

September PTO Minutes

September 15, 2022

Call to Order - 7:21 pm

<p>Board Members in Attendance:</p>	<p>Nicole Moore (President) Maria Bartman Kowalik (Co-Vice President, Committee Chair) Tracey Kilinski (Co-Vice President, Grade Level Oversight) Gwen Perdomo (Treasurer) Elizabeth Willoughby (Teacher Liaison)</p>
<p>Mr Tennant - Principal's Round Table</p>	<p>Announcements for start of school year</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Construction has begun for our 4 new preschool classes and courtyard. Murals by Mrs. Vetter are blocking the view of the construction for the kids. ● We now have touchscreen chromebooks for our kindergarten students ● New walkway for arrival ● Masks are optional ● There is no more Virtual Learning this year. If a student has Covid they are required to stay out of school for 5 days. Teachers can provide work through google classroom ● Remember to follow the safety rules when dropping off your children in the morning. Be safe in the horseshoe. Students should exit the vehicle on the same side as the sidewalk. ● Students not picked up by 3:15 will be assigned to the aftercare program. The fee for this will be the responsibility of the parent and must be paid directly to aftercare. ● Before Care starts at 7:00am and Aftercare closes at 6:00pm. If you are interested, email Mr. Appello or Ms. Scolaro and they will take you through that process. ● Breakfast and Lunch are not free this year. Please fill out the Lunch application online for free and reduced lunch. Breakfast starts at 7:30am, the door closes at 7:45am that entrance is at door 2 <p>Classroom Updates</p> <p>Pre- K: Ms. Keen's class is completing name crafts for back to school night. They are working on puzzles for math and will soon be introduced to patterns. In science they are learning about the 4 seasons. Mrs. Lowrey's class is working on classroom routines. For science, they are talking about where apples come from. For math, they are practicing writing numbers 1-10.</p> <p>Kindergarten is creating class rules, and learning about Buoy bucks and consequences. For ELA, they have read <i>The Kissing Hand</i>, <i>Mrs. Bindergarten Goes to Kindergarten</i>, and <i>Boom Chicka Boom, Boom</i>.</p>

They went on a "Pete the Cat Shoe" scavenger to learn more about the school building. The students are learning new songs for their morning meetings, developing social skills and creating All About Me bags.

First Grade is reviewing letter sounds, letter formation and sight words. In ELA students read Chicka Chicka Boom Boom. They are working on addition and subtraction skills for math, learning about Sound and Light for science, learning about classroom rules and making friends for Social Science.

Second Grade is using a new curriculum in math and social studies. They have just completed the Linkit assessments and the students are doing well with a new grade level.

Third Grade is beginning novel study for the first time, with *Third Grade Angels* and *Chysanmathum* and working on deeper level thinking questions to understand texts better. For math, they are applying addition strategies as the foundation to learn multiplication. For social studies, students are learning about community.

Fourth Grade is beginning with novel study for ELA, reading the following books: *Frindle* (Mrs. Caruso and Mrs. Mann), *Tiger Rising* (Mrs. McKiernan), *4th Grade Rats* (Mrs. Palmer), and *Homework Machine* (Mrs. Praul). For math, students are learning how greater numbers are written, how place values are related and how to compare numbers. For writing, students are writing realistic fiction.

Fifth grade is setting goals for ELA and working on the novel *Shiloh*. They are also creating a small zoo on google slides for Spanish-English and Spanish words. For math, they are reviewing how to tell time on an analog clock, and using equations to describe themselves.

Upcoming Events

School Pictures will take place on 9/26 - 28

Back to School Night will take place on 9/29

Early Dismissal for students on 10/6

Updates:

- Thanks to everyone who participated in Start Strong State testing these past 2 days.
- Kindergarten registration is still open for 2022-2023 School Year-you can register on the schools website
- We will be holding a PBSIS Fall Kick Off event in the first week of October. This will be a fun day for the students that helps them social lize with their peers and learn how to be good members of the community.
- We will be sending out weekly newsletters
- If you need to pick your student up early from school, kindly notify BOTH the student's teacher and the main office.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will be doing class trips but they will be at Faber. <p>A question was asked regarding the availability of School Lunch swap outs. Students are notified of the swap outs for each day.</p> <p>A question was asked regarding muddy walkways to school. Mr. Tennant will speak with the BA about this.</p> <p>Please be sure to recommend a Teacher of the Year when notices are sent out in October.</p>
Nicole Moore - President	Meeting called to order at 7:10pm.
Gwen Perdomo - Treasurer's Report	<p>Deposits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tricky Tray deposits still coming in • Talent show deposits <p>Payments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Charges for end of year events • Bank Fees • Purchasing gift cards for teachers • Payment for our storage facility • Scholarships were sent out in July (\$6,000) • Paid our insurance • Back to School lunch for the teachers • Bought the kids ice cream for 8th grade promotion <p>Opening balance approximately \$66,000 / Closing balance approximately \$55,00</p> <p>Motion to approve treasurer's report: Tanya Jenkins / Second: Carol Ann Zumbolo</p> <p>The budget for this year is roughly the same as previous years. However, we have increased costs for our storage facility. We also increased the budget for Back to School lunch, to account for inflation as well as the fact that we have more teachers.</p> <p>Motion to approve budget: Melissa Rodriguez / Second: Mrs. Moody</p>
Rebecca Stark Gendrano - Minutes	<p>Rebecca Stark-Gendrano was out sick.</p> <p>Nicole Moore asked everyone to review minutes.</p> <p>Motion to approve minutes: Melissa Rodriguez / Second: Mrs. Moody</p>
Nicole Moore - President's Report	Membership forms are available, so you can join tonight.

