



Birch Lane  
**PTA®**

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Birch Lane  
Massapequa Park, NY 11762

### **BIRCH LANE PTA**

Executive/General Board Meeting Minutes

Date: Tuesday, May 11, 2021

#### **PTA General Membership Meeting**

Date: Tuesday, May 11, 2021

Time: 6:45pm

Place: Held Virtually via Google Meet

Heather Callahan, President

- Meeting called to order at 6:47pm
- Held Virtually via Google Meet
- A quorum was present 18 members

#### **President's Report:**

*Vote and Approve Prior Meeting Minutes*

Approved last meeting's minutes from April 16, 2021

#### **Thank You to:**

Birch Lane Dance (Kathleen Mecabe)

Snapology (Marianna Somers, Stephanie Iannuzzi)

Kindergarten Orientation (Tara Fay, Elizabeth Edelbach)

Plant Sale (Vicki Abbinati)

Health and Wellness (Lauren Carollo, Diane Sfogliia, Lori Azriliant)

Spring Fundraiser (Lisa Sessa)

I'd like to thank every committee, chairperson and volunteer, I'm very proud of all the work everyone has done this year!

A special thank you to Linda Venuto who will be leaving the Board this year. I'd like to thank her for all of her time and effort she's put in on the Birch Lane PTA, she will be missed! – Heather Callahan

#### **Correspondence Report** - Kiri Spillane

No Correspondence

#### **Treasurer Report** - Marianna Somers

Checking Account:

At our last meeting on April 16, 2021, we had a balance of \$28,418.88

As of today, May 11, 2021, our balance is \$28,261.98

#### **Expenses:**

Reflections Awards: \$225.00

Staff Appreciation: \$535.00

**Income:**

Membership: \$10.00

**Membership Update:**

365 Members

**Summer Budget vote:**

*Projected Expenses*

Back to School BBQ Deposits: \$500

Boo Hoo Breakfast Supplies: \$50

Kindergarten Welcome Signs: \$500

Leadership Training: \$200

Office Supplies: \$200

Postage: \$100

Software: \$150

Tax Preparation: \$600

Beautification: \$300

Back to School Luncheon: \$1,000

Student Planners: \$1,500

Motion made to pass this budget with a vote of confidence to act on behalf of the unit to conduct business over the summer. Budget passed.

**Birch Lane Dance:** Kathleen Mecabe

The PTA is sponsoring a "Sock Hop" themed virtual dance for all students of Birch Lane on Saturday, May 15th. Legacy Dance Center will lead students and their special guests in learning new moves and have some fun with party dances. The links for registration are on the flyer that was sent by email from class parents and by the school as well as on the Birch Lane PTA website and Facebook page. You must register in advance in order to be included on the Zoom.

**SEPTA Report** - Anthony Prizzi

Birch Lane is going to have a full time Kindergarten inclusion class starting next year. There's a virtual SEPTA meeting tomorrow night. May is Celiac Disease Awareness Month. SEPTA is encouraging everyone to wear green on Friday May 14<sup>th</sup> to show support. SEPTA is hosting a fundraising event on Friday May 14<sup>th</sup> at Massapequa Bowl. To buy tickets visit Massapequa Septa MemberHub, our Facebook page or our website. The next SEPTA meeting is Tuesday June 8<sup>th</sup>.

**BOE Report** - Stephanie Iannuzzi

Meeting on April 22:

Discussed NYS DOH guidance for in person instruction Classroom social distancing moved from 6 feet to 3 feet with masks worn 100% of the time. Also discussed barriers which are no longer recommended.

