



Birch Lane
PTA®

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Birch Lane
Massapequa Park, NY 11762

BIRCH LANE PTA

Executive/General Board Meeting Minutes

Date: Friday, October 15, 2021

PTA General Membership Meeting

Date: Friday, October 15, 2021

Time: 9:45 am

Place: Birch Lane Front Gym

Heather Callahan, President

- Meeting called to order at 9:51 am
- A quorum was present 17 members

President's Report:

Vote and Approve Prior Meeting Minutes

Approved last meeting's minutes from September 2021

Thank You to:

Welcome Back Bash (Lisa Sessa, Jessica Buckley), Bulletin Board Committee (Stacey Sandurs, Kristen Larmann), Picture Day (Elizabeth Edelbach), Spirit Wear (Christine Fahey, Kim Rumberg), Fall Plant Sale (Vicki Abbinanti, Marie Drexler), and Walk to School Day (Lauren Carollo, Daniella Sfogliia, Lori Azriliant)

Reports from Teachers – Miss Reedy (K-2) and Miss Downey (3-5) Kindergarten

October is a busy and spooktacular month for our Kindergarteners! We are continuing to learn the alphabet and write lowercase letters. We are exploring numbers and identifying different ways to make 4 and 5. Many stories and activities are centered around the season of fall and the children enjoyed making sponge painted autumn trees with Miss Comparetto. We are discussing Fire Safety and Halloween in our classrooms and having fun learning with songs, crafts, and small group collaborations. Readers and Writers Workshops are in full swing and students are engaged in interactive lessons daily.

First Grade

In First Grade, we are learning and growing so much! We are learning many new math strategies and new ways to "show what we know". For example, we are learning how to use our double facts to help us solve addition and subtraction. We are also starting to learn the different ways to make ten using our manipulatives! We are starting our first science unit next week called Light. The first graders are so excited to explore ways that light helps us see, and how it can reflect in different places and various objects. In Reader's Workshop, we are exploring the elements of fiction and how these elements can help us better understand a text. As writers, we are exploring

ways to use sensory details and add vivid verbs to our writing to help our readers visualize our story and make a movie in their minds. We are having so much fun making connections to texts, as well as our friends in class during Writer's Workshop! We are continuing to create memories with friends, learning how to change our mindset into a growth mindset and creating positive learning interactions in our classrooms!

Second Grade

The second graders are learning all about pictures and bar graphs in Math. Understanding how to collect data and how to represent and interpret information using graphs is a skill the children can apply to any activities that require recording, organizing and analyzing information.

In Science, the children will begin a unit on Matter. The children will be learning all about the properties of Matter. They will be classifying materials by their observable properties. We look forward to some fun experiments!

In Writing, we are working on Personal Narratives. We will be reading some great books over the next few weeks as part of our new unit on personal narrative writing. The children will learn how to write a personal story- one from their own life.

We are looking forward to our Halloween parade and party!

Third Grade

In third grade, the students are just starting their Multiplication Unit in Math. The children will be learning how to discover larger multiplication facts from smaller facts using the break apart method. They have finished their study of Forces and Motion in Science and are excited to start studying Maps and Globes in Social Studies. They will be learning about where continents are located, how to read a map, and where they are located in relation to the world. In reading and writing, the third graders are exploring Patricia Polocco's stories and how she connects them to her life.

Fourth Grade

The fourth graders are BUSY!! They are diving deep into the genre of fiction and learning from many mentor texts written by Cynthia Rylant. The students are also learning about how to write a personal narrative. The fourth grade is wrapping up their math unit on place value, comparing numbers, addition and subtraction and moving right into multiplication. They've learned all about the geography of New York in social studies and are now learning about plants in science. The fourth graders have participated in fun hands-on activities in Enrichment the past few weeks. They're getting smarter by the day!

Fifth Grade

The school year has started off great for the 5th graders! They are exploring fiction in reading and writing their own memoirs. Math has been focused on finding the volume of a rectangular prism, multiplication and division. In social studies, the students are wrapping up a geography unit and starting to learn about ancient civilizations in the Western Hemisphere. In science, they are exploring matter. Ms. Downey has created an excellent Enrichment program that coordinates with our lessons about matter. The children have been enjoying all the wonderful hands-on activities. The 5th graders were so excited to take our fifth grade photos for the yearbook and are looking forward to celebrating Halloween!

