

9-12-23 PTA meeting minutes

By: Emily Slutsky, Recording Secretary

PTA Meeting @ Reinhard 9/12/23 8pm

Jamie Shiner & Nikki Zimberg, co-presidents, bring the meeting to order and welcome parents, teachers and admins to the first meeting of the 2023/2024 school year.

Emily Slutsky, Recording Secretary, states that the meeting minutes will be posted on PTA website and whoever is interested/whoever misses a meeting can stay informed and check it out.

Kristen Wong-Valle, Treasurer, states that as of 8/31/23, the bank balance is \$104,07.59 and the book balance is \$96,432.80. Kristen reports that during this meeting we usually vote to approve the new budget. She offered the audience a copy of the 2023/2024 budget, if they had not already taken a copy when they signed in. She said all in favor of approving this budget "say yes," and multiple members said "yes." Then she asked "all who do not approve, say no," and no one said "no." Kristen said the motion passed and the 2023/2024 budget had been adopted and approved.

Jessica Freeman, Corresponding Secretary, said Mr. Reilly sent a thank you note to the PTA for the delicious and nutritious apples for the beginning of the year and a thank you note from Antonio Scimeca, for the JFK Scholarship.

Principals Report #1 from Mrs. Castine @ Reinhard:

She welcomed all new and returning families to Reinhard. She explained we were in the cafeteria where the children sit each day, surrounded by quotations on the wall, describing what a Star Polisher was and talking about what our core values are. She said our year was off to a great start and our community is friendly and supportive. She explained that the kindergarteners are already becoming more independent and are getting used to the routine of the school and are beginning to learn their way around the building on their own. Next, she spoke about the dismissal routine and how important it is to let the office know if you are making a change to your child's dismissal plan for that day. You must email the office by 2:15pm on the day you are making the change to let them know about it. We don't want your child winding up in the wrong spot! The email address is reinharddismissal@bellmoreschools.org.

Next, she discussed Bellmore character education and being in charge of yourself. Making good decisions and hitting the pause button. She said each class is starting to make the morning announcements in the school over the loudspeaker. By the end of the year, each class will have made the morning announcements twice. Some kids do not choose to participate in this, and that is ok because we let them choose what they are comfortable with doing. Mrs. Castine stated that by the end of September or early October, each class will be posting their mission statement outside their room, and Mr. Reilly's class was the first one to do so! The main office

has already posted theirs, as well. We are also working on setting long term and short term goals, meaning what do we want to work on achieving? The "Catch a Rising Star Board" from last year is still up, but on 10/13 at the Pep Rally, it will be taken down and we will prepare for the new one. Then, she stated that she sends home or emails the "Reinhard Record," which is the school's newsletter that she puts together and it contains the school's important information. Important dates are as follows...10/5 and 10/6 are picture days and a flier will be sent home. 10/11 and 10/12 is the book fair, 10/19 is the pumpkin patch, and 10/31 is the halloween character parade. More information will follow in the mail. She reminded all parents to check their child's folders every night and she thanked all teachers, staff, and custodians for a great start to the year.

Principals Report #2 by Mrs. Curto @ Winthrop:

She welcomed everyone to the meeting and said we have had a great start to the school year so far and said the building had a great Back to School Night last night, 9/11. She discussed the core values of integrity and the leadership principle of being proactive. She discussed how the teachers give the students goals and help them find ways of achieving these goals. Students have classroom leadership roles but also building leadership roles to help them learn about responsibility. She explained that we teach the children about positive language and teach them about being in charge of themselves. On 8/28/23, some 4th graders led the building tours for incoming 3rd graders and Mrs. Curto received so many compliments from parents afterwards about how mature the students were and how smoothly the tours were run. She gave "Kudos" to the Star Polisher team who ran these tours. Mrs. Curto said they have a very busy October coming up. Health and Safety week, Garden Club will be starting, as well as this year's book fair. Also, a VERY special event...Winthrop's 100th Birthday Celebration!! 10/5 is picture day and a big Thank You to all the staff for a great start to the year.

Principals Report #3 by Mrs. Matthews @ Shore Road:

She welcomed everyone and gave a thank you for the apples on the first day of school. She said it was the first time in four years with no chaos during the building opening (COVID/road construction)! She said the 5th graders settled right in and the 6th graders already went on a trip to Project Adventure, which is all about teamwork and building classroom culture. The next group will be going there next week. The second trip for 5th grade is to the Intrepid Museum in NYC, to coincide with the 5th grade curriculum. She said the 6th grade Committee is already meeting to discuss events such as the in-school Cornhole Competition and Garden Club is starting up again which is super exciting! They will be focusing on the courtyard this year. Mrs. Matthews discussed the importance of leadership principles and core values and stated how important positive language with the students is. Also, this year the students will have access to digital leadership notebooks, which they are really looking forward to, since they do everything digitally now, anyway. Important dates for Shore are...Back to School Night on 9/13, SEPTA meeting on 9/27, Picture Day on 10/6 and don't forget we need volunteers for the musical theater club and the packet went home for that, as well. She thanked everyone for the start of a great year.

Nikki Zimberg (pres) thanked all of the principals for their hard work and explained to parents that the schools wouldn't be the same without them.

Jamie Shiner (pres) discussed the roles of the EVP's and what they do and then introduced EVP's of Reinhard, Nicole Oberst & Carla Wong. They reiterated that schools were given apple baskets on the first day of school, kindergarten water bottles are coming out, Meet and Greets between class parents and teachers went well, and the monthly birthday bulletin board for September is put up in the lobby.

Jamie described the Fall pumpkin patch for those who don't know what it is, since it is a very popular event at Reinhard done during the Fall/Halloween time. It also has a new backdrop this year for kids and classes to take pictures in front of.

Jamie introduced EVP's of Winthrop, Aliza Schauder & Kristen Neville Oakes: They reiterated about the apples, tons of pictures were taken during school already and the start of the Garden Club is happening soon. PARP month is already being planned and other cool events.

Jamie introduced EVP's of Shore, Brianna Bachrach & Jackie Taylor: They reiterated about the apples and discussed that a large TV monitor was purchased for the front lobby of the school used for bulletin board type postings and notices. The Shore Road birthday board is also up for September! 6th grade events are underway, as well. Also, new spiritwear is out for purchase and you can use our QR code to buy!

The Ways & Means Committee update is that Miss. Chocolate sales will happen again this year and The Harlem Wizards are coming back on 4/8/24 so save the date!!!

Also, get your super cool Bellmore Spirit Wear by scanning our QR code!

The 6th grade committee meetings are starting with Mrs. Matthews shortly

SEPTA committee will meet on 9/27 at 8pm at Reinhard and we need parent involvement! follow them on FB!

Jamie chose 3 winners who won Panera cards!

New business: Angela Carman commented. Gave a shoutout to SEPTA, followed by a discussion where she felt there is too much paper/too many documents being handed out/distributed by the school. PTA president's response was that this was brought up last year and a proposal was requested. She wants the schools to use apps to communicate rather than fliers, but we stated we cannot, as the PTA cannot leave anyone behind, regardless of language, financial status, etc. Also, the PTA is an all inclusive organization. In addition, this is a district level decision, not a school level one. For the second year in a row, we are giving her the opportunity to present the PTA with a proposal for this plan. Additional members voiced their

opinions that they enjoy the flyers. A suggestion of a recycling program was made. This issue was then tabled.

Volunteers needed for the audit committee. Jeffrey Roth nominated.

Meeting adjourned.