first and if there is space they will open further. This will be a 2-hour program for 2-weeks running from July 19-July 30. With ALEOOP not offering camp to incoming K students, we don't want it this program to become a camp, we want it to be for the kids who need it academically and will open more if possible.

Upcoming Dates

- April 26th-May 7th- Virtual Book Fair
- May 7- Teacher Appreciation for Brookside and Hillside
- May 12th- Ball in the House Assembly - Hillside and Brookside
- May 14 or 21- Wine Fundraiser