

## **BIRCH LANE PTA**

Executive/General Board Meeting Minutes

Date: Tuesday, November 17, 2020

Heather Callahan, Presiding President

- Meeting called to order at 6:45pm
- Held Virtually via Google Meet

### **PTA General Membership Meeting**

Date: Tuesday, November 17, 2020

Time: 6:45pm

Place: Held Virtually via Google Meet

**President's Report:** Heather Callahan

*Vote and Approve Prior Meeting Minutes*

Approved last meeting's minutes from October 2020

### **Thank You to...**

Bulletin Board Committee (Stacey Sandurs and Kristen Larmann) for doing such a wonderful job!

Picture Day Committee (Kathleen Mecabe and Elizabeth Edelbach)

Health and Wellness Committee (Lauren Carollo, Daniella Sfoglia, and Lori Azriliant)

Beautification Committee for the Blacktop, it came out great! (Erin Liana and Cristina Monahan)

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

From Mr. Aspetti and Mrs. Larkin to Beautification Committee for all of your hard work, we are truly grateful!

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

At our last meeting on October 16, 2020, we had a balance of \$28,444.51

As of today, November 17, 2020, our balance is \$27,697.66

#### **September Expenses:**

PTA Council Dues: \$650.00

Leadership Training: \$50.00

Office Supplies: \$60.00

#### **September Income:**

Membership: \$326.00

#### **Membership Update:**

356 Members

The statement for October was reconciled by Stephanie Iannuzzi

### **PARP** - Gracemarie Rozea

We have an awesome PARP committee and we've been planning since August. We had 152 responses to the survey: The winner is "Reading Gives you Super Powers" and will run from January 25-February 12<sup>th</sup>. There will be a virtual assembly for the children who participate. We had a large amount of Scholastic Dollars to distribute books to students in each grade. We will be recruiting community heroes to read a quick story to post on the Facebook page. We'll put out a call for anyone who may be one of these individuals (crossing guard, dentist, doctor, etc.). We'll be using a Google Doc for parents to keep track of reading minutes. I'd like to extend my appreciation to the other committee members; they've been so wonderful all along as well as Amy MacLeod who has been the VP overseeing us.

### **SEPTA Report** - Anthony Prizzi

SEPTA celebrated a Halloween Party at Tackapausha, they did a special nocturnal animal exhibit. We celebrated Unity Day the day after most of the district because it was Picture Day and there's a nice video of that on the FB page. Dr. McCaw held a round table meeting workshop for new parents of classified students. The meetings are very informative and comfortable and they give parents the opportunity to express opinions and ask questions to the special education team. Our next SEPTA meeting is tomorrow night and will be held virtually. The form for registration is on the Septa Facebook page. Faith Berkowski is a reading specialist who has wonderful strategies to help struggling readers. We also have a new website coming out which should be launched fairly soon.

### **BOE Report** - Stephanie Iannuzzi

#### **10/22/20 Meeting**

Annual Report: Mr. Miliak

They found there are many inactive clubs so they suggested that if the club wouldn't be running that the funds be distributed to another club.

Alexandra Battaglia said the district is in a good position

District wide safety plans are a work in progress. Safety plans are always being updated.

They work closely with the 7<sup>th</sup> precinct as well as Homeland Security.

Mrs. Iconis went over the new health forms. Now need a doctors' note, negative COVID test, or 10-day quarantine.

The DOH is issuing guidelines as far as quarantining.

The DOH handles the school closure.

At this meeting she was discussing the quarantining of Berner (92 students) and the decision was made to close the school.

#### **11/12/20 Meeting**

Mrs. Iconis:

As of 11/12, there have been 4 positive teacher cases and 2 positive staff cases

Parent alerts district and then district does contact tracing

Anyone who is in 6 feet for 10 continuous minutes or more

At the secondary school level they identify positive cases using seating charts

Mrs. Iconis calls the DOH, the district calls parents of close contacts and asks them to keep their children home.

Birch Lane: a staff member tested positive. She mentioned that Covid is being brought into the schools from social events over the weekend.

