



Birch Lane
PTA[®]

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Birch Lane
Massapequa Park, NY 11762

**Minutes of the PTA General Membership Meeting
Friday, September 15, 2023**

Amy MacLeod, PTA President

- The meeting was called to order at 9:45 am in the Birch Lane Elementary School GP Room.
- A quorum was present.
- Mrs. MacLeod led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Mrs. MacLeod introduced Gracemarie Rozea, Parliamentarian.

Action Agenda

Minutes of the May 17, 2023 General Membership meeting were approved as presented.

Motion 1: On behalf of the Budget committee, I move the adoption of the Birch Lane PTA proposed budget as presented.

Lauren Carollo
Adopted

- **MSD Bond Vote Presentation:** Dr. Brennan and Mr. Ruf. Dr. Brennan and Mr. Ruf led a presentation on the Massapequa School District Bond Project for 2023. The bond vote will take place on October 17, 2023.
- **President's Report:** Amy MacLeod. Mrs. MacLeod introduced Lauren Carollo, Treasurer, and Stephanie Iannuzzi, Recording Secretary. She acknowledged the following committees for their hard work: Kindergarten Committee, Membership, Bulletin Board Committee, Spirit Wear Committee, Plant Sale Committee, Back to School Bash Committee, Hospitality for the Staff Luncheon, Arts in Ed, Website, and the Twig. Mrs. MacLeod addressed a question about the PTA sponsoring an event at Adventureland. The PTA cannot host an event at Adventureland because it is not covered by insurance. She also addressed substituting a Ducks game for the Summer Kickoff Bash. The Ducks game only sold 20 tickets the last time it was offered as opposed to the 758 tickets sold for the Summer Kickoff so this event will not be changed at this time.
- **Correspondence:** Stephanie Iannuzzi. Correspondence was received by the kindergarten teachers and support staff, second grade teachers, fifth grade teachers, Mr. Aspetti and Mrs. Larkin thanking the PTA for the staff luncheon. Kevin Darby expressed his gratitude for being chosen for the Marge Baffa Scholarship as did Audrey Pioreck for being awarded the Ruth M. Young Scholarship.
- **Financial Report:** Lauren Carollo. July 31, 2023 report: Opening balance of \$58,130.91, disbursements \$2,116.54, income \$262.32, closing balance \$56,276.69. The July statement was reconciled by Erin Liana and found to be in order. August 31, 2023 report: Opening balance of \$56,276.69, disbursements \$968.22, income \$516.00, closing balance \$55,824.47. The August statement was reconciled by Erin Liana and found to be in order.
- **Audit Report:** Stephanie Iannuzzi. The audit committee examined the records of Birch Lane PTA for the period of July 2022-June 2023 and found them to be correct and in good standing.

Administration Reports

- **Teacher Liaison:** Ms. McCree and Ms. Downey read by Mr. Aspetti. Kindergarten: routines; practicing how to use scissors and glue; learning about fall. First grade: routines; in math: counting on, how to use double facts and make ten; writing personal narratives. Second grade: in social studies: active citizenship; in math: mental math strategies for addition and subtraction; October character book reports. Third grade: in math: place value and rounding; in social studies: geography and where students live; in reading: fiction stories. Fourth grade: in math: reviewing place value; connecting various texts in reading. Fifth grade: in math: volume; in science: matter; in social studies: geography of the western hemisphere; in ELA: word work, reading, and writing units.

- **Principal/Assistant Principal Reports:** Mr. Aspetti & Mrs. Larkin. Mr. Aspetti thanked the PTA committees and the PTA Board for their hard work as well as those who donated to the staff luncheon. Back to School Night was on Tuesday. Thank a Police Officer Day and Dot Day is September 15th. I-Ready benchmark assessments for math and ELA will be done by the end of this week for all grades except for kindergarten. Assessments are given early in the year so the school can create a baseline for the students. Band and orchestra started this week. Ensembles for fifth grade start next week. Fourth grade ensembles begin the week of October 16th. Extra help begins on October 4th for Grades 1-5. Payment for the fifth grade activities will be next week. The Back to School Bash is September 21, 2023. Information about clubs will go out in October.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 11:03 am.

S/

Secretary

Stephanie Iannuzzi

Approved: _____

Questions for the Principal

When will clubs start? Clubs will start in October. A letter will go out at the beginning of October for the students to sign up.

Why isn't participation in the Science Fair a mandatory part of the science curriculum? The school wants students to be motivated to do the Science Fair, as opposed to being forced to do it. The new science program will create this type of learning. Students will be encouraged to join the Science Fair, but it will not be mandatory.

Why aren't book reports assigned especially in the older grades? Independent reading is a daily part of the curriculum. Students should be reading for a purpose in class and in school. Teachers can assign an additional book report if they would like, but students should be reading every day. Sometimes book reports are done in class so that teachers can show them the proper way to put these types of reports together.

Can you cover the specific measures to help students during an emergency? The school practices different types of drills all the time. The school is mandated to cover the different types of drills a certain number of times, but they practice far more times than what is mandated. Conversations are ongoing about how to improve upon these drills.

Can you consider adding chess as a club? Clubs are run by staff members. The staff submit what types of clubs they would like to run. The school is allowed to choose eight clubs. The school chooses the clubs that they think would generate the most interest.

Is it possible to start the clubs sooner than third grade? No. Clubs are for grades three through five. The school is only allowed to have eight clubs. The clubs already have a large turnout.

What is the trip for third grade this year? Field trips are not set in stone. They might be looking at something different than the fish hatchery.

Does the district limit the number of trips per year? The district doesn't limit the amount, but it needs to be equitable, and the school must be mindful of the cost and time.