Correspondence Report - Kiri Spillane

No report

Treasurer Report - Marianna Somers

At our last meeting on September 24, 2021, we had a balance of \$30,178.07.
As of today, October 15th 2021, our balance is \$33,896.49.

Expenses:

Welcome Back Bash: \$8,000.00
Staff Appreciation Lunch: \$725.00
Website Subscription (3 years): \$360.00
Membership Dues: \$1,349.00

Income:

Welcome Back Bash Tickets: \$9,400.00
Membership: \$3,024.00

Membership Update:

376 Members

Council Report –

Council Meeting on October 4, 2021

Massapequa Council of PTA's information:

Council's mission for the year is to be a larger presence in the community
They are looking into coordinating a Massapequa-wide blood drive and possibly a food drive
Membership is up in every unit from last year. Birch Lane is presently the highest with 73% membership

Comments from Mrs. Haanraadts:

This year, I-Ready will be posted on the portal. They weren't posted last year because teachers were still familiarizing themselves with the tests.
The point of the test is to show individual growth.
Teachers are bringing Foundations back in second grade to review and fill any gaps.

Teacher reps

Field trips are back
Arts in Ed programs are back
PTA events are back
Clubs began at the secondary level and all meetings have been packed
Music and plays are back

SEPTA Report - Anthony Prizzi

Massapequa SEPTA is proud to announce that we will be celebrating Unity Day on 10/20/21. We encourage all students, faculty, and community to wear orange to stand against bullying. Massapequa SEPTA will also be hosting a Harvest Dance on October 22nd from 6-8pm at Ames. The first Massapequa SEPTA meeting of this school year took place at the McKenna Senior Center on October 6th at 7pm. The guest speaker was Kenneth A. Anderson, a Transition Specialist with the Regional Partnership Center. The District will be hosting a Roundtable Discussion at 6:30 pm at the McKenna Senior Center on October 19th. The District will also be hosting a Workshop about Guardianship and Estate Planning at 7pm at the McKenna Senior Center on October 26th. SEPTA would like to thank everyone that has joined and become a SEPTA member and purchased fundraising items. SEPTA enjoyed seeing everyone at the various Back to School Nights!

Anyone that is interested in becoming a SEPTA member please visit
<https://massapequasepta.memberhub.store>.

BOE Report - Stephanie Iannuzzi

*See attached report

Legislation - Marianna Somers

(5) Retention = unchanged; re-upping

(11) Updates = wording change

(8) Recission = retired

(2) New = for consideration

Number of delegates determined by membership

President plus number of members

100

Vote of confidence → only delegates can vote at convention

Reflections – Jenni Mignone

The Reflections Art Program is up and running. Fliers have been sent home. Children are asked to express how they will change the world through creative outlets. Categories include: Visual Arts, Musical Composition, Literature, Dance, or Film Production. Projects will be collected on November 10th between 6 and 8pm or November 12 between 4 and 5pm. Masks are required inside of the building. Contact Jenni Mignone at JenniV39@aol.com with any questions.

Arts in Education – Kiri Spillane

All booked

Spirit Wear – Presented by Mariana Somers

Thank you to all who participated in our fall Spirit Wear fundraiser. New Wave Sports is currently experiencing shipping delays. As a result, our orders are estimated to be received in approximately 4 to 6 weeks. We will continue to work closely with New Wave and keep you posted with any updates. Thank you for your patience. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to us at birchlanespiritwear@gmail.com.

Picture Day – Elizabeth Edelbach

Picture Day was a success! Thank you to all who helped. Retakes will be on November 10th.

Blood Drive – Stephanie Gentile

The Blood Drive will be on December 1st 3:15pm staff only, 4-9pm open to all Little Doctor's Program –students will learn about different blood types and help run the blood drive

Health and Wellness Committee

Lauren Carollo

Holiday Fair – Sue McEvoy and Kira Mallia

We are very excited that this year's holiday fair will take place at the school. Since Hanukkah starts November 28, this year's Holiday Fair will be very early in the season. Thursday and Friday, November 11th and 12th will be available for the committee to set up the fair. The holiday fair event will take place on Monday, November 15th to Thursday, November 18th. Friday, November 19 will be the day we break it down. There will be a wide range of items available for each student to purchase gifts for their family, friends, teachers and pets. At this time we are just waiting to hear on how many parent volunteers we can have for each class. We think the kids are really going to enjoy this event!

Reports from Administration: Mr. Aspetti and Mrs. Larkin

Thank you for the Back to School Bash, Back to School Night, and Fall Plant Sale (beautiful plants and flexibility on location). Thank you for the Walk to School Day, it was a great event with the positive benefits of exercise. Picture Day went smoothly and retakes will be on November 10th with the Fifth Grade Club Photos and music ensembles on that day too.

Clubs booking closed yesterday and they're starting on October 25th. There are some break up sessions so no one gets left out; most sessions will be split and letters will be going home with dates.

4th Grade ensembles begin on October 18th

Halloween Parade will be on October 29th at 9:45 am. Costumes must be appropriate for school.

Questions: Will students be masked outside during parade? It's outdoors so it's optional.

Fire Safety Week begins October 18th with assemblies for K-3

Red Ribbon Week is the week of Halloween

Positivity Thursdays starting again the Thursday after Halloween

Wall of Honor in building to honor Veterans – letter will be going home on Monday. It will be up all year and we will return photos in June.

Mrs. Larkin –

Red Ribbon Week, referenced flyers

Mrs. Romeo is our new social worker. Positive message each day during the week. Thank you to the PTA for the bracelets.

Questions for Breakfast with the Principal

Q: According to the updated CDC data the risk of transmitting COVID-19 through surfaces is extremely low, we now know that the virus is airborne transmitted through droplets. Why are we still not allowing children to bring in birthday treats and/or goody bags? Especially in light of the fact that other elementary schools in the district are allowing the students to do so.

A: We haven't brought for 20 years; safety issues; grades do different things to celebrate, not food items.

Q: Do you anticipate the return of winter/spring concerts? Even something virtual would be nice to have for the kids.

A: Yes, how is still being worked out based on distancing protocols.

Q: Is ice cream at lunch going to be a permanent thing? Will there be other "snacks" added for purchase?

A: Yes and there are a ton of others also, tons of snacks.

Q: Will there be a "Spirit Week" similar to last year around Halloween?

A: Red Ribbon Week

Upcoming Events:

NOVEMBER

November 2 School Closed – Election Day

November 10 – Picture Retakes

November 11 School Closed – Veterans Day

November 15-19 – Holiday Fair

November 16 – PTA Meeting

November 18 – BOE Meeting

Meeting ended at 10:39 am

Board of Education Recap October 7, 2021

1. Discussion of NYSSBA (New York State School Boards Association) Proposed Bylaw Amendments & Resolutions (see attached)
 1. Gary Baldinger is the representative for our Board of Education and will be present at the NYSSBA 2021 Annual Business Meeting to vote on these items.
 2. Proposed Resolutions
 - i. Vote “Yes” on Resolutions 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13, 16, and 17
 1. Resolution 3 – Children with disabilities should be tested at their developmental age as opposed to their chronological age.
 2. Resolution 10 – Child Safety Zone; the Board would like to modify the bussing zone to give students that live above Sunrise Highway bussing because of their location, as opposed to their distance from the school.
 - ii. Vote “No” on Resolution 9 as is and “Yes” if it includes the Amendment
 1. Currently Board of Education meetings have to happen in a centralized meeting place. This Amendment provides the ability for remote meetings. The Board is concerned that the physicality of the meetings might be compromised and want their meetings to be accessible to the public.
 2. The Amendment (page 30) suggests that so long as the majority of the Board members are present at the meeting, some may join remotely. The Board would vote “Yes” to this Resolution with the Amendment.
 - iii. Vote “No” to Resolutions 14 and 15
 3. Late Resolutions
 - i. Vote “Yes” to Resolutions 1, 4, and 5
 1. Resolution 1 – Arts and music are considered core classes in the public school system curriculum and cannot be cut for budgetary reasons.
 2. Resolution 4 – The New York State School Boards Association will advocate for the removal of mask mandates to make schools

mask optional.

ii. Vote “No” to Resolutions 2 and 3

2. Updates from the Board

a. Homecoming – September 25th

i. Homecoming was a success. b. Student Advisory Committee

i. Students raised concerns about drug and alcohol use. They may expand the program to include these topics as well as discussions of the dangers of social media.