



Birch Lane
PTA®

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Birch Lane
Massapequa Park, NY 11762

BIRCH LANE PTA

Executive/General Board Meeting Minutes

Date: Tuesday, February 15, 2022

PTA General Membership Meeting

Date: Tuesday, February 15, 2022

Time: 6:45 pm

Place: Birch Lane General Purpose Room

Heather Callahan, President

- Meeting called to order at 6:49 pm
- A quorum was present

President's Report:

The minutes from February 8, 2022 and November 2021 were approved as presented.

Thank You:

Blood Drive (Stephanie Gentile), Holiday Fair Committee (Kira Mallia, Tara Hochberg), Birch Twig/Website (Jennifer Saporita), PARP (Gracemarie Rozea), Reflections (Jenni Mignone), Bulletin Board Committee (Stacey Sandurs, Kristen Larmann), and Hospitality Committee (Jodi Ricardo, Katie McCauley)

Correspondence – Kiri Spillane

Thank you from the 3rd Grade Teachers for the Holiday Luncheon

Thank you from the 1st Grade Teachers: 2 email responses from Senate Majority Leader and Speaker acknowledging receipt of contact

Treasurer Report – Marianna Somers

The current checking account balance is \$31,477.23.

Income:

Membership Fees almost \$800

Expenses:

Staff Luncheon approximately \$1100

Membership Dues to the State for approximately \$500

Holiday Fair paid what we took in to our vendor Little Treasures

Membership:
487 members

Council Report – Amy MacLeod

From January 24, 2022 Meeting

Mrs. Haanraads:

Schools are making up for everything. There is a focus on meeting students' emotional needs - if we aren't meeting the emotional needs of the students, the curriculum doesn't matter.

Instruction is back to normal.

5th grade students will attend a presentation given by secondary students focused on social media.

Arts in Education:

It is anticipated that programs should be back to normal next year. Due to past cancellations, the units will not have customary credits – this will require additional fundraising to make up the deficit.

Teacher Reports:

Reiterated instruction is back to normal, even in the music programs.

April 27th is Meet the Candidates Night.

Septa Report – Anthony Prizzi

The next SEPTA meeting is Wednesday, March 16th at 7pm at the McKenna Senior Center. The annual resource fair was held last week at Berner Cafeteria. A Spring Fundraiser is planned for Thursday, March 12th at Governor's Comedy Club. Special Education workshops will be offered from February 16th through March 1st. Nominations are open for those interested in serving on Septa. Please see the website for info.

Legislation Report – Marianna Somers

The NYS PTA Convention was held in November. All resolutions passed with the exception of update #3 which will be brought back next year.

BOE Report – Amy MacLeod

From January 6, 2022 meeting:

Shannon McEntee, Athletic Director, recognized the following teams for their outstanding fall season: field hockey, boys' volleyball, football, girls' volleyball, girls' swimming, and girls' soccer who were NYS champions.

January 20th meeting:

Special Education presentation included information regarding the continuation of the Northwell Health partnership for mental health services. Full day inclusion classes will be held at Birch Lane and McKenna next year.

February 7th meeting:

MTAC presentation focused on substance abuse between 7th through 12th graders and data trends between 2018-2021 surveys which included results.

There was also a budget discussion at this meeting.

School calendar was approved.

Birch Dance –

Birch Dance, called “VIP and Me” is scheduled for Friday, April 29th at the Berner Cafeteria from 7:30-9:30pm and is open to all students. Volunteers are needed for sub committees.

Kids’ Bash is tentatively scheduled for March 26th at Long Island Sports Hub in Syosset. There is a space limit to the Sports Hub with 250 per session and it is recommended to sign up as early as possible.

PTA members are contacted via MemberHub emails to recruit volunteers for PTA events. At the end of each school year, forms are sent home for individuals to volunteer for committees/events.

A nomination form was sent to the entire community in January, requesting recommendations - these were due on February 7th. Recommendations can be written and submitted via the PTA mailbox in the vestibule in the front of the building or sent via email.

Question asked:

Could PTA meetings be livestreamed?

