

Ben Franklin Elementary PTO

October 2019 Meeting Minutes

WHEN: Wednesday, October 23, 2019

WHERE: BF Library **Facilitator(s):** Kim Naughton

PTO BOARD: Kim Naughton, Dina Calu, Carrie Spiteri, Lauren Berger, Stacy Donohue, and Megan Coopersmith

ATTENDEES: Principal Jay Billy, PTO Board, Ben Franklin Parents and Guardians, Jeff Hirschman

START TIME: 7:07 **END TIME:** 7:58

Topic and Spokesperson	Discussion Points
Introductions Kim Naughton	Everyone introduced themselves and the grade and teacher of their child. Jeff Hirschman who runs the after-school program introduced himself as well.
Principal Update Mr. Billy	<p>Mr. Billy wanted to address the incident that occurred at the Lawrence High School football game last Friday night. It was a bias incident involving some upperclassmen against several middle school girls. The allegation states that there was name calling and subsequent urination on the middle schoolers by an upperclassman. Mr. Billy cautions families that while some of the information regarding the incident circulating on social media is fact, some is also fiction and more information will be coming out in the news detailing what exactly occurred. Mr. Billy wanted to highlight that hundreds of people saw it all happening and did not stand up for the others that night. He spoke about the need to teach children to stand up for each other.</p> <p>Mr. Billy also reassured families that this incident is not indicative of the teachings that our district instills in its students. Over the next few weeks families will hear more about what the district will be doing to address what occurred that night. The incident was a call to action in our district. Today at the high school, there was a student led discussion on what happened and tomorrow the middle school will be doing something similar. Our district teaches empathy and kindness and celebrates diversity and this tragic incident does not represent our students as a whole.</p>
Recaps Respective Chairs	<p>Amerikick</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -49 kids signed up which was one child short of selling out the event! -Raised \$245 -Kids had a great time and many parents took advantage of dropping off their child(ren) to run errands and returning at pickup time. <p>Fall Fest</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Raised \$664.64 -Event went well -Discussed changes to the event for next year:

<p>Recaps cont.</p> <p>Respective Chairs</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. likely will not have pony rides (a child fell off injuring arm and ponies that were sent by the company were very large) 2. Sand art will probably be cut (sand art is very expensive and makes a big mess) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Parents requested to have Gingered Peach come again -Parents agreed that the pumpkin painting station was a big hit <p>Charleston Wrap</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -After Thanksgiving break orders should be in -Brought in \$2744 in paper form orders and PTO will get 40 % of that money (\$1097.06) -Still determining amount raised from online sales -So far we have raised \$1,097.06 (not including online sales which still need to be calculated) <p>SaveAround Coupon Books</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Will not send coupon books home next year because still missing 100 books -Will advertise it differently next year to avoid sending home individual books to each student -Raised \$1,600
<p>Upcoming Events</p> <p>Respective Chairs</p>	<p>Trunk or Treat</p> <p>Saturday, October 26th at 6pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Free event for all Ben Franklin families (please only BF families since this will help keep this an intimate and low key event for the children) -So far 17 cars are signed up to decorate. It's not too late to sign up and decorate your trunk and give out candy. Contact Dina Calu at bfvicepresident@gmail.com to sign up. If you're decorating your car, please arrive at 5pm -There is a contest for best trunk -This year we're adding a freeze dance competition in the gym afterward- the winner will get a pie and pajamas party for their class! -Rain date for the event is Monday, October 28th so if it needs to be postponed due to inclement weather, families will be notified via email and social media. -There will be no food at the event so families should eat before arriving <p>Pasta Night</p> <p>November 15th</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -3 seating start times available: 6:00, 6:30 and 7:00 (families can stay as long as they want, just spreading out arrival times to help the wait staff) -\$6 per person to attend and \$2 per optional meatball order <ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$6 price includes: pasta (choice of marinara, alfredo. or butter), bread, salad, bottled water, dessert, and a raffle ticket for a chance to win a door prize! -Pastas, sauces and meatballs will be catered by Chuckles Restaurant -Door prize raffle ticket included in the \$6 entry fee -Teacher Experiences will also be raffled off this year.

<p style="text-align: center;">Upcoming Events cont.</p> <p>Respective Chairs</p>	<p>Teacher Experiences are fun activities donated by various teachers that they will be doing with the winning child. An example of some experiences being donated are “Lunch/Pizza Party with Your Teacher”, “Gym Teacher for a Day” and the highly coveted “ Principal for a Day.”</p> <p>-Premium Dessert Table will also be added this year. This table will consist of donated desserts by BF families. Diners will be able to purchase slices of cake, pie, etc. for a small fee (around \$1 or \$2 most likely. Pricing still TBD) The \$6 per person price will still include a standard dessert-a homemade biscotti cookie.</p> <p>-Flyer will be going home tomorrow for the event and a signup genius will be included in the weekly newsletter and on social media for anyone that wants to volunteer to help at the event and/or donate a baked good</p> <p>-At the end of the evening, the remaining diners will watch as Mr. Billy pulls the Teacher Experience raffle winners and door prize winners. The winners will be notified via Facebook, Twitter and email.</p> <p>Fall Book Fair</p> <p>-November 21-26th</p> <p>-Theme is Arctic Adventure</p> <p>-Preview day is 11/20 (Teachers bring their students to the Book Fair and students make a list of what books they would like with the prices. The students bring the list home to their parents/guardians to review)</p> <p>-The Book Fair will run Nov 21, 22, 25, and 26 during Parent Teacher conferences. It will be open until at night on Thursday (due to conferences being held late that night) and open until 4 the other days so stop by while you’re at the school for conferences.</p> <p>-Instead of doing the usual All for Books donation of \$1/loose change and kids color a picture to be displayed, this year there will be something different. There will be a Pencil Pull activity.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Pencil Pull: Many pencils will be sticking out of a styrofoam igloo. Children pay \$1 to choose a pencil and pull it out. If the pencil is sharpened, they win and get to pick a prize from the prize bin. If it is not sharpened, they don’t win the prize but they do get to keep the pencil! All of the proceeds from the Pencil Pull go back to BF children to enable every child at our school to get a book at the Book Fair.</p> <p>Teacher Appreciation PreK/Kindergarten</p> <p>-Families of PreK and Kindergarten students throw a breakfast for the teachers to show their appreciation</p> <p>-Flyers went out and families have already been sending in money for the breakfast</p> <p>-People who signed up to volunteer for the event will be contacted shortly</p> <p>Applebee’s Pancake Breakfast</p> <p>-November 30th (over the Thanksgiving break)</p> <p>-Reached out to the high school to try to get chorus members to come and sing holiday music during the event</p>
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<p style="text-align: center;">Upcoming Events cont.</p> <p>Respective Chairs</p>	<p>-Incorporating BF students to be host/hostesses at the event -\$7 per person and children 2 and under are free Price includes pancakes, sausage, juice, coffee and lots of holiday cheer!</p> <p>Holidays in Harmony and Holiday Gift Shop -December 7th -Want to celebrate everyone’s holiday. Last year, various holidays were highlighted at the event: Diwali, 3 Kings, Kwanzaa, Christmas and Hannukah -Last year kids were encouraged to make posters showing how they celebrate their holidays and the posters were hung around the school. It was a great activity that taught kids how others celebrate-both the similarities and differences! Will be doing this activity again this year -Doing it on a Saturday this year most likely around 10-12pm. Kids can come in their pajamas. “Holiday Jam” -Looking for volunteers to create their own holiday table to be on display at the event-Volunteers will have a station and display their holiday and either have a craft, game, clothing, food etc. to display at their table for the kids to enjoy -Holiday Shop will also be at this event for children and families to do some holiday shopping</p> <p>Night Out with Mr. Billy -December 13th from 6:30-8:30 pm (parent’s night out) -Last year, turn out was fairly small so hoping this year it will be bigger now that it is on a Friday night -Last year, Mr. Billy did hide and seek with the kids and it was a big hit. -Drop off your kids and go do errands, shopping or just get a break! -Open only to Ben Franklin families- younger siblings can come too, but must be potty trained</p> <p>Teacher Appreciation 1st Grade -January 9th -Signups to volunteer and donate goods will go out as the date approaches</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Updates</p> <p>Respective Chairs</p>	<p>Fall Clubs -Mad Science, Tennis, Yoga -clubs will run again in the spring</p> <p>Clothing Drive -Running until 10/31 -Collected 2,294 pounds of clothing -raised \$389.98 and still have 8 days left -Last year we raised \$423.75 so hoping to beat that so keep the clothing and shoes coming -When you come for the Halloween Parade, drop off any remaining clothing/shoe bags</p> <p>Coke Give*</p>