End of the year activities:

Alumni Career Day held virtually at AMES

Two more administrations of the SAT and ACT at Massapequa High School

Student advisory council planning a workshop on social media

AP Art Exhibit will be held on June 2<sup>nd</sup> at Massapequa High School

Berner Cabaret students will record a performance

Athletic and Senior awards ceremony

Car parade

Junior/senior Proms - trying to give students an opportunity to have proms

Graduation with students on football field and parents in bleachers at Hofstra

End of Year activities at the Elementary Level:

Field Day

Kindergarten screening

Moving up ceremonies for the 5<sup>th</sup> grade

Talked about instrumental performing groups  
5<sup>th</sup> grade picnic co-ordinated by class and parents will be involved  
Discussed specials and a safe way for K-4 students to leave their classes in a safe way  
Meet the School Board Candidates Night on April 28<sup>th</sup>  
There's a link on my report to watch it on You Tube and voting will be on May 18<sup>th</sup>

Meeting on May 6<sup>th</sup>  
Discussed school budget and the vote will be on May 18<sup>th</sup>  
Discussed modifications for current re-opening plan  
NYS Laws and NYS DOH dictate what is required from the district  
Discussed the proposed changes for the re-opening plan

### **Health and Wellness** - Lauren Carollo

This June is National Great Outdoors Month. For great outdoor activities and experiences please visit the following link <https://www.iloveny.com/>. The Birch Lane PTA will be sending home a plant starter kit for each student at the beginning of June.

### **Boys Bash – Stephanie Iannuzzi**

“Snapology”- Come join us for Birch Lane’s first (FREE) virtual escape room experience! Students will work together as a team to read a story and solve riddles/puzzles as they progress through the game. No one will be left behind as they race against the clock to escape the room! Students can choose from three sessions, which will be held from 5:00-6:00 on the following days: June 1st - Escape from School for grades K-2, June 2nd - A Race to the Treasure for grades 2-4, and June 3rd - the Search for the Golden Ankh for grades 3-5. Parents should plan to attend to help their children with any technical issues that they have throughout the program. We will also be asking for volunteers to be team leaders. More information will be sent home this week.

### **Kindergarten Spirit Wear – Marianna Somers**

Our kindergarten store is officially open and offering a Class of 2034 shirt and other apparel. Everyone is welcome to buy. Sale ends June 14<sup>th</sup>. For people who had ordered spring spirit wear, it's in so if you haven't already done so, please visit New Wave to pick it up. Email the spirit wear email account if you have any questions.

### **Field Day – Gayle Famigletti**

Co-ordinated and class parents will be involved  
The committee is meeting this week  
June 4<sup>th</sup> with a rain date of June 11<sup>th</sup>  
Creating five 10-minute stations that the kids will rotate through  
More details will be coming out next week  
Planning on getting the ices this year distributed through the teachers inside the classroom  
Kids will be in 10-minute stations outside and will rotate within their classes/cohorts  
They'll be outside for the portion with the gym teachers and the 50-minutes that the PTA organizes.

### **Spring Fundraiser – Lisa Sessa (reported by Heather Callahan)**

Though our spring fundraiser looks a little different this year hopefully it will still be fun for the families of Birch Lane. We decided that we could give each family one free raffle for a chance to win one of the baskets provided by each class. We are asking for an optional donation which has no effect on your chances of winning a prize. We have added a QR code and link to the PTA Memberhub if you want to donate to the PTA. We are also giving the families an option to opt out with an email request. Requests must be made by Tuesday the 18<sup>th</sup>. On Thursday May 20<sup>th</sup> all the family names will go into a pot and be randomly picked. We will notify the families on Friday May 21<sup>st</sup> and will arrange a delivery or pick up on Friday the 21<sup>st</sup> or Saturday the 22<sup>nd</sup>.

### **Council Report –**

Council meeting May 10, 2021

Dr. Lowry, McKenna principal was the guest

Children are returning to specials and excited to get out of the classroom

McKenna is excited to have tents back and is looking forward to getting the children outside as much as possible

Dr. Fasano:

Budget vote is on May 18<sup>th</sup>. The district is planning for a completely normal reopening in September. The district's goal is to normalize as quickly and safely as possible.

Junior-Senior PTA:

Fall sports season concluded with four county championship teams. Spring sports have just started and games begin this week.

AP exams begin this week and continue through June 10<sup>th</sup>. The final exam schedule will be released soon.

Plans were finalized for Junior Banquet, Senior Awards, Senior Prom, and graduation

Student Advisory Council will be doing in-person presentations for parents on Social Media on Wednesday, May 26 @ MHS @ 7 pm

The MHS musical *Little Shop of Horrors* will be finishing up at the end of the month and recordings will be released in early June

### Legislation

Watching vaccine dates

### Family Life

Working on the 6th-grade directory and looking for a new chairperson if anyone is interested

### Curriculum

The curriculum chairs met with Dr. Fasano and Mrs. Haandraadts to go over their plan of work. This plan of work covered questions about diversity and inclusion, internet safety, the use of YouTube in the classroom, and the Reading and Writing curriculum at the elementary level.

Every year the district does a review process of all curriculums. There will be a presentation at the May 20<sup>th</sup> BOE meeting put on by teachers to showcase content and lessons that are being taught that incorporate multiple diverse perspectives and a greater understanding of empathy.

Vote - one was to approve updated procedures and one was to approve the development of a Newsletter Committee

### **Teacher Reports** – Mrs. Germaine and Miss Downey

K-2 Teachers wanted to thank the PTA for Teacher Appreciation Week

#### Kindergarten:

School wide unit on poetry  
Deeply immersed in school wide writing unit of personal narratives  
Math - learning to count and write in the teen numbers  
Science - learning about different insects they see in spring and their caterpillars will be delivered next week  
Will be planting seeds to view/observe the life cycle of their own plants  
Author study of Eric Carle

#### First Grade:

Beginning to write their final reading/writing workshop units  
Reading - beginning their Poetry unit  
Writing workshop - started book review unit to summarize fiction texts  
Science - plant and animal structures  
Math - learning to solve word problems

#### Second Grade:

Wrapping up the letter writing unit and enjoyed writing letters to each other  
Getting ready to start their poetry unit  
Math - continuing unit on measurement  
Big thank you goes out to the High School heroes for our virtual visit  
Introduced to cursive letter writing

#### Third Grade:

Math - continue to learn about measurement, estimating volume and mass  
Elements of a biography and have picked their special person to learn about and create their biography posters on  
Started the Chocolate Touch  
Social studies - finishing up their unit on Mexico

#### Fourth Grade:

Finishing up writing their literary essays  
Social Studies - learning about the civil war and women's rights  
Math – geometry unit and now onto conversions

#### Fifth Grade:

ELA - finishing writing their literary essays and completed the novel Number the Stars  
Math - conversions and geometry  
Social Studies - learned about why countries establish independence and learning about the US government  
Science - learning about space and the planets

#### **Reports from Administration:** Mr. Aspetti and Mrs. Larkin (*presented by Mrs. Larkin*)

We're very grateful for all that you do!  
We wanted to thank Mrs. MacLeod for all of her visits and hard work for Staff Appreciation Week and to the PTA for always thinking of us for Teacher Appreciation Week  
Kindergarten Screenings are coming up and an information packet is going home soon beginning week of May 24<sup>th</sup>  
For the Orientation a video presentation will be available on the website on May 17  
We're very excited to have Field Day this year! Class parents will be attending and we'll be looking for some additional volunteers  
State assessments are behind us, students have completed ELA and Math assessments  
4<sup>th</sup> graders will be taking the written portion of Science assessment on June 7<sup>th</sup>  
Busy with end of year benchmark testing  
I-Ready testing beginning on May 20<sup>th</sup>  
Fountas and Pinnell benchmark testing has begun

We're very excited to have a 5<sup>th</sup> grade celebration this year in the form of a picnic on June 15<sup>th</sup> with a rain date of June 16<sup>th</sup> at Marjorie Post Park  
We will be having in-person moving up ceremonies for 5<sup>th</sup> graders by cohort on June 22<sup>nd</sup>  
Early dismissal days on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> of June. Last day of school is on Friday June 25<sup>th</sup> with dismissal at 10:30am. No lunch served on any of those days.  
We wish everyone a Happy Mother's Day!

Question Asked:

Q: Will there be a kindergarten recital this year?

A: This year there are no plans for a kindergarten recital with the restrictions still in place. We're hopeful that after this year we can bring back the traditions that we've had.

**Upcoming Events:**

**May**

May 15 Birch Lane Dance (virtual)

May 18 School Budget Vote

May 20 BOE Meeting

May 31 Memorial Day - School Closed

**June**

Boys Bash/Family Fun Event - Snapology, June 1-3

Spring Fundraiser

*Meeting Ended at 7:30 pm*