



Birch Lane
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Birch Lane
Massapequa Park, NY 11762

**Minutes of the PTA General Membership Meeting
March 19, 2024**

Amy MacLeod, PTA President

- The meeting was called to order at 6:55 pm in the Birch Lane Elementary School GP Room.
- A quorum was present.
- Mrs. MacLeod led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Action Agenda

The minutes for the November 14, 2023 General Membership meeting and November 14, 2023 Executive Board 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 2024-25 year: President – Christine Rose; 1st Vice President – Lauren Carollo; Vice President, Ways & Means – Stephanie Iannuzzi; Treasurer – Elizabeth Edelbach; Secretary – Vicki Abbinanti. No nominations from the floor were received.

Election of Officers

President Amy MacLeod called for the election of Birch Lane PTA Officers for the 2024-25 year. The slate set forth by the Nominating Committee was approved as presented.

Motion A4: On behalf of the Arts in Ed Committee, I move to increase the Arts in Ed budget from \$16,000 to \$20,500.

Christine Fahey

Adopted

Motion A5: On behalf of the Field Day Committee, I move to increase the Field Day budget from \$4,500 to \$6,500.

Stephanie Iannuzzi

Adopted

Motion A6: On behalf of the Boys Bash Committee, I move to increase the Boys Bash budget from \$300 to \$800.

Stephanie Iannuzzi

Adopted

Motion A7: On behalf of the Little Ladies Dance Committee, I move to increase the Little Ladies Dance budget from \$300 to \$800.

Jenni Mignone

Adopted

- **President's Report:** Amy MacLeod. Mrs. MacLeod thanked the Nominating Committee and congratulated the newly elected officers for the 2024-25 school year. Mrs. MacLeod acknowledged the following committees and thanked all the committee members for their hard work: Bulletin Board Committee, Ice Skating, Winter Fun Night, Holiday Fair, Book Fair, Pasta Night, STEAM Night, BIRCHO, Reflections, Blood Drive, and PARP. Mrs. MacLeod addressed the questions to the Superintendent (see attached). A question was asked about whether there is a parent handbook or a teacher's guide to go with the math book for the parents to help their children with their math assignments. Mrs. Larkin suggested contacting Katie Fernandez for videos to go with the lessons. Mr. Aspetti responded to the following question: "Why are the assemblies and activities at the school

not district wide? Birch Lane doesn't do anything about the police or first responders." Birch Lane does celebrate police officers and first responders. There is a First Responders Day, Birch Lane holds donation drives, and students write letters to the 7th precinct. We are not uniform in the elementary schools for assemblies and activities. Each school has unique celebrations and traditions.

- **Correspondence:** Stephanie Iannuzzi. Correspondence was received by the Student Government thanking the PTA for their donation to the Holiday Toy Drive. Mr. Aspetti and Mrs. Larkin, the kindergarten teachers, the first grade teachers, the second grade teachers, the fourth grade teachers, and the fifth grade teachers thanked the PTA for the staff luncheon. Mr. Aspetti and Mrs. Larkin thanked the PTA for the journals, and the second grade teachers thanked the PTA for the books donated.
- **Financial Report:** Lauren Carollo read by Stephanie Iannuzzi. November 30, 2023 report. Opening balance \$56,875.68, disbursements \$10,507.30, income \$12,188.25, closing balance \$58,556.63. December 31, 2023 report. Opening balance \$58,556.63, disbursements \$9,068.44, income \$35,082.31, closing balance \$84,570.44. January 31, 2024 report. Opening balance \$84,570.44, disbursements \$23,309.96, income \$1,575.57, closing balance \$62,836.05. February 29, 2024 report. Opening balance \$62,836.05, disbursements \$20,374.35, income \$16,291.45, closing balance \$58,753.15. The statements for November, December, January, and February were reconciled by Elizabeth Edelbach and found to be in order.

Administration Reports

- **Teacher Liaisons:** Ms. McCree and Ms. Downey. Kindergarten: celebrated the 100th Day of School with class shirts and special crafts with a special guest. First grade: celebrated the 100th Day of School and Valentine's Day; in science: learning about the moons and stars; first personal narratives; starting non-fiction unit with their own all about book. Second grade: had a wonderful time on their Field Trip; looking forward to High School Heroes program; in science: learning about animal adaptations; working on writing non-fiction books about animals. Third grade: in literacy: reading a variety of stories and developing claims and learning how to write literary essays; in math: fractions; life cycle unit in science; in social studies: completed unit about Japan. Fourth grade: in science; learning how our bodies are made up of systems working together; drafting personal narratives; in math: learning about multiplication and patterns. Fifth grade: in math: preparing for end of unit exams on multiplying and dividing fractions; in social studies: studying exploration and its effects on the western hemisphere; wrote biographies and will begin working on memoirs.
- **Principal/Assistant Principal Reports:** Mr. Aspetti and Mrs. Larkin. Mr. Aspetti congratulated the new PTA officers and thanked Mrs. MacLeod and the current PTA Board for their hard work. High School Heroes will take place tomorrow in the second grade classes. Parent University is tomorrow night. World Down Syndrome Day is this Thursday: rock your socks. World Epilepsy Day is next Tuesday: wear purple. Autism Awareness week is the week of April 1st. There will be activities during their library classes. Students and staff wear blue on Fridays. Friday is the Fun Run for Boosterthon. The Advanced Concert is April 16th at Massapequa High School. If you are opting out of State Testing, fill out the form on the Parent Portal by March 28th. A question was asked about opting out. The decision can be made at any time, but they ask that the decision to be made well ahead of time. A question was asked how long the testing takes. The school sets a testing window, but students are allowed as much time as they need. A question was asked if everyone is taking the same test. Yes, the testing is standardized. A question was asked if the kids get their scores immediately. No, they will not receive their scores directly after the exams. A question was asked about what happens if students are done early. Students will read quietly during that testing window. A question was asked about hazardous traffic conditions around the kindergarten side of the school. The school has tried to block off one side of the street to make sure it is safe for kids. Mr. Aspetti will look into solutions.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm.

S/

Secretary

Stephanie Iannuzzi

Approved: _____

Questions for the Superintendent

Will Massapequa Schools consider a homework policy that reflects the modern family? Many districts (including the one I am employed with) are discussing appropriate and enriching homework. Things to consider: Monthly Family Connect Nights that align with events created by our PTA to create good will with the community, alleviate stress for our youngest students and creates a more positive attitude towards learning.

- The district does this. They implemented Family Connect Nights this year.

Why do students no longer have parent teacher conferences after 6th grade? They need to have them every year, and with more than just one teacher.

- This is contractual and not likely to change. Teachers are always available to discuss your child. They have found it to be more effective for parents to contact teachers directly with any questions or concerns, even if it is just to ask how their child is doing.

When will the district adopt a research based SEL program across all schools? This has been an ongoing project since Superintendent Iconis was here. Thank you.

- Dr. McCaw presented an update at the Jan 18, 2024 BOE meeting. The minutes from the meeting can be found on the BOE website. SEL is an ongoing project.

With a large Italian population of community members why is the Italian language not offered as a choice in our school district. I understand that it might not be a money language but it is one that many community members are interested in.

- The bottom line is there truly is not enough demand. Every time it is offered, they cannot fill a class.

Why are there not ICT and self-contained classes in EVERY elementary school for every grade with a student population of almost 7,000?

- Because there is not enough enrollment to support ICT in every school.

The math program at the elementary level is terrible. How do we go about changing the curriculum? Are there future plans already in the works to make a switch?

- No, there are no plans to switch. They are continually evaluating all programs. They look at student performance and feedback from teachers, among other things. You can contact Dr. Walsh to discuss.