

**Ben Franklin Elementary PTO**  
[March 2021 Meeting Minutes](#)

**WHEN:** Wednesday, March 3, 2021

**WHERE:** Online- Zoom **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, BF Teachers, Ben Franklin Parents/Guardians (25 participants)

**START TIME:** 7:05 **END TIME:** 7:40

<b>Topic and Spokesperson</b>	<b>Discussion Points</b>
<b>Introductions</b> Kim Naughton	Board members introduced themselves
<b>Principal Update</b> Mr. Billy	<p>Mr. Billy thanked everyone for coming tonight and thanked parents for being partners in this new way of learning and for their patience and kindness.</p> <p>The school works with the Health Department to make changes. Quarantining is still required and the Health Department hasn't made any changes to those rules. The President and the Governor have prioritized teachers to get vaccinated so that will help deal with the quarantine issues.</p> <p>COVID Pause that occurred was due to many students and teachers having to quarantine so changes to quarantine requirements once teachers are vaccinated will help.</p> <p>The students have been doing great adapting and making changes to schedules. Mr. Billy understands there is a social and emotional toll this is taking on the kids. Mrs. Rutt will be hosting "Supporting Our Children Through Grief" zoom event on Thursday, March 4th at 7pm. It will be webinar format so people can ask questions. <a href="#">Click to Register for Mrs. Rutt's event</a></p> <p>Small team will be doing a virtual haircutting for St. Baldrick's. <a href="#">Click to Join or Donate to the Ben Franklin Team</a></p> <p>As far as future plans, they have not been decided yet. Next week is the Board of Education meeting. The district is looking to get more kids into school daily for longer periods of time, but for right now they are not capable of serving lunch.</p> <p>School will be getting more outdoor seating. Mr. Billy applied for and will be receiving a grant from LTEF for additional outdoor seating. PTO is also donating towards more outdoor space and supplies.</p>

<p><b>Principal Update</b> <b>cont.</b> Mr. Billy</p>	<p>90-100 kids are in each hybrid group. There will be 20 more joining on April 19th as of now. While Superintendent Kasun has given strict dates and deadlines, Mr. Billy tries to make it work for families so he is not being strict with deadlines if he can swing it.</p> <p>As for next school year, Mr. Billy does not know what it will look like. He thinks the state will still make a virtual option available next year. If that is the case, the school will be more strict next year in terms of requiring hybrid children to come to school on the days they are scheduled to come in. There has been a lot of hybrid students randomly staying home and logging into Zoom that day instead. In the future, if a child registers for hybrid, they must come into school on those days (unless sick, of course).</p> <p>Teachers have requested more PPE and shields for April when more students are returning. The district has been good about supplying these items.</p>
<p><b>PTO President's Update</b> Kim Naughton</p>	<p>PTO is working with Mr. Billy to purchase additional tables and items for the SNAP space to provide more outdoor seating for class time outside and to be able to social distance.</p> <p>PTO is looking into purchasing about 300 round seat cushions that kids can use to take outside and read a book, and also to use in the classroom. Also looking into perhaps getting some caddies to hold supplies since supplies cannot be shared.</p> <p>Due to unprecedented times, elections this year will not be held in the normal manner and need to suspend the bylaws since no dues were collected for the PTO (which is what gives members voting rights in elections), and no events were held.</p> <p>Vote was held to suspend the bylaws- 17 yes, 3 no (it was discussed that the 3 no's were people that left their hands up when they voted yes. No recount was done since it needed a majority vote to pass and that was satisfied)</p> <p>Nominations will be open until Wednesday, March 17th until 10pm and then nominations close and will do voting for the elections at May meeting.</p> <p><b>PTO Board Position of President:</b> Kate Schumacher nominated <u>Bonne Giglio</u> Krista Gervon seconded the nomination</p> <p><b>PTO Board Position of Vice President 1:</b> (position includes being volunteer coordinator making sure events have appropriate chairs, and help, volunteer appreciation dinner, organizing the teacher clubs) Bonne Giglio nominated <u>Sandy Cayo</u> Kate Schumacher seconded the nomination</p> <p><b>PTO Board Position of Vice President 2:</b></p>

<p><b>PTO President's Update cont.</b></p> <p>Kim Naughton</p>	<p>(position includes handling and managing the homeroom coordinators)  Megan Coopersmith nominated <u>Donna Erichsen</u>  Carrie Spiteri seconded the nomination  Sandy Cayo nominated Kate Schumacher and she declined the nomination</p> <p><b>PTO Board Position of Treasurer:</b>  Bonne Giglio nominated <u>Kate Schumacher</u>  Sandy Cayo seconded the nomination</p> <p><b>PTO Board Position of Corresponding Secretary:</b>  (position includes managing school directory with Recording Secretary &amp; sending emails)  Kate Schumacher nominated <u>Nicole Bottrel</u>  Bonne Giglio seconded the nomination</p> <p>Nominations stay open for the next 2 weeks. Nominations close Wednesday, March 17th at 10pm.  If anyone that was nominated now chooses to decline, or if someone would also like to be nominated for a position, please email Kim at <a href="mailto:benfranklinpto2939@gmail.com">benfranklinpto2939@gmail.com</a></p> <p>The next PTO Meeting will be on May 12th when a formal election with voting will occur. The new PTO board will start July 1, 2021.</p>
<p><b>Recaps</b></p>	<p>Scarecrow contest in October resulted in very low participation. After talking to parents, it was decided to suspend further activities as PTO was told life was chaotic and stressful.</p>
<p><b>Upcoming Events</b></p>	<p>Spring Online Spirit Sale: March 5<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup>  -Orders should be in by April 9<sup>th</sup></p> <p>PTO will be sponsoring a virtual field trip for ALL grades!  Jenkinson's Aquarium will be doing a virtual field trip in April for the entire school</p> <p>Third grade yearbook is in progress and T-shirts are being made. Also hoping to have a small party in June</p>
<p><b>Treasurer's Report</b></p> <p>Stacy Donohue</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Treasurer's Report October 2020-March 2021</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Expenses:</u></b></p> <p>\$32.93 Peter Wilson (trout program)</p> <p>\$108.11 (Amazon- teacher gifts- masks, child masks, mints)</p> <p>\$173.32 Thanksgiving food drive</p>

<p><b>Treasurer's Report cont.</b></p> <p>Stacy Donohue</p>	<p>\$516.34 PTO Insurance Yearly fee</p> <p>\$415.63 Cory Rutt- kