



Birch Lane
PTA®

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Birch Lane
Massapequa Park, NY 11762

BIRCH LANE PTA

Executive/General Board Meeting Minutes

Date: April 16, 2021

PTA General Membership Meeting

Date: April 16, 2021

Time: 9:45 am

Place: Held Virtually via Google Meet

Heather Callahan, President

Meeting called to order by Amy MacLeod for Heather Callahan

- Meeting called to order at 9:47 am
- Held Virtually via Google Meet
- A quorum was present 23 members

President's Report: Presented by Amy MacLeod

Vote and Approve Prior Meeting Minutes

Approved last meeting's minutes from March 12, 2021

Changes will be made to March 17th meeting Minutes

Thank You to...

Bulletin Board Committee Stacy Sandurs and Kristen Larman

Birch Twig (Jen Saporita and Andrea Ash)

Correspondence Report - Kiri Spillane

No Correspondence

Nominating Committee:

Met on February 17, 2021

The following names are placed in nomination to serve as officers of Birch Lane PTA:

President: Heather Callahan

First Vice President: Amy MacLeod

Vice President Ways and Means: Stephanie Iannuzzi

Treasurer: Marianna Freda Somers

Recording Secretary: Tara Fay

Corresponding Secretary: Kiri Spillane

Moved forward with the election; nominations for offices closed.

Treasurer Report - Marianna Somers

At our last meeting on March 12, 2021, we had a balance of \$28,067.78

As of today, April 16, 2021, our balance is \$28,418.88

Expenses:

Class T-shirts \$865.00

Income:

Box Tops \$181.00

Holiday Fair Rebate \$175.00

Membership Update: 363 members

The statement for March was reconciled by Stephanie Iannuzzi

Birch Lane Dance: Kathleen Mecabe

All students are invited this year

Virtual event hosted on Zoom by Legacy Dance Center

Sock Hop theme inspired by the movie Grease

The teacher will lead the participants through different dances

Encourage the students to dress in the theme

Held on May 15th

45-minute sessions

Motion made/approved to increase our budget to \$150 from \$50

Siblings can log in using one account

SEPTA Report - Anthony Prizzi

The most recent SEPTA meeting took place on Wednesday April 14th– the school budget will be presented and the election of the Massapequa SEPTA Executive Board will take place. Guest speaker will be Eileen Taylor, from Long Island Regional Supervisor from Special Education Quality Assurance. The topic is general information about IEPs and special education services. SEPTA will be fundraising and raising disability awareness in April by selling specially designed masks. In honor of National Siblings Day, the Sibling Support Project hosted the world's biggest Sibshop on April 8th at 7pm. Siblings of children with special developmental, health and mental health concerns were invited to attend this free event. World Down Syndrome Day was celebrated on 3/22/21 by Rocking Our Socks. MSD celebrated Autism Awareness on 4/9/21. SEPTA fundraised custom masks and MSD students and staff were encouraged to wear blue. The next SEPTA meeting will take place on June 8th.

BOE Report - Stephanie Iannuzzi

March 18th Meeting

Ms. Wachter began the meeting apologizing for statements she made at the previous meeting

Mrs. Iconis' Superintendent Report.

Elementary Level-playgrounds have been opened up to students by cohort and after spring break they're reinstating children going into special area rooms (music, art and library).

Secondary level: many clubs will move to an in person format after spring break

Massapequa will issue two tickets for each home game for anyone who is participating as well as for each member of the visiting team. Seniors invited to outdoor games.

Working with the music department to figure format for cohort showcases and a musical at MHS

Summer Recreation Program will be running in 5/6 of the elementary schools

Beginning April 1st the travel restrictions no longer apply for quarantining

Mr. Adcock presented on the budget.

Updates from the Board of Education:

Ms. Wachter and Ms. Caramore attended a press conference advocating for the state to give local school districts control with respect with implementing Covid restrictions. Cited data that we're not seeing much if any spread of Covid in the schools.

April 8th Meeting

Personnel appointments: Lisa Silveri appointed as new Executive Director of Business and Operations effective September 1st.

Update on Prom which will be at Villa Lombardi's in June

Graduation will be held on Monday, June 21st but still waiting for the state to give approval as of the meeting. Plans are in place for an outdoor graduation at the Hofstra Stadium. Also have two back up plans at Tobay or Nassau Coliseum.

