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Birch Lane  
Massapequa Park, NY 11762



## PTA General Membership Meeting

Date: Thursday November 7, 2024

### Christine Rose, PTA President

- The meeting was called to order at 9:56am in the Birch Lane Elementary School GP Room.
- A quorum was present.
- Mrs. Rose led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Danielle Acuto from BOE here to introduce herself and say thank you for being a part of the community and PTA.

### ACTION AGENDA:

The minutes of the October 10, 2024 General Membership were approved as presented.

- **President's Report: Christine Rose.** Thank you to Cari Prado and Family Fun Committee for a successful Adventureland evening. Thank you to Diane Sfoggia and the Reflections Committee and all of our committees for their hard work.
- **Treasurer's Report: Elizabeth Edelbach.** October 31, 2024 report: Opening balance of \$28,590.18, disbursements \$14,975.77, income \$3,504.82, closing balance \$17,119.23. The statement for October was reconciled by Lauren Carollo.

### OFFICER/CHAIR REPORTS

- **Membership: Christine Rose.** We have approximately 498 members which is short of our goal of 100% participation. I urge you to get your friends to please join if they have not already.
- **Arts in Ed: Christine Rose.** 4th grade had their Journeys program. It was an immersive, in school field trip about Native American culture. Next will be World Kindness Day which is November 13th.
- **Legislation: Christine Rose.** On October 30th, we held a special PTA Meeting to vote on the opposition letter to the NYSED Reorganization Plan. The letter has been written and sent on behalf of the Birch Lane PTA.
- **Reflections: Stephanie Iannuzzi.** This year's PTA Reflections theme is Accepting Imperfections. Fill out the paperwork and drop projects off at the Birch Lane lobby on 11/14 or 11/15, 4:45-6:45 PM. The PTA will recognize every participant at a ceremony on 2/13. Families are invited.
- **Holiday Fair: Stephanie Iannuzzi.** The Holiday Fair will take place from Monday December 9th through Thursday December 12th. Students can purchase affordable and special gifts for family and friends. Flyers will be sent home in backpacks with volunteer information and class shopping times.
- **Blood Drive: Vicki Abbinanti.** The Blood drive is scheduled for December 4<sup>th</sup> this year from 4pm – 8pm.
- **BOE Report: Elizabeth Edelbach.** Copies of the last meeting's minutes are available at the table should anyone like to read them. Things discussed included the District's Audit Report and the NYS Regionalization Plan.

- **Winter Fun Night: Elizabeth Edelbach.** Our 3rd annual Winter Fun Night at Birch Lane on December 11th. Fun Stuff Express again this year to take over the GP room for the stuff-a-bear portion of the event. In the front gym we will also host all kinds of winter-themed activities such as crafts, games, prizes and more for the children to enjoy.
- **Picture Day: Elizabeth Edelbach.** We successfully wrapped up Picture Day 2024! We would like to thank Patken, Lisa Antonucci, our chair, and committee members for volunteering their time to make sure we had 700 smiling happy kids.

### Administration Reports

- **Teacher Reports: Ms. McCree and Ms. Downey.** Kindergarten: We are learning all things Fall & Election Day, Thanksgiving and Veteran's Day. Adding numbers within 5 and love meeting with the tech buddies. First Grade: Science – learning animals and made bird beaks. Learning digraphs and the holidays. Second Grade: Personal narrative units and reading workshops about fiction. Bar graphs & histograms. Experiments in science are fun. Third Grade: learning multiplication facts. We are learning geography and in science learning about forces. We are also writing personal narratives. Fourth Grade: Native Americans and Journeys program. The Human Body in Science. Math – practicing multiplication and division. Fifth Grade: going to see Berner musical. Learning decimals & fractions in math, and about food chains in science. In SS, we are learning about the Mayans and other ancient civilizations and analyzing story elements in English. We love doing tech buddies with Kindergarten.
- **Principal/Assistant Principal Reports: Mrs. Larkin.** Thank you to Bulletin Board and Picture Day committees, Halloween parade was successful and many bags of candy were given to Ronald McDonald House. Red Ribbon week was successful, and themes were creative and kids signed off on our pledge. Journeys is a good program for the 4th grade that fits in with instructional program. Proud to be American day is 11/8, and Ms. Ahearn did a mural for the board in the hallway. World Kindness day on 11/13. Jared Campbell will be here. Being kind and a good citizen. Parent/Teacher conferences 11/13 in evening and 11/15 all day, 11/18 is last day. Rapid dismissal on 11/26. Holiday fair is coming up as well. Little Doctors on 11/20 for blood drive. Cold Spring Harbor coming in to do science experiments on 11/21. And 5th grade to go to Berner to see Shrek.

### New Business

We added another fundraiser and will be selling wrapping paper and other gifts. Pickup is December 6.

### Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 10:29am.

S/  
Secretary  
Vicki Abbinanti

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

## BOE Meeting Notes

### 10/10/24 Meeting

- (1) Annual Audit Report: Overall, the District has a healthy balance sheet, and the auditors did not find any issues with the Board's financial statements, or in the single audit. The auditors also did not find any material weaknesses in the District's internal controls, and there were no recommended improvements.
- (2) Homebound Instruction (Policy #4327): Recent changes in NYS law and regulations have required the District to change its home instruction policy. The policy outlines physician notes and reviews parental rights, including appeal rights if a parent disagrees with the District's decision to either allow or deny home instruction. The instructional hours requirement also changed, and is now 15 hours/week (3/day) for secondary students and 10 hours/week (2 hours/day) for elementary students. The policy also requires a home instruction delivery plan each time a student is placed on home instruction and details what home instruction should be for students with disabilities (including the special education meeting that would need to be convened to discuss the specific program the student would receive). The policy will be on the December meeting calendar for approval.

### 10/24/24 Meeting

- (1) NYS Regionalization Initiative = Establishes 37 regionalization plans (37 BOCES across NYS) requiring that the superintendent of each component district (including Nassau, which is comprised of 56 school districts) work with the corresponding BOCES Superintendent to develop a regionalization plan.
  - a. STATED GOAL: Address educational disparities, fiscal constraints, and operational inefficiencies across school districts in NYS by promoting partnerships amongst school districts, BOCES and other stakeholders.
  - b. IMPLEMENTATION: Each of the 37 NYS BOCES Superintendents will monitor the implementation of their respective districts' regionalization plans, may conduct site visits and enforce the plans, and may also compel schools within their district to take certain actions to achieve desired outcomes
  - c. COMMENTS BY BOE:
    - i. Boards of Education are not mentioned in the rule
    - ii. Essentially, the initiative elevates the BOCES Superintendent over the district superintendent and district BOEs
    - iii. However, BOEs are the only entities that can agree to spend money or share resources.
    - iv. CONCERN: BOEs could be forced to use taxpayer resources on students outside their community, which could reduce opportunities for our own students in order to provide equitable access to our programs for students outside our community
- (2) Birch Infrastructure Updates
  - a. Permits have been received for some roofing, exterior door and hardware repairs and replacements, and for playground updates.
- (3) District Bonds
  - a. First round of borrowing was in mid-October, with ~ 15 different investors totaling ~ \$19.7M
  - b. Moody's rating is Aa1 with a lower interest rate than projected.