



Birch Lane
Massapequa Park, NY 11762



PTA General Membership Meeting

Date: Thursday January 25, 2025

Christine Rose, PTA President

- The meeting was called to order at 6:53 pm in the Birch Lane Elementary School GP Room.
- A quorum was present.
- Mrs. Rose led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ACTION AGENDA:

- The minutes of the November 7, 2024 General Membership were approved as presented.
- **Election of 2025 Nominating Committee:** President Christine Rose called for nominations to the Nominating Committee. Sarah Frascella, Christine Fahey, Tracy Nicoletto, Cindy DiMaris and Amanda Tasakovic were nominated and elected to the Nominating Committee.
- **President's Report: Christine Rose.** Thank you: Bulletin Boards - especially Kelene Gange and Sarah Frascella for really, just an amazing job especially the holiday boards that were loved by all! Reflections - thank you to Diane Sfoggia for coordinating this wonderful program. Winter Fun committee - especially Amanda Tasakovic - you did an amazing job and the kids loved the event. Holiday Fair - Tara Hochberg thank you for your hard work - we all appreciate you and the volunteers that made the week so successful and a great experience for the children!
- **Treasurer's Report: Elizabeth Edlbach.** November 30, 2024 report: Opening balance of \$17,119.23, disbursements \$896.56, income \$22,036.40, closing balance \$38,259.07. The statement for November was reconciled by Stephanie Iannuzzi. December 31, 2024 report: Opening balance of \$38,259.07, disbursements \$8,168.58, income \$35,882.16, closing balance \$65,972.65. The statement for December was reconciled by Stephanie Iannuzzi.
- **Secretary's Report: Vicki Abbinanti.** Thank you notes from the 4th grade teachers and Mr. Aspetti & Mrs. Larkin were received for the holiday luncheon

OFFICER/CHAIR REPORTS

- **Spring Fundraiser: Christine Rose read by Stephanie Iannuzzi.** We are working on hosting a parent night out with a possible Casino/Mardi Gras theme! No date just yet, but as soon as we secure a location and date we will update you all with the details.
- **Boosterthon: Christine Rose read by Stephanie Iannuzzi.** This is a two-week long fundraising campaign with an online platform for students to create videos and send to family and friends for donations. The program will end with a "Fun Run" during lunch periods on April 6th.
- **PARP: Lauren Carollo read by Vicki Abbinanti.** Birch Lane's 2025 PARP program "Adventure Around The World With Reading". PARP is a PTA sponsored program that asks a partner to read with a child for at least 20 minutes daily.
- **Little Ladies Dance: Lauren Carollo read by Vicki Abbinanti.** 2025 Little Ladies Dance is going to be held at Berner Middle School. This year's theme will be Hollywood Red Carpet. The girls and their special guest will enjoy dancing and fun "Star" themed activities, Photo Booth fun with props and so much more!
- **Reflections Report: Stephanie Iannuzzi.** We had a great turnout this year for Reflections. We look forward to celebrating and congratulating all participants at our awards ceremony on Thursday, February 13th. The entries this year are creative, thoughtful and inspiring. 1st, 2nd and 3rd place will be receiving trophies, all participants will be getting a medal.

- **STEAM Report: Stephanie Iannuzzi.** The Birch Lane PTA will be hosting our annual STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, & Math) Night at United Skates on February 25th.
- **SEPTA Report: Stephanie Iannuzzi.** Previous meeting minutes were approved, and the budget and spending were reviewed. Update on the Teacher Grants, all the schools in the district that requested grant money were awarded funds. All families with incoming Kindergarteners 25/26 school year were invited to attend this meeting. Dr. Jordan McCaw, and Kristen Catalano were guest speakers and they discussed the transition from CPSE (Pre-school Special Ed) to CSE (School-age Special Ed).
- **Boys Bash: Stephanie Iannuzzi.** Boys Bash 2025 is a Glow party this year held on Friday, March 21st, from 6pm -8pm.
- **BIRCHO: Elizabeth Edelbach.** Planning for one of our school's favorite events - Birchho Bingo - is underway! The PTA will host the event in the front gym on March 10th.
- **Curriculum Rep: Elizabeth Edelbach.** Earlier this month we received communication from our President of Massapequa Council of PTA with a message from Dr. Walsh that communicated the following: "As we begin the process of making projections for the upcoming school year, we take into consideration several factors, including enrollment, staffing, and budget, as well as the guidelines established by the Board of Education regarding class size. This is a complex process that requires thoughtful analysis of multiple variables. We sent Rebecca Correnti, our Curriculum Rep, who is not only a concerned parent, but also a teacher, to advocate on behalf of Birch Lane.
- **BOE and Council Updates: Elizabeth Edelbach.** Minutes from the Council and BOE meetings are available on the table for anyone who'd like to read them.
- **Blood Drive: Vicki Abbinanti.** Thank you to Sarah Frascella for your hard work coordinating the blood drive. We collected around 25 pints of blood.
- **Book Fair: Vicki Abbinanti.** Our book fair is February 3-6. Volunteer signups will be going out next week with the time slot your child is attending.
- **School Supply Kits: Vicki Abbinanti.** Orders for the 2025-2026 school supply kits will be starting in March, so be on the lookout for further information soon.

ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

- **Teacher Reports: Ms. McCree and Ms. Downey.** Kindergarten: We started unit 2 in foundations with tap and blend sounds. Math comparing numbers within 10. Learning weather in Mystery Science. Learning about Martin Luther King, Jr. and Lunar New Year. First Grade: Started fiction books and are continuing to write personal narrative. Learning about sun and shadows. Second Grade: Non-fiction reading/writing units and 3 digit numbers adding/subtract. Third Grade: Finding area & perimeter of shapes. Learning about weather tools and clouds. Beginning stages of research for non-fiction science topics. Fourth Grade: Started non-fiction unit. Animals and how they survive. Math long division equations. Fifth Grade: Decimal place value and fractions. European exploration and Tuck Everlasting books. Some worked the blood drive and had a wonderful experience.
- **Principal/Assistant Principal Reports: Mr. Aspetti & Mrs. Larkin read by Ms. Downey.** Thank You PTA Committees for all the hard work. World Kindness Day was a success; Book collection through 2/10; iReady winter benchmark is happening; PARP kickoff on 1/23 with Joe Romano. Schools closed for Lunar New Year.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:18pm.

S/

Secretary

Vicki Abbinanti

Approved: _____

PTA Council and BOE Updates

PTA COUNCIL:

January 13, 2025 Meeting:

- New MSD website/application will go live **on January 30, 2025**
 - Web address will be the same (<http://www.msd.k12.ny.us>)
 - Application will be called “Massapequa School District” and will be available in the Apple and Android app stores
 - Website is designed to be more user-friendly and intuitive, and is the result of months of workshopping and feedback
 - Application will contain many of the same features as the website, but more streamlined.
 - By the spring of 2025, the application will contain a “Rooms” feature that will allow for two-way parent/teacher communication
 - This function is meant to replace Remind and similar applications
 - The school district will still send out e-mails, but community e-mail notifications (i.e., PAL, etc.) will no longer be sent. Instead, that information will be available in the “Community” section of the app.
- **Parent University** will take place **on February 26, 2025 from 6:30 – 8:45 at Ames**
 - Limited childcare for students in grades K – 5 will be provided
 - Registration links for both the classes and childcare will be sent around at the end of January via SignUp Genius
- All the unit PTAs will receive teacher dues from the MFT by **February 1, 2025**
- **PTA Council Elections:**
 - President and Treasurer are up for election this year
 - Nominee Committee was selected
- **Installation Dues:**
 - Invoices will be sent out this month, and should be paid by March
- **St. Baldrick's:**
 - Event will be held **on March 14, 2025 at Berner** in partnership with Mighty Madison
 - Request was made for team captains from each school for fundraising. The school that raises the most money will be given an award by Dr. Brennan

BOE Meetings:

November 14, 2024

- **Actions Approved:**
 - Appropriation adjustment for 2023/24 fiscal year of \$3,211,961 was approved;
 - Offering of Vanguard P3 to District employees was approved;
 - Boiler replacement contract at Birch Lane was awarded to Palace Electrical Service, Inc. and JNS Heating Service, Inc. the lowest responsible bidders meeting specifications.
 - Boiler replacement contract at Fairfield was awarded to Palace Electrical Contractors, Inc. and JNS Heating Service, Inc., the lowest responsible bidders meeting specifications.
 - The exterior door and door hardware replacement projects at Fairfield and McKenna will be re-bid.
- **Regionalization Update:**
 - The Board has retained Rigano, LLC as special counsel, and has determined that litigation against the NYSED, the Commissioner of the NYSED, the Board of Regents, and the Chancellor of the Board of Regents (and any other parties as identified by special counsel) is necessary to seek to annul, modify and/or amend the proposed rules implementing the regionalization plan.
 - Thus, the Board authorized Rigano, LLC to commence litigation via complaint or Article 78 petition against all or some of the parties identified above.
 - The Board confirmed that several other districts on Long Island have also filed Article 78 proceedings in opposition to the regionalization rules.

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December 12, 2024 (12/5/24 meeting was cancelled)

- **Regionalization Motion:**
 - The Board, in strong opposition to the NYS regionalization plan, which jeopardizes local control of our schools and may redistribute taxpayer dollars and resources to other jurisdiction, voted to decline participation in the development of a regionalization plan or any aspect of a regionalization plan.
 - The Superintendent will notify the Board's election not to participate to the NYSED before January 15, 2025.
- **Curriculum Presentation by Dr. Trapani:**
 - Focus is on college readiness and education on alternative career opportunities
 - Increase in number of AP exams taken from 2023 to 2024 (increase from 1,331 to 1,455) has earned the District AP Honor Roll Silver Status
 - District provides a Career Fair in January (**January 31, 2025**), along with opportunities to attend classes at BOCES, Barry Tech, GC and the Long Island Highschool for the Arts