	<p>The Back to School lunch was successful, and the teachers enjoyed it. We received Thank You notes, which you can look at.</p> <p>We gave out gift cards to Mr. Lubliner, and to Ms. Mody (\$25 each).</p> <p>On the first day of school, we did the kindergarten breakfast, and we had a great turnout this year, despite the rain. It was nice to meet so many parents.</p> <p>Spirit Wear is available, so you can order tee shirts and sweatshirts. We will do another order in October. We will be phasing out some styles so that we can bring in some new styles. We are also looking to make polo shirts or reusable bags.</p> <p>Monster Bash was just approved today, and we will hold the event on October 29th from 2-5pm. We will be on the softball field as well as in the gym. This event is planned with the Family Fun Night committee. We will also have a Trunk or Treat from 2-4pm.</p> <p>We have already started working on Tricky Tray. We are currently waiting for the approval for the room. The tentative date is May 6th. We need a lot of people to help, so let us know if you would like to be involved.</p> <p>We have also received Thank You notes from the Scholarship winners.</p> <p>Dunellen Dreams is hosting a bake sale at Harvest Fest, and they give grants to the special needs classes as well as scholarships. If anyone is interested in helping with the bake sale or volunteering at their booth, contact Bill Robbins.</p>
<p>Maria Kowalik - Vice President, Committee Chair</p>	<p>Red Ribbon Week committee: This event happens in October, and we plan the various events for Spirit Week. We also plan a gift/prize to give the students.</p> <p>Scholastic Book Fair (Nov 1-7): We need help with set up and take down, as well as assistance during the sale days. We'll have another book fair in the spring.</p> <p>LMS Winter Wonderland (December): organizing the dance, ordering food, and other tasks to plan the event.</p> <p>Tricky Tray (Jan - May): Help to acquire donations, and wrapping nights to wrap the baskets. On the day of the event, we need help setting up as well as helping to run the event.</p> <p>Teacher Appreciation Week (May): This committee helps to plan the food, get the luncheon set up. It's an event that requires setup at all three schools.</p> <p>Scholarship Committee (May): Reading applications and interviewing</p>

	<p>applicants for the scholarship.</p> <p>Fifth Grade Farewell (June): this committee helps to plan the farewell party, which for the last two years has been a kickball game.</p> <p>Eighth Grade Promotion (June): This committee helps to plan the dance to celebrate the end of middle school for our eighth graders</p> <p>Assembly Committee (Maria): This committee helps to plan assemblies for all three schools.</p> <p>Faber Snack Sales (all year): This committee helps to organize bake sales. Restrictions in the last two years have made this difficult, but</p> <p>Family Fun Night (all year): This committee plans various events throughout the year, including Candy Grams, the Talent Show, and Movie Nights.</p> <p>Sunshine Committee: Purchasing gifts for teachers who have just had a baby, or who have been hospitalized or lost loved ones.</p> <p>Holiday Bazaar (Nov 28 - Dec 2): The committee helps to plan the holiday sale for the kids, setting up, and taking down the event.</p>
<p>Tracy Kilinski - Vice President, Grade Level Oversight</p>	<p>Memberships: We are still getting membership forms in. The list is organized by teacher, by grade, by committee, etc. We currently have more members than we did in the previous two years, and we anticipate great membership this year.</p> <p>We're also asking for people to volunteer for class parties and to serve as Team Leader. We sponsor 4 parties: Halloween, Winter, Spring, End of Year. If teachers want to do other events during the year, they need to solicit donations from all parents in the class, not just the ones who have joined PTO. Planning the class party generally means organizing the donation of baked goods, drinks, paper goods, as well as classroom volunteers.</p> <p>If the team leader needs additional help with planning the parties because a situation has come up, please reach out to Tracy Kilinski.</p>
<p>Beth Willoughby - Teacher Liaison</p>	<p>Thank you for the luncheon. It was delicious! The Dunellen Education Association will have tables at all Back to School nights, as well as at Harvest.</p>
<p>Open Discussion</p>	<p>A question was asked regarding food vs. crafts for classroom parties. Food is allowed, but needs to be approved by Mrs. North. Parents may want to supply a craft, but the teacher should not require parents to provide these materials. You can also ask the teacher to ask each parent to donate \$2 so that the craft supplies could be purchased.</p>

	<p>The teacher will let the team leader know about allergy issues in the classroom.</p> <p>Please join us at Zupko's after the meeting.</p>
Meeting Adjourned	Meeting adjourned at 8:22