Someone discussed Hot Zones and if we knew how this would affect Long Island. Areas designated as Yellow Zones require testing in school but Massapequa is not prepared to start testing students in the schools.

#### **Legislation Report** - Marianna Somers

This past weekend the NYS PTA held their annual conference and business meeting with 263 voting delegates. The previous info that we had distributed and discussed regarding the resolutions were voted on at the meeting. All of the 10 that were proposed were voted on and approved. They also had an election for the officers for NYS and our new President is Dana Platin, First Vice President is Helen Hoffman, Vice President is Amany Messieha Dgheim, Vice President is Kelly Short, and Secretary is Melissa Cancro. They also discussed by-law amendments and all of those were approved as well. These amendments will be posted on the PTA website.

#### **Council Report** - Amy MacLeod

- Mr. Aspetti was the guest at the last council meeting on November 9<sup>th</sup>. He said that Birch Lane's first remote learning day was a success. His best advice to everyone was to be familiar with your child's conference day. If you would like to speak to a special area teacher you should reach out directly to schedule a meeting. The district rapid dismissal day will be on Tuesday November 24<sup>th</sup>. Massapequa Council's portion of PTA meetings may not be recorded for viewing. Only the recording secretary can record meetings for the purpose of writing minutes and those recordings should be destroyed once the minutes are complete.
- Units are not spending money on virtual programs.
- Dr. Fisano spoke and was asked a question if a student at Berner tests positive why does the sibling at another school not need to quarantine? He said contacts of contacts do not need to quarantine. Once the school resumes fully there is no social distancing capability, that's why masks and desk shields are of utmost importance. Full desk shields are being put in for the elementary schools.

#### **Arts in Education** – presented by Kiri Spillane

We have a virtual program running at the end of November. As of now, we have Jared Campbell in November for all grades.

#### **Picture Day** - Kathleen Mecabe

Pictures have arrived and they'll be sent home.

#### **Reflections** - Jen Curran

Reflections is doing very well right now. Entries are now with the judges and we are on target for the Nassau Deadline which is December 1<sup>st</sup>.

#### **Spirit Wear** - Stephanie Iannuzzi or Marianna Somers

Fall spirit wear orders are in! You can pick up your orders at New Wave on 11/18 unless you requested they be shipped.

**Kid Stuff Books** - Tara Fay

Our virtual Kid Stuff Sale has earned \$360. We'd like to thank everyone who participated and either bought a coupon book or sold books to family and friends. Our Birch Lane weblink will remain open for the entire school year, which is great, so keep that in mind if you're looking for gifts!

**Box Tops** - Jennifer Buonospina

We currently have \$138.80 in Box Top money with a check for \$40.40 coming in soon. Box Tops is running a sweepstakes and every scanned receipt gives us an entry. Parents can download the Box Tops App at any time and scan their receipts. The more parents and families who scan receipts, the more money Birch Lane can receive.

**Holiday Fair** - Kira Mallia

This year's holiday fair will be held virtually

You can either have items shipped to your home or we'll have a pick up date

**Blood Drive** - Gayle Famigletti (presented by Kiri Spillane)

The Blood Drive is going to be two days this year on 12/7 and 12/10

We're teaming up with Fairfield Elementary School and hoping to get at least 50 pints.

The Blood Drive will be held at the Massapequa Blood Center.

**New Business** - Heather Callahan

- By-laws had to be amended. The only change was to move from two council delegates to three delegates. Motion made to amend the By-Laws. All in favor of amending the by-laws as written. By-Laws pass.
  
- Procedures were also in the folder. Council requested a copy of our procedures. I'd like to make a motion to approve the procedures as written. Procedures are passed.

**Reports from Administration:** Mr. Aspetti and Mrs. Larkin

Thank you, Mrs. MacLeod, for sharing what I shared at the council meeting

Thank you to GS Troop 2579: Fifteen 5<sup>th</sup> grade girls who came up over the weekend to write inspirational messages using sidewalk chalk on our sidewalk on our Nassau Street side. They did a beautiful job and pictures are posted on Twitter!

We wanted to thank the Birch Lane beautification committee for giving up their time to come up here. The students are being creative and coming up with their own ways of using the drawings.

