Birch Lane
PTA®
everychild.onevoice.
Birch Lane
Massapequa Park, NY 11762

PTA General Membership Meeting
Date: Thursday, May 15, 2025

Christine Rose, PTA President

- The meeting was called to order at 9:56 am 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 March 13, 2025, General Membership were approved as presented.
- **PTA Dues Increase: Elizabeth Edelbach.** Board proposes to increase membership fees to $15/member and $10/household, $15/teacher and student due to NYS increases. Motion passed.
- **Budget Increase, Field Day: Stephanie Iannuzzi.** Field Day budget was approved to increase $850.
- **Budget Increase, Tacos & Trivia: Lauren Carollo.** Tacos & Trivia budget was approved to increase $800.
- **Budget Increase, Summer Bash: Christine Rose.** Summer Bash budget was approved to increase $8,000.
- **President's Report: Christine Rose.** Thank you: Staff Appreciation Committee for all your effort put into making the week so incredibly special for teachers and staff. Tacos & Trivia, Megan Moore and Erin Liana for a wonderful evening; Plant Sale - Regina Price and Keri Fitzimmons amazing job , beautiful plants and the kids loved shopping; Kindergarten Committee - Tara Banta - thank you for preparing for this important day; Boosterthon Committee: Especially Elizabeth Edelbach and Amanda Tasakovic. You made the entire two weeks filled with fun for the kids with Chippy visits and challenges and fun run, AND it resulted in the fundraiser exceeding our expectations by not only reaching our big goal of $20k, but exceeding it.
- **Treasurer's Report: Elizabeth Edelbach.** March 31, 2025 report: Opening balance of $53,865.92, disbursements $37,219.99, income $33,644.13, closing balance $50,290.06. The statement for March was reconciled by Jenna Biancaniello. April 30, 2025 report: Opening balance of $50,290.06, disbursements $3,096.32, income $18,179.42, closing balance $65,373.16. The statement for April was reconciled by Jenna Biancaniello.
- **Secretary's Report: Vicki Abbinanti.** Thank you notes were received from Mrs. Larkin & Mr. Aspetti for the playground equipment additions.; Thank you from Doreen crossing guard for the plants.; All grades for staff appreciation week.
- Dr. Brennan and Mr. Ruf here for the Budget Presentation.

OFFICER/CHAIR REPORTS

- **Little Ladies Dance: Lauren Carollo**. 2025 Little Ladies Dance is going to be held May 30th at Berner Middle School. This year's theme will be Hollywood Red Carpet.
- **SEPTA Report: Stephanie Iannuzzi.** An awards ceremony to recognize outstanding volunteers and programs will be held on Wednesday, June 4th. A flyer will come out this Friday with more information. Massapequa Challenger baseball is running on Sundays at 3pm at Burns Park. All ages are welcome.
- **Field Day: Stephanie Iannuzzi.** The Field Day Committee has organized a great day this year, which will take place on June 4th (Rain date June 5th!) Many games and fun are planned throughout the day, along with Kona Ice for the students!
- **Boosterthon: Elizabeth Edelbach.** Our biggest PTA-fundraiser of the year, our theme is "Spreading Kindness & Joy during our FUNdraiser." We had special visits from Chippy, our school mascot, bubbles at entry, music, a "where's chippy" game in which we hid a stuffed beaver in the lunchroom and outside at recess, and so much more. The kids truly had such a fun week and we loved spreading joy throughout the school. The response from our parents was beyond anything we could've imagined. We exceeded our fundraising goal by nearly $8,000! All of those extra fundraising dollars were able to go right back to the kids which we love. Thank you once again to not only our Chair, Amanda Tasakovic, and Committee, but also to all of the parents with their generous donations, and the faith in our association that we will do our best to spend it wisely!

- **Staff Appreciation: Elizabeth Edelbach.** We celebrated all of the wonderful staff we have here at Birch Lane with different gifts and treats all week. The response of gratitude from everyone overwhelmed us! Thank you so much to Diane Sfoglia and Jenna Biancaniello for chairing our Staff Appreciation and Hospitality committees. Our other committee members Sarah Frascella, Sarah Valentino, and Lauren Henderson were phenomenal as well. We truly could not have done all that we did for our staff without your help! I'm so grateful that we were able to get back to our staff in a way that they deserved!
- **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.

ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

- **Teacher Reports: Ms. McCree and Ms. Downey**. Kindergarten: We are continuing learning nonfiction and all about life cycles of butterflies. In First Grade: Geometry, time & money in math and plants and animals in Science. We are waiting for our Chicks to hatch and finishing our All About books. Second Grade: Currently in the measurement unit in math. Writing formal/informal letters and in Science earth surface and the changes to it. Third Grade: ELA opinion pieces on Japan. Field trip this month and learning different units of measurement in math. Fourth Grade: Going on project adventure trip. Starting poetry books and excited for end of year activities. Fifth Grade: In Math, we are writing and interpret equations. Space and solar system in science and how & why we declared independence in Social Studies.
- **Principal/Assistant Principal Reports: Mr. Aspetti & Mrs. Larkin.** Thank you to the PTA for incredible year and for the amazing staff appreciation week. We have moved to the new MSD app so please use that going forward. State assessments are almost done. Field test on 5/22. Benchmarking for iReady to begin next week. Math following next. 5th grade advisory student committee from the HS coming to talk to the kids regarding social media, apps, gaming devices. PARP principal's challenge on 5/23 with movie/board game day. Kindergarten screening is right after Memorial Day. Marjorie Post picnic for grade 5 on 5/29. Empire State games on Friday 5/30. 5th grade moving up practices start soon. Field day is 6/4, Flag day ceremony on 6/13, Kindergarten recital on 6/20.

New Business

HW help with HS students: status is that staff member needs to supervise. Can PTA member supervise? Mr. Aspetti will inquire. Can PTA provide $$ support?

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 11:36 am.

S/
Secretary
Vicki Abbinanti

Approved: _____

BOE MEETING NOTES

MARCH 20, 2025

(1) Class Size Presentation:

- **a.** Current Guidelines:
  - **i.** **K – 2** = 22 students
  - **ii.** **3 – 5** = 24 students
  - **iii.** **Secondary** = 26 students
- **b.** Compared to Nassau County, Massapequa's class sizes are in the median range.
- **c.** In Massapequa, class sizes are considered via a school-based approach, and push-ins and supports with reading specialists and special area content teachers are prioritized.
- **d.** Currently, Massapequa has just under 6500 students and 663 full-time teaching and pupil personnel staff, which works out to a ratio of just under 9.8 to 1.

APRIL 10, 2025

(1) Instructional Supports at the Elementary Level:

- **a.** 3 different types of teams that address learning in Massapequa elementary schools:
  - **i.** School-wide team that analyzes universal screening data in comparison with school-specific student data to understand where additional support is needed.
  - **ii.** Problem-solving (IST) teams who meet about individual students and develop assistance plans.
  - **iii.** Grade-level teams (teachers) who evaluate curriculum and determine best instructional practices.
- **b.** Focus continues to be on the "whole child", with an emphasis on social emotional learning.
- **c.** Next year, a team will focus on literacy and associated curriculum.

(2) Budget Review:

- **a.** Anticipate that total BOE budget increase will be 3.2%.
- **b.** Planning has been difficult because NYS still has not released its aid budget.
- **c.** One goal is to reduce the BOE's tax levy increase for Massapequa residents.

APRIL 24, 2025

(1) Massapequa Schools has been selected to host the 2026 and 2027 Special Olympics in NYS at the regional Spring games.

(2) BOE budget vote is set for May 20, 2025.

- **a.** Massapequa is adding one full-time social worker to each elementary school.
- **b.** BOE's budget increase still sits at 3.2%.
  - **i.** Data from 31/56 Nassau County school districts shows the average increase is currently 3.4%.
- **c.** Current tax levy increase is 2.99% ($342,000 below the maximum amount allowed).
  - **i.** This amounts to an increase of approximately $285 for an average assessed home in Massapequa.
  - **ii.** The tax levy is the BOE's largest source of income ($178M - $184M each year).
    1. Second largest source of income is NYS aid (projected to be $47.3M this year).
- **d.** 2025/2026 proposed budget of **$243,245,381** was approved by the BOE.

PTA Council Meeting Notes

April 7, 2025

1. Implementation teams are in place for staff training for RULER - district's new SEL program
    a. Phase I - Building Staff (teams in place currently)
    b. Phase II - Engaging Families
    c. Phase III - Rollout w/ Students - includes tools and curriculum implantation
2. Career sDay & Science/Engineering in the district
    a. High School student leaders set to visit MS101 students & elementary school students
    b. HS NYS Science & Engineer Fair - 2 MSD winners
3. MFT Updates
    a. Impaired driving simulator implemented at MHS
    b. Rachel's Challenge at BMS - successfully kicked off
4. Healthier school lunch options being offered district wide
    a. POS system to publish "healthy snacks"
    b. Removed 9 products containing red dye 40 and other harmful additives
    c. Added healthier snack options
5. 2025/26 PTA Council Elections Held
    a. Rose Stein - President
    b. Katie Belekas - 1st VP
    c. Maureen Romano - 2nd VP
    d. Colleen Clagnaz - Treasurer
    e. April Lazarus - Executive Recording Secretary