



Birch Lane
PTA[®]

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Birch Lane
Massapequa Park, NY 11762

Minutes of the PTA General Membership Meeting
Tuesday, March 14, 2023

Amy MacLeod, PTA President

- The meeting was called to order at 6:50 pm in the Birch Lane Elementary School GP Room.
- A quorum was present.
- Mrs. MacLeod led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ACTION AGENDA:

Minutes of the November 15, 2022 General Meeting, November 15, 2022 Executive Board Meeting, and January 9, 2023 Special Meeting were approved as presented.

- **Nominating Committee:** Jennifer Maher. The following names were placed in nomination to serve as officers of Birch Lane PTA for the 2023-24 year: President - Amy MacLeod; 1st Vice President - Christine Rose; Vice President, Ways & Means - Jenni Mignone; Treasurer - Lauren Carollo; Secretary - Stephanie Iannuzzi. No nominations from the floor were received.

Election of Officers

President Amy MacLeod called for the election of Birch Lane PTA Officers for the 2023-24 year. The slate set forth by the Nominating Committee was approved as presented.

- **President's Report:** Amy MacLeod. Mrs. MacLeod acknowledged the following committees and thanked the committee members for their hard work: Bulletin Board; Ice Skating; Diversity, Equity, Inclusion; Winter Fun Night; Holiday Fair; Book Fair; Pasta Night; STEAM Night; BIRCHO; Reflections; Blood Drive; PARP; and Spirit Wear. The school supply kit sale will run from March 17th-April 21st. The PTA will not increase the price of the kit to make a profit. Mrs. MacLeod read the questions for the Superintendent. See attachment.
- **Correspondence.** Stephanie Iannuzzi. Correspondence was received by the special education teachers, the kindergarten teachers, the second grade teachers, the fourth grade teachers, the fifth grade teachers, and Ms. Lee thanking the PTA for the heart spoons set. All grades, Miss Downey, the special education teachers, Mr. Aspetti, and Mrs. Larkin thanked the PTA for the staff luncheon. Miss Downey and Mrs. Russell thanked the PTA and the Holiday Fair Committee for their donation to the Student Government Toy Drive. The fourth grade teachers thanked the PTA for funding the Journey's Program. The PARP Committee thanked the guest readers. The BIRCHO Committee thanked the volunteers, Mr. Aspetti, Mrs. Larkin, Ms. Reedy, and Mr. Rose.
- **Financial Report:** Lauren Carollo. December 31, 2022 report: Opening balance of \$50,590.21, disbursements \$7,246.54, income \$26,906.60, closing balance \$70,250.27. The December statement was reconciled by Erin Liana and found to be in order. January 31, 2023 report: Opening balance of \$70,250.27, disbursements \$20,869.75, income \$4,879.05, closing balance \$54,259.57. The January statement was reconciled by Erin Liana and found to be in order. February 28, 2023 report: Opening balance of \$54,259.57, disbursements \$9,058.91, income \$13,832.60, closing balance \$59,033.26. The February statement was reconciled by Erin Liana and found to be in order.

OFFICER/CHAIR REPORTS

- **Boosterthon:** Elizabeth Edelbach. The Boosterthon fundraiser kicks off tomorrow. There will be daily school videos and morning announcements. The fundraiser will culminate in a PTA-sponsored Fun Run on March 24th. Our goal is to raise \$20,000. Funds raised account for nearly 40% of our annual budget.
- **Little Ladies Dance:** Jenni Mignone read by Tara Banta. Little Ladies Dance planning is underway. The theme is Masquerade Ball. The dance is Friday, April 28th from 7:30-9:30 pm at Berner Middle School. Invitations will be distributed next week. The committee is looking forward to another wonderful event for the girls.
- **Plant Sale:** Vicki Abbinanti read by Stephanie Iannuzzi. Pre-order flyers will be distributed in April to purchase larger items like hanging plants and herb gardens. The children will be able to purchase smaller plants in person at the sale in May.
- **Boys Bash:** Stephani Cortese read by Stephanie Iannuzzi. The Boys Bash is on Saturday, April 1st. Everyone needs to sign a waiver. There's still time left to purchase tickets for Session 2.

ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

- **Teacher Liaison:** Ms. McCree and Ms. Downey. Kindergarten: celebrated the 100th day of school; a special person for each student came into the class to make a craft, and students made 100th day shirts. First grade: Learned about George Washington and Abraham Lincoln; ELA: non-fiction texts, first all about books; patterns of the sun and moon in enrichment; exploring time and money. Second grade: March 31st participating in High School Heroes focusing on community; field trip to Old Bethpage. Third grade: literacy: reading a variety of stories and developing claims supported by evidence; math: fractions; science: just finished a fossil unit; social studies learning about Mexico; learning different animals in Spanish. Fourth grade: wrapping up non-fiction writing units and book writing; social studies: American Revolution. Fifth grade: in math: unit three and preparing for exam; ELA: non-fiction unit, wrote biographies, and starting a new novel.
- **Principal/Assistant Principal Reports:** Mrs. Larkin. Mrs. Larkin thanked the PTA committees and the PTA Board for their hard work. Next week the school will begin the PARP Principal's Challenge prize. State testing is at the end of April for grades three through five. Any parents who are opting out, please complete the form online. Epilepsy Awareness Day is March 27th. Wear purple. The Earth Dome is on March 28th for second grade. Kindergarten just had the Velveteen Rabbit program. The Advanced Concert performance is on March 29th at Birch Lane for other students and on March 30th at 7:00 pm at the High School for parents. High School Heroes is on March 31st for second grade. Autism Awareness starts on March 30th in library classes.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:35 pm.

S/

Secretary

Stephanie Iannuzzi

Approved: _____

Questions for the Superintendent

1. Do buses have external cameras? No, Massapequa buses do not have stop-arm cameras.
2. Will there be late buses for Berner Students who opt-out of state testing? No buses will be provided. Will send a schedule so that students that opt out know when to arrive at school.
3. Before and after-care update: We have the space, but the program does not have the staff. Dr. Brennan will continue to push them to find staffing solutions.
4. Which buildings allow siblings to exit with younger siblings? McKenna and Fairfield
5. Safety: What supports have the school board and district provided to make sure each school has sufficient resources, including staffing, to provide a safe and supportive environment inside and outside of the school perimeters? Extra security agents or other support staff based on the needs of each school? Is there a funding formula per school for staffing? There isn't a funding formula; they try to balance many variables, including the size and location of buildings.
6. At the middle school level in neighboring school districts, teachers conference with students often and pull them into small groups for individualized and differentiated instruction (especially in math). Will this be more prevalent at the middle school level? The expectation is that, yes, this is happening.
7. How do we make sure that each school community has a voice in shaping the district's safety goals so that a more inclusive, accurate, and comprehensive perspective is included in the decisions at the district level? Community members are welcome to go to BOE meetings to express concerns. There are also opportunities to join committees that play a role in safety. Dr. Brennan said he's always receptive to safety feedback and concerns. You can contact him. Be vocal. The district's communication audit had 800 participants, and Dr. Brennan will continue to offer those types of audits, so that will be another opportunity to share concerns.