We want to thank all of our families for the donations for adopt a battalion, the response was incredible. We've collected over \$300 to cover the shipping costs and about 12 garbage bags filled with supplies. It's one of my favorite things we do here to honor our veterans who protect us.

We want to thank our staff, parents and students for working together to do everything that we can to stay here in school. Every day that we're here at school is a good day! Thank you for your continued support to stay here in school.

School Pictures are in and will be distributed over the next couple of days.

Parent teacher conferences are right around the corner. First trimester ends 11/24. Conferences are scheduled for 12/9, 12/10, and 12/11 (students will not be in school that day), and 12/14 (evening conference). All conferences will be done via Google Meet. Conference codes are the students' first/last name.

An email letter went out from district in regards to the use of our gyms. For PE class we've been lucky enough to get outside for gym. With the weather changing, our gyms will be used for gym class only (one class at a time), wearing masks and our students are expected to be 12 feet apart. We will continue to go outside as much as we can.

The hybrid learning model coming into the elementary schools is starting this Thursday. Being put in place for our students who are required to quarantine. Students who are quarantined will receive their wide instruction every day through Google Meet from home from their chrome books. Schedules are aligned to what we do in class here as much as they possibly can. This is only for students who are mandated to quarantine.

Thanksgiving is right around the corner and we're looking forward to that.

Rapid dismissal drill is for Tuesday, 11/24<sup>th</sup>. It's a 10-minute difference but an email will be sent confirming those times. It's an emergency preparedness drill where we run a drill in case we needed to evacuate the building where we practice leaving all at one time and not returning to the building. We would be alerting parents and dismissing to parents in case we needed to do it for real. They're practicing leaving at an earlier time and not returning to the building after they leave. For those of you who are going to be traveling, safe travels. We look forward to the holiday season when we get back.

**Teacher Reports** – Mrs. Germain and Miss Downey  
*Mrs. Germain* (Kindergarten through Third Grade)

Kindergarten:

Children building up their reading stamina  
Students recently started their fiction unit  
Also started a new unit called Lists and Labels  
Math: sorting and comparing objects  
Enjoyed learning about Election Day and Veteran's Day

First Grade:

Students excited to explore  
Began fiction unit using mentor texts  
Also started personal narrative writing  
Math: using models and strategies  
Science: had the opportunity to make lighthouses with Miss Downey

Second Grade:

Wrapping up their personal narratives unit and are working on the publishing stage  
Math: learning how to use different strategies to add/subtract two-digit numbers  
Social Studies: began new unit on maps and are learning about geography and map skills  
We want to thank all of the parents for their help with the Thanksgiving traditions assignment

*Miss Downey* (Third through Fifth Grade)

Third Grade:

Learning strategies in math

Finished their study of forces and motion and will be learning about fossils in Science

Learning about where continents are located and how to read a map in Social Studies

Writing: students are choosing their topics for their personal narratives

Spanish: learning numbers from 1-100

Fourth Grade:

Math: heading into multistep word problems

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Reading: working on their Fiction unit

Fifth Grade:

Wrapping up the end of the first trimester

Wrapping up Fiction unit in ELA

Putting finishing touches on their memoirs

Social Studies: completing their unit on ancient civilizations

Science: learning about the differences between physical and chemical changes

Students are enjoying using their Chrome Books

As a reminder the parents and students should be checking their PowerSchool pages daily

**Upcoming Events:**

**NOVEMBER**

**November 20-25** Holiday Fair (virtual)

**November 25-27** School Closed - Thanksgiving Recess

**DECEMBER**

**December 7 & 10** Blood Drive (Massapequa Blood Center)

**December 24-31** School Closed - Holiday Recess

**JANUARY**

**January 8** BOE meeting

**January 25** PARP begins

**President's Closing Remarks:** Heather Callahan

Thank you to everyone for logging on today!

Our next scheduled PTA meeting isn't until March, there will be an email that will go out where you can submit your questions.

Happy Holidays!

Thank you to Mr. Aspetti, Mrs. Larkin, Miss Downey, and Mrs. Germaine.

*Meeting Ended at 7:45pm*

