



Brookside Elementary PTO Meeting Minutes

September 17, 2019 ~ Brookside Elementary School, Cafeteria

Call to Order: 6:02 PM

Attendees: 20

Executive Board Introductions

Secretary's Report: Nothing reported at this meeting.

Principal's Report:

- Good start to the school year.
- Few bus incidents and only one major incident with a parent stopping at the drop off location. Information was communicated in Sunday message to remind parents to have children ready with backpacks on and not to stop to keep drop off moving smoothly.
- BES does not have email addresses for all parents yet, which may be why some parents are not receiving the message via email and phone.
- Preliminary MCAS results have been released. Student's individual results should come home by end of September.
- Principal Smith will be giving a welcome message at 6PM on 9/25 during Curriculum Night. Sessions to meet teachers will be at 6:30 PM and 7:15 PM.
- Bookfair starts on Monday, September 23rd and runs all week.
- In the event that Principal Smith cannot attend the PTO meeting, Mrs. Blatus will act as a stand-in for her and communicate concerns to her.

Treasurer's Report: Presented by Karen Mirabito-Cowan. Reviewed reports for the months of May, June, July & August.

Motion to accept treasurer's report as written was made by Vallery Miller and seconded by Mrs. Poirier.

2018 – 2019 Budget Approval

- Handouts were available for review.
- Karen noted that the Kona Ice Truck will depend on what the surplus funds will be at the end of the year.
- Participant Question (PQ): Why isn't book fair on the budget? PTO explained that Book Fair comes from the Principal's Fund.
- PQ: Does landscaping cost include broken slide? PTO explained no, just covers grounds maintenance.
- PQ: Regarding field trips and nurse issue, wanted to check if we would have similar issues this year. PTO and Mrs. Harries explained that although the Kindergarten class missed out on their Parlee Farms field trip, they were able to take advantage of an in-house MOS event later in the year.

- PTO helps to defray the cost of field trips for each grade: each grade usually participates in at least one field trip - K usually takes trip to FPZ and Parlee Farms, 3rd Grade is going to Sturbridge Village this year instead of Plimoth Plantation.
- Val explained that the PTO tends to provide in-house events for kids.

Motion to accept the 2019-2020 Budget report as explained was made by Vallery Miller and seconded by Mrs. Savard.

Upcoming Events and Current Fundraising Updates

- Vallery Miller thanked everyone for attending and stated that we have several events planned for the year.

Yankee Candle ~ September 10th – October 11th

- Ordering can be done online or through the packet that went home last week. Sale runs 9/12 – 10/11.
- 40% of all sales goes to BES.
- This is the biggest fundraiser of the year; encouraged parents to spread the word and participate.
- ALL orders must be picked up on November 20th during parent/teacher conferences. Students will have a ½ day early release for conferences

Bear Wear

- Katie Muchirahondo explained that we chose to leave Carbon Colors because of the tardiness of their delivery.
- Showed attendees samples of sweatshirts and t-shirts that are available and the new logo that Katie designed. Still using the paw design.
- We will be using Spirit Wear which is not in Dracut but was affordable, timelier, and enables us to receive a PTO profit of \$2.05 for each item sold.
- Orders can be placed online or via an order form that will go home with students.
- Clothing available for kids and adults (ex: pullover sweats are \$31/adults and \$29/youth).
- We will post the online ordering link to the PTO website and Facebook page.

Trunk or Treat

- Scheduled for Friday, October 18th from 6:00-7:30 PM in back lot. Rain date: October 25.
- We will need 25 volunteers to decorate cars for the event. If we cannot get the required volunteers, we will turn it into a dance.
- \$2/prepaid admission per person or \$3/person at the door on the day of the event.
- Flyers will go out on 9/26 and includes volunteer form.

5K Race/Walkathon

- Michelle Clement indicated that we are still in the early stages of exploring this event.
- Likely will take place in April. Already has approval of Principal Smith and Superintendent Stone.
- The cost is heavy at outset (\$800-\$1k) but can net a profit of \$1500 or more.

- We will need sponsors that can sponsor a leg of the route, buy advertising, or donate money.
- We may be able to piggyback onto another race that is taking place in April.
- Kids can help/participate by walking - possibly walking a 1K (suggestion from Mrs. Harries)

Great Penny Race

- Very popular event for the school.
- Will take place in March.
- Mrs. Poirier mentioned that we should remind students that paper money can include checks.
- 10% of profits are donated to local charity.
- PQ: Several parents wondered if we could donate to an alternate charity other than Dracut Pantry (e.g. St. Vincent de Paul, End 68 Hours Hunger). PTO and Mrs. Harries explained that we have a relationship with the Dracut Food Pantry, but PTO will consider other options when the time arises.

Box Tops

- Karen Mirabito-Cowan said we currently have about \$700 worth of Box Tops.
- We can still clip the physical box tops, but we now have an alternate method of submitting via scanning receipts.
- Whether we scan or clip, we still get money 2x year.
- Karen will be sending Stacey/Michelle a flier for the box top clipping vs. scanning options using an app which we will post to the website and Facebook.
- If we download the scanning app this month, we can get double the points on each receipt scanned.

Amazon School Rewards

- Reminded everyone that by using the link on our PTO website when doing Amazon shopping, BES gets a percentage back. This percentage varies.
- Mrs. Harries asked how to access the rewards via the Amazon app. PTO to look into this query.

Upcoming Events

Scholastic Book Fair ~ September 23th – September 27th

- Reminder that book fair begins Monday, September 23rd and volunteers are needed - especially for Monday.
- Must have a valid CORI form on file. Mentioned that the PTO website has the form as a downloadable PDF.
- Will be held in the library during students' Library period. Earliest volunteers can show up at 9:20 AM which is the first specials period.
- Parents are welcome to come and shop with their students during the school day.
- It will also be open during Curriculum Night from 6:00 – 7:30 PM.

Curriculum Night ~ September 25th, 6 – 8 PM

- Book Fair in the library from 6-7:30 PM

Family Themed Events

- Vallery Miller mentioned that we are hoping to offer a number of family-friendly events that parents can choose from.
- Possible Movie Night at Chunky's. PQ: Can we sell tickets to Chunky's as a fundraiser? Katie Muchirahondo mentioned that we have considered that before. There are several options including renting out a theater space and showing a non-recent DVD, or renting out a theater to see a currently viewing movie.
- Roller skating at Roller Kingdom is booked for January 19th.
- Gentlemen's Choice Dance event tentatively scheduled for sometime in February. PARENTS expressed concern that boys may not want to go to a dance. Considered sending out a Survey Monkey questionnaire to get a feel for what parents/kids might be open to - Superhero theme, sports theme, Riverhawk's game in lieu of a dance.
- Ladies Choice Dance Event tentatively scheduled for sometime in March.
- Bingo for Books in March to coincide with Read Across America.
- Field Day: Coach Rivers gave this event to PTO to organize. We are looking for volunteers as this will be an enormous undertaking. Hoping to have some kind of obstacle course. Mrs. Savard suggested talking to Greenmont Elementary School PTO since they also organize the field day there and might be a resource.

Adjournment

- Next meeting will be held on October 15th.
- 6:58 PM meeting adjourned. Motion to adjourn was made by Vallery Miller and seconded by Mrs. Poirier.