<p>Updates cont.</p> <p>Respective Chairs</p>	<p>-Flyer going home tomorrow -Codes can be found on the cap, cardboard container if it's a case of Coke, a flap, etc. Check all over the product for the code because it's there somewhere -There will be a box for Coke Give codes in the Main Office by the Box Tops box. If you don't want to scan, just drop off the cap or cut out code and send it in your child's backpack or drop it off in the main office. -Raised \$2.42 so far</p> <p>Box Tops*</p> <p>-Easy to scan receipts using the app -usually raise about \$1200 for the entire year -Raised \$43.20 so far</p> <p>Other No-Cost Fundraising Programs* ShopRite, Stop & Shop, AmazonSmile</p> <p>*Go to http://bfpto.org/donate/ to get all the instructions on how to sign up for these rewards programs and start making money for the school!</p>
<p>Treasurer's Report</p> <p>Stacy Donohue</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Treasurer's Report: October 2019</u></p> <p><i>Expenses:</i></p> <p>\$600 Blue Diamond Entertainment – ponies for Fall Festival \$900 Glitter Masters- face painter/glitter tattoos \$125 Fall Fest music-entertainer \$350.00 Quiver farms (chick hatching) \$35.46 Custodian gift basket-10/2/19 National Custodian day \$34.03 Popsicles coin war winners- 9 classes \$441 Trenton Thunder(deposit for tickets for 6/7 game) \$1407.50 SaveAround coupon books \$28.00 Leah Urizar – multicultural potluck dinner \$28.37 Jennifer Skorupa – multicultural potluck dinner \$37.07 Brian Gallagher- trout tank</p> <p><i>Deposits:</i></p> <p>\$70 additional Amerikick money since last PTO meeting TOTAL RAISED \$245</p>

<p>Treasurer's Report cont.</p> <p>Stacy Donohue</p>	<p>\$247.04 additional Directory money since last PTO meeting TOTAL RAISED \$809.06</p> <p>\$647.14 Coin Wars</p> <p>\$3240 SaveAround Coupon Books TOTAL RAISED \$1832.50</p> <p>\$2174.75 Fall Festival cash/vendors TOTAL RAISED \$664.64</p> <p>\$2744.00 Charleston Wrap (total raised TBD)</p>
<p>Questions or Comments</p> <p>All</p>	<p>Spirit Wear</p> <p>-Spirit wear orders placed in the fall will be at the school Friday or Monday and will be handed out to the kids to bring home</p> <p>-Will do another Spirit Wear sale in the spring. The company the PTO used for the Spirit Wear sales this year (Starr Design) is owned and operated by a parent of a former BF student and she simply cannot keep the sales ongoing continuously throughout the year since she is only one person and manages many different sales for different organizations in the area. Sales will be offered two times each year, fall and spring.</p> <p>-No additional shirts were ordered by the PTO to be sold in the meantime so please look for the next sale in the springtime</p> <p>-Reminder: No PTO meeting will be held in November or December due to the high number of days off from school during those months.</p> <p>Thank you all for coming and hope to see you again at the next meeting!</p>
<p>Next Meeting</p>	<p>Wednesday, January 15, 2020</p>