Update on Testing: U.S. Department of Education has denied NYS's assessment waiver request and will be administering (Grades 3-8) session 1 only in Math and ELA and only written component of Grades 4 and 8 Science exams

Only the four required Regents will be administered in June. August 2021 Regents have been cancelled. Regents will be administered to students who Opt In.

Health and Wellness - Marianna Somers

On behalf of the Health and Wellness Committee, we are planning for National Great Outdoors Month in June. One of the activities is to plant something with your family. We want to give each student a planter gift kit. In order to do so, we will need a budget increase from \$500 to \$1500 to cover the cost of this gift. The budget increase for the health and wellness committee is passed. Thank you.

Boys Bash – Stephanie Iannuzzi

We are excited at the prospect of bringing Snapology Escape Rooms to the students.

Proposal to increase the budget to \$800 to cover the cost of the program was made/passed.

Snapology is an adult/child event.

Spirit Wear – Marianna Somers

Spirit Wear is in production right now and should be ready for pick up or delivery in approximately a few weeks. New Wave will contact you via email but the committee will also post it on social media as well. We plan on offering a Kindergarten store including a Class of 2034 shirt. Info will be posted via social media.

Class picture Update

Patken contacted us and said that they're going to be putting together a composite picture of the class. Unfortunately they cannot do that for the distance learners but will be putting together a 5x7 picture for them.

Reports from Administration: Mr. Aspetti and Mrs. Larkin

- Mrs. Germaine sends her regrets she's in her classroom for the High School Heroes program happening today
- We hope everyone had a wonderful holiday and break!
- It's Autism Awareness Month and we continue our tradition as we do every April about kindness. The students are working on a building project where the students talk about what makes them unique. The last Friday of the month we'll celebrate Light it Up Blue again so we invite all of our students and staff to light it up blue on that day. We sent home resources for all if they wanted to discuss these differences with their families.

- The waiver was declined for state assessments. The assessments begin next week but a reminder that they're only Book 1. Math is on May 5th and Science is on June 8th. Our refusals will remain in their classrooms.
- A letter went home in regards to the In-View testing in Grade 2
- Kindergarten Orientation will follow the same models as last year. We'll be sending home a parent letter as well as the materials that are sent every year and then a video will be emailed giving the information that we present. We will invite our incoming kindergarten students to come in for about an hour to meet their teacher and classmates. It's a great opportunity for the supplies to be sent in and students to become familiar with the classroom. The process went really well last year and we're going to follow that same process for this year. We will be conducting a kindergarten screening the week of May 24.
- I know that there have been a number of questions about Field Day. We are planning for the first Friday in June with a rain date for the following Friday.
- We are planning for a celebratory picnic for our 5th graders at Marjorie Post as well as a more traditional moving up ceremony aligned with our current protocols. We will be sharing more information at a later date.

Questions asked:

- Q: When is the kindergarten orientation packet going to be sent out?
 A: Early May for the packet and the video link a few weeks after that
 Q: Will distance learners be invited for 5th grade activities?
 A: Yes

Teacher Reports – Mrs. Germaine and Miss Downey

Kindergarten:

Students just published their own How-To books and will be learning about their non-fiction unit
 Learning digraphs
 Science: Learning about natural resources and ways they can help the earth to be a better place
 Math: Working with connecting cubes to add/subtract to 10

First Grade:

Students are ready to publish their All About books
 Math: Learning about how to tell time to the hour and half hour
 Social Studies: Learning about community and its members
 Learning about the difference between needs and wants and how our family helps us meet our needs and wants

Second Grade:

Currently working in their focus fiction unit and learning about characters
 Working hard in their letter writing unit learning how to write formal and informal letters
 Math: Learning about measurements using a variety of tools
 Students are participating in the HS Heroes program

Third Grade:

Math: Unit on measurement
 ELA: Finished writing their literary essays
 Reading: Starting Biographies unit
 Social Studies: Learning about Mexico
 Science: Learning about plants, animals and their adaptations

Fourth Grade:

Math: Learning about measuring and drawing angles with protractors
Social Studies: Learning how our country gained its independence
ELA: Practicing how to do a close read and respond

Fifth Grade:

Math: Line plots
Social Studies: Learning about countries declaring independence
Science: Space Unit
ELA: Reading Number the Stars book

Upcoming Events:

APRIL

April 22 BOE Meeting
April 28 Meet the Candidates Night

MAY

May 1-2 Plant Sale
May 6 BOE Meeting
May 11 General Membership Meeting 6:45pm (virtual)
May 15 Birch Lane Dance (virtual)
May 18 School Budget Vote

Meeting Ended at 10:32am