



Birch Lane
PTA[®]

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Birch Lane
Massapequa Park, NY 11762

Minutes of the PTA General Membership Meeting
October 14, 2022

Amy MacLeod, PTA President

- The meeting was called to order at 9:50 am in the Birch Lane Elementary School GP Room.
- A quorum was present.
- Mrs. MacLeod led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Action Items

Minutes of the September 16, 2022 General Membership meeting were approved as presented.

Motion A2: I move on behalf of the Bylaws Committee to amend Birch Lane PTA Bylaws Article XI, Section 3 as proposed.

Gracemarie Rozea

Adopted

Motion A3: I move on behalf of the Bylaws Committee to amend Birch Lane PTA Bylaws Article XI, Section 5 as proposed.

Gracemarie Rozea

Adopted

Motion A4: I move to ratify the Birch Lane PTA membership vote on NYS PTA Resolutions as presented.

Christine Rose

Adopted

Motion A5: I move to give Christine Rose a vote of confidence to represent Birch Lane PTA at the New York State PTA convention.

Stephanie Iannuzzi

Adopted

- **PRESIDENT'S REPORT:** Amy MacLeod. Mrs. MacLeod acknowledged the following committees and thanked all of the committee members for their hard work: Back to School BBQ, Bulletin Board, Spirit Wear, Picture Day, Plant Sale, Health and Wellness, Membership, Arts in Ed, Birch Twig, and Website. Mrs. MacLeod thanked Ms. Cohen and Mrs. LeBlanc for their continual support. Mrs. MacLeod read the questions for the Superintendent. See attachment.
- **Correspondence:** Stephanie Iannuzzi. No correspondence was received.
- **Treasurer's Report:** Lauren Carollo.
- **Financial Report**
September 30, 2022 report - Opening balance of \$39,300.64, disbursements \$17,692.24, income \$18,906.09, closing balance \$40,514.49. The September statement was reconciled by Erin Liana and found to be in order.

OFFICER/CHAIR REPORTS

- **Holiday Fair:** Tara Hochberg. The Holiday Fair will be November 29th through December 2nd. Students can purchase gifts for family and friends. Forms will be sent home in backpacks soon.
- **BOE:** Christine Rose. Report to be emailed to membership.
- **Reflections:** Jenni Mignone. The theme is "Show your Voice". Projects will be collected at the Birch Lane Lobby on November 14th and November 15th between 4:45 and 6:45 pm. Email Jennifer Mignone at Jenniv39@aol.com with questions.

- Fall Fundraiser Event: Jennifer Mignone read for Marissa Fiore. Our '90s themed Fall Fundraiser is on November 10th from 7:00-11:00 pm at Mulcahy's. Contact Marissa Fiore at mfiore426@gmail.com to contribute basket donations. A question was asked about when and where class parents can drop off baskets. An email will be sent out with more information soon.
- SEPTA: Stephanie Iannuzzi read for Danielle Holzapfel. SEPTA memberships can be purchased through MemberHub. Unity Day is October 19th. Students and staff are invited to wear orange. October 21st is the Harvest dance, which is free for members. The next SEPTA meeting is November 16th at 7:00 pm at the McKenna Senior Center.
- Picture Day: Elizabeth Edelbach. Picture Day wrapped up yesterday. Everyone's picture is taken regardless of whether portraits are purchased. Send in order forms ASAP. Portraits will be sent home shortly and retake/makeup day is November 9th. Yearbook group photos will be taken on that date. A member asked if gym class is taken into account. Teachers sign up for time slots and take gym into consideration along with other factors. Kindergarten teachers sign up for the earlier slots.
- Membership: Christine Fahey. The goals for 60% participation in September for the Early Bird Award and 75% participation for the Trailblazer Award in October have been met. The next goal is for 100% participation for the Savvy Membership Award. You must be a current PTA member to volunteer at PTA-coordinated events. Reach out to the committee with questions at membershipbirchlaneppta@gmail.com. A question was asked about the deadline for joining the PTA for the Halloween Party. That deadline is today.
- Health and Wellness: Lauren Carollo read for Diane Sfogle. Red Ribbon week is October 24th-28th. The theme is to "Celebrate Life". The PTA purchased bracelets for students to wear. Each day of the week will be a different spirit day for students and staff.
- Movie Night: Lauren Carollo read for Meghan DelVecchio. Movie Night is October 19th at 5:00 pm *Lyle, Lyle, Crocodile* will be shown.

ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

- **Teacher Liaison:** Ms. McCree and Ms. Downey. Grade level information was shared. Kindergarten is working with numbers 0-5 to identify more or fewer objects; learning about autumn and the life cycle of a pumpkin; learning fire safety. First grade students are learning doubles facts and how to make ten, number bonds, and ten frames; studying the pumpkin life cycle. Second grade students are working on fiction story units; students will share character masks and book reports; in math pictures and bar graphs, exploring questions about the real world, one and two step word problems; science anatomy unit; three types of matter. Third grade students are beginning multiplication and the break apart method; some classes have started forces and motion, and some are working on geography; reading Patricia Polanco stories and starting the personal narrative unit; learning color words in Spanish. Fourth grade is finishing their science unit on plants; wrapping up place value and moving onto multiplication. Fifth grade students are wrapping up a unit on volume and multiplication; studying matter; starting a unit on the Mayans; starting Tech Buddies with kindergarten classes.
- **Principal/Assistant Principal Reports:** Mr. Aspetti and Mrs. Larkin. Thanked the PTA committees and the PTA Board for their hard work. October 12th was the fifth grade photo. Yearbook preparation has begun; club pictures will be taken on picture retake day. The Fifth Grade Committee is working on end of the year activities. They will be sponsoring a Thanksgiving Pie Fundraiser. Fifth grade parents will receive a letter about funds for end of year activities. Ryan Hirschhorn's sculpture for Ukraine will be displayed at the Cyclones game, then the Long Island Children's Museum. Unity Day is Wednesday, wear orange. Fire Safety Week begins October 24th. There will be an assembly on October 26th for Grades K- 2. Club information will be going out soon for Grades 3-5. Red Ribbon Week begins October 24th. Information about Halloween was sent home. November 8th is Election Day; students will not be in attendance. November 11th is Veterans Day. November 10th is Proud to be an American Day; students and staff wear red, white, and blue. Students and staff can bring in a picture of a loved one who has served in the military by November 4th to be displayed. Information will go out for a supply collection for veterans later this month.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 10:30 am.

S/

Secretary

Stephanie Iannuzzi

Approved: _____

Questions for the Superintendent:

Q: Would it be possible to extend the students' lunch and recess time? The younger kids don't have time to eat their lunches and the kids need more time to get energy out in order for them to focus.

A: Extending recess and lunch takes time away from the master schedule. An extra five minutes cuts into something else and changes the 40 minute blocks. Teachers try to incorporate breaks into class.

Q: How will diversity education be incorporated into curriculum (including Hispanic Heritage Month, Black History Month, etc.)?

A: They are all covered in the curriculum.

Q: What efforts are being made to accommodate more students for the before and after school care through YMCA? There is an incredible need.

A: The challenge is space and staff to support the ratio required. Rooms have to be reviewed and approved by the state. It's a work in progress and we're always trying to improve it.

Q: Since Social Emotional Learning is one of the district's goals, will the district consider embracing an evidence based learning curriculum that teaches students positive mindsets and skills to manage their emotions and develop positive relationships to help them thrive?

A: Yes, Dr. Brennan is researching and information gathering. He believes the district needs a consistent evidence based approach. He implemented the RULER Project in Farmingdale and would love to see it in Massapequa. The RULER Project was introduced at Berner years ago, but didn't take off. He believes the implementation needs to be executed through the entire district, not just one school. Everyone needs to use a common language. Everyone who works in the school district needs to be trained, from monitors to administrators.

Q: I understand that the Board had decided not to have pre-k this year. Will they reconsider for next year?

A: Yes

Q: Additionally, the School Board also stated that 98% of families in Massapequa already send their children to Pre-K. Is there a possibility of writing the grant and utilizing the funds to subsidize the (high) tuition costs families pay for pre- k?

A: No