Response:

At this time, that is not allowed per NYS PTA.

Health and Wellness – Lauren Carollo (presented by Amy MacLeod)

It was proposed to decorate the Beacon Street side of the fence with a positive wellness message. A survey will be sent for families to vote on the message. The anticipated cost is \$200.

Motion by Amy MacLeod to increase budget \$200 was approved

Reflections – Jenni Mignone

Reflections ceremony was on Friday, February 10. There were 49 entries. Children were given awards for participation and trophies were given for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place. Three Reflections pieces moved on from Nassau Region to New York State.

PARP – Gracemarie Rozea (presented by Amy MacLeod)

Reading Love with Acts of Kindness concluded on February 11th with 410 students participating. Students read over 82,000 minutes and the students earned Pajama Day on Friday, February 18th. Gift bags (book, bookmark and pencil) were distributed at the end of the program to all BL students.

Spirit Wear – Christine Fahey/Kim Rumberg

Field Day T-shirts are available this year (different colors per grade) and 180 orders have been submitted to date.

Supply Kits – Kristen Wright

Updated supply lists were sent and flyers will be distributed. The deadline to order is April 13th and kits will be delivered to the school.

Reports from Teachers – Miss Reedy and Miss Downey

Miss Reedy:

Kindergarten:

Students published their books and experienced the writing process from beginning to end
How-To unit in writing

Foundations - blending sounds to make three-letter words

Math - learning to add and subtract within 10 using manipulatives

Getting ready to celebrate their 100th day of school with a fashion show in their rooms and will participate in various 100 Day activities

Had a visit from a dental hygienist and learned about dental health and hygiene

First Grade:

Non-fiction reading and writing units; learning about text features

Math – solving word problems with missing addends; getting ready for Unit 2 assessment

Foundations - learning how to read words that have R-controlled vowels

Learning how to empathize with others, identify others' feelings and find solutions to problems for social-emotional learning practice

Had a wonderful time celebrating Valentine's Day

Second Grade:

Had fun learning about Chinese New Year and had a visit from students and Mandarin teacher from Berner

Working on non-fiction research books and getting ready for their publishing stage

Had a great time celebrating Valentine's Day and look forward to the book fair

Report presented by Mr. Aspetti

Third Grade:

Children are finishing up their non-fiction books

Math – word problems

Social Studies – learning about the geography and culture of Japan

Children enjoyed the exciting projects they made in Enrichment

Enjoying Spanish classes where they're learning to express where they live

Fourth Grade:

Math – learning about fractions

Social Studies - life in colonial New York

Science - learning about animal adaptations

Finishing up their non-fiction unit in writing and working on publishing their books

Fifth Grade:

ELA - wrapping up their biography units and are beginning writing their literary essays

Math - multiplying and dividing fractions

Science - learning about invasive species

Social Studies – preparing for their trip to Commerce Plaza

Reports from Administration – Mr. Aspetti

On behalf of the Birch Lane staff, thanks were expressed to the PTA for all work done for the students.

Building News

Our students read 82,000+ minutes for PARP and earned Pajama Day!

100th Day of School Celebration is coming up on Thursday in Kindergarten

Fifth Grade Fundraiser – Cards for a Cause (orders due by February 28th)

Hallway remodel will take place (using colors navy/gold)

GP Remodel over the summer

State testing: ELA computer based testing done on Chrome books

Paper based assessment in Math

Opt-Out letters will be done on the Parent Portal

Upcoming Events:

MARCH

March 3 – BOE Meeting 8pm Board Room

March 3 – Boosterthon Kickoff

March 5 – Ice Skating at Marjorie Post Park

March 6 – Spirit Wear Field Day Sale Ends

March 15 – General Membership Meeting 6:45pm

March 17 – BOE Meeting 8pm Board Room

March 31 – Supply Kit Sale Ends

APRIL

April 7 – BOE Meeting 8pm Board Room

April 8 – General Membership Meeting 9:45am

April 15 – April 22 – Spring Recess

April 27 – Meet the Candidates Night 7:30pm MHS

Meeting adjourned at 8:15pm