

Sept 2023 PTO Minutes

September 25, 2023

Call to Order - 7:09 pm

Board Members in Attendance:	Nicole Moore (President) Tracey Kilinski (Vice President, Grade Level Oversight) Gwen Perdomo (Treasurer) Rebecca Stark-Gendrano (Recording Secretary) Cassie Muratore (Co-Correspondence Secretary) Heather Anderson (Co-Correspondence Secretary) Beth Willoughby (Teacher Liaison)
Mr Tennant - Principal's Round Table	<p>Faber Updates</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. We have a beautiful brand new preschool wing2. In our new stem lab, we will have fish and plants growing in our aquaponics lab, as well as 3D printers, and other technology3. This year, we are introducing a departmentalized 4th grade, with the children being taught by a team (one teacher focusing on math, and the other on ELA).4. In our new partnership with Urban Assembly, we are focusing on Social and Emotional Learning5. We have 5 Interventionists, who are not pulling students out of the classroom but instead pushing into classrooms to help with different enrichments for students.6. We now have a 2nd Guidance Counselor. With 620 students, having the second guidance counselor was a necessity.7. We are piloting new curriculum programs8. We now have paraprofessionals for each kindergarten classroom. These are bilingual professionals who can help all students communicate. <p>Positive Behavior Support in Schools (PBSIS)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● (Partnered with Rutgers University Boggs Center) This tiered system of behavior intervention known nationally as PBIS provides Faber staff with strategies to handle behaviors and create a more positive school climate together <p>Upcoming Events</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● School picture day (9/26-9/28)● Week of Respect, Stomp out Bullying (10/2-10/6)● Walk your child to school day (10/25, <i>tentative</i>)

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Classroom Updates

- Kindergarten is learning rules and routines, how to make friends and work together, and the proper way to use all of the school tools. In math, they are reviewing numbers 0-5. They learned two sight words in ELA and began writer's workshop. On Johnny Appleseed day, they will taste apples, graph apples and make an apple craft.
- 1st Graders are practicing addition and subtraction skills in math. In Social Studies, they are reviewing school rules and discussing how to be good citizens. In Science, students did an experiment with a straw and various objects to show how air can move objects. In writing, first graders completed a fall writing craft, and are beginning a narrative writing unit. In ELA, students are reviewing letters, letter sounds, and trick works. Students continue to listen to stories and identify the main idea, character traits, author's purpose, and vocabulary.
- 2nd Graders are building relationships and learning classroom routines. In math and reading, they have been practicing different independent centers, reviewing adding and subtracting within 20, and practicing words with blends and digraphs.
- 3rd Graders are getting to know their classmates and teachers, they are reading their first novel, 3rd Grade Angels by Jerry Spinelli. In math they are learning about multiplication. In science they are learning about forces and magnets. In social studies we are learning about communities.
- 4th and 5th grade math and content teachers are adjusting well to the new schedules just as the students are. We have also successfully completed both Linkit and iReady Assessments!
- 4th Graders are working on Generalized Place Value Understanding and are getting ready for their first test of the year. In Social Studies, they are learning about different regions and which areas and states were the first to be formed. In ELA, each class is reading a novel and piloting a reading program. Ms. McGrath and Ms. Kinsella are piloting Wit and Wisdom. Mrs. DeSousa, Ms. Beattie, and Mrs. Palmer are piloting MyView. In Writing, students chose a meaningful moment to write a personal narrative about.
- 5th Graders are working on Understanding Place Value and seeing real world connections such as comparing prices. In Social Studies, they are learning about Native American tribes and culture. In ELA, the classes are reading Shiloh. Each teacher will also be piloting a reading program. Ms. McGrath and Ms. Kinsella are piloting Wit and Wisdom. Mrs. DeSousa, Ms. Beattie, and Mrs. Palmer are piloting MyView. In Writing,

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	<p>students chose a meaningful moment to write a personal narrative about.</p> <p>REMINDERS</p> <p>If the need arises for you to pick your student up early from school, kindly notify BOTH the student's teacher and the main office (732-400-5900, option #1)</p> <p>10/9 – No School for Students (PD Staff) 11/1 – Early Dismissal (PD Staff) 11/9 - 11/10 – NJ Teacher Convention (No School) 11/14 – Parent Teacher Conferences (Early Dismissal) 11/15 – Parent Teachers Conferences (Evening Only)</p> <p>All notices can be found in our VIRTUAL BACKPACK and website. Please follow us on X (formerly Twitter) and Instagram.</p> <p>DISCUSSION</p> <p>In response to a question about the walking school bus, Mr. Tennant noted that we haven't received confirmation on whether this will be happening</p> <p>In response to a question regarding the departments, Mr. Tennant said that the 4th grade math teacher may or may not be the same teacher they would have in 5th grade.</p>
<p>Nicole Moore - President</p>	<p>PTO meeting called to order at 7:13pm</p>
<p>Gwen Perdomo - Treasurer's Report</p>	<p>Opening Balance: \$78,906.76 Closing Balance: \$58,172.14</p> <p>We had expenses for fifth grade promotion, 8th grade farewell, scholarships, sunshine committee, as well as insurance and administrative expenses. We also had to pay for our storage unit since there is no space for us to store items within the school. We had deposits for tee shirts.</p> <p>A motion to approve the report was made by Jessica Rodriguez. The motion was seconded by Lacresia Reines.</p> <p><u>Budget Report</u></p>

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	<p>The budget for school field trips was raised due to increases in school bus fees. The budget for scholarships was increased since we had a budget surplus. We have also increased our budget for teacher appreciation, since we have 30 more teachers in the district.</p> <p>A motion to approve the report was made by Lynze Beavers. The motion was seconded by Jessica Rodriguez.</p>
Rebecca Gendrano - Minutes	<p>A motion to approve the minutes was made by Jessica Rodriguez. The motion was seconded by Lacsresia Reines.</p>
Nicole Moore - President's Report	<p>BACK TO SCHOOL LUNCHEON: Thank you to the parents for donating and to Meghan Portik for organizing everything. There were more teachers than the number we had been told, so we ran out of food. We want to thank Mike's Subs for rushing an order over to the school. They made 10 subs in 15 minutes.</p> <p>SURPLUS: We have enough to cover the entire budget for this year without any additional fundraising. We have set aside \$5,000 for the teachers to request items for their classrooms. We submitted a list to Mr. Ross to have the requested items approved by the Board of Ed. There are a few teachers who asked for larger items, and we are working with DREAMS to see if we can split the cost to get them what they need. Miss Piano has asked us to provide concert attire. We met with the music and drama teachers at the high school, and we will be doing the talent show as a fundraiser for the arts program. (February 2nd)</p> <p>HARVEST FEST (Oct 8): Feel free to come visit the PTO table. At Harvest Fest, there will be an apple pie context, pumpkin decorating contest, pumpkin painting, etc.</p> <p>MONSTER BASH / TRUNK OR TREAT: This event will take place on the last Saturday of October, 2-5pm. We'll have games, face painting, and DJ. Kids can come in costumes. We hope to have food trucks, depending on availability. Lacsresia suggested Mama D's Empanada Truck in Piscataway. An email will go out to parents inviting them to decorate their cars for Truck or Treat.</p>

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	<p>BY-LAWS: We will be proposing changes to our by-laws to reflect what we are currently doing (i.e., adding in the Tricky Tray committee, adding in the Teacher Liaison position. That discussion will happen at our next meeting.</p> <p>SUPPORT FOR NHS FIELD TRIP: Students have been invited to go to UPenn to learn about admissions and gain a tour of the campus. Mr. Best has asked for \$600 to go toward the cost of the bus. There were no objects. All members approved the motion to provide the funding for the field trip.</p>
<p>Nicole Moore reporting on behalf of Maria Bartman - Vice President, Committee Oversight</p>	<p>OUTBACK FUNDRAISER: We need to present the flyer to get the funding. The fundraiser applies to take-out, delivery, and dine-on. You can show the flyer on your phone or give them the paper. We are also looking at give-back fundraisers at Panera, Chuck E Cheese, Applebees, Dunellen Hotel, and other areas.</p> <p>RED RIBBON WEEK (10/23-27) We'll be giving out cinch bags for the kids. We'll plan to have the dress-up items be relatively easy to do each day.</p> <p>COMMITTEES If you filled out the form and indicated a committee that you want to do, then you have been added to the committee. We also have sign up sheets for you to add yourself to the committees that need volunteers. We need volunteers for Book Fair, Holiday Bazaar, LMS Winter Wonderland, Tricky Tray, Teacher Appreciation Week, Scholarships Committee, Fifth Grade Farewell, Eighth Grade Promotion, Snack Sales, and Family Fun Nights.</p> <p>FAMILY FUN NIGHT: We already have some nights planned, such as movie nights, arts and craft events, and wellness nights.</p>
<p>Tracy Kilinski - Vice President, Grade Level Oversight</p>	<p>The team leader organizes the classroom parties for the year. We will select the leaders by picking names out of a hat. The parent would then be responsible for reaching out to other class parents to organize</p>

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	<p>donations and volunteers for the sponsored parties throughout the year. We will be selecting our parents at our next board meeting.</p> <p>If we have a class that does not have a team leader, then we reach out to other PTO parents in the class. If no one steps up, then we will reach out to those parents who were not selected as team leader for classes where they volunteered, and they will be given the opportunity to organize the parties. If we have classes with no volunteers, then Tracy will take care of organizing the parties and reaching out to the entire PTO membership to solicit volunteers and donations.</p>
Heather Anderson - Corresponding Sec'y	As of this date, 88 teachers and staff have signed up for PTO. In addition, 122 families have now joined PTO.
Beth Willoughby - Teacher Liaison	Thank you for the luncheon. And thanks for the give back to the teachers.
Open Discussion	<p>ZOOM OPTION</p> <p>Yes, we will have zoom links available for our meetings. The only meeting that will not have a zoom option is the final meeting, which will be the meeting when we vote for next year's board.</p> <p>After the meeting, I always post a recap of the meeting. We also post information on Facebook to keep people up to date on what's going on.</p> <p>Our next meeting will take place on October 11th.</p>
Meeting Adjourned	Meeting adjourned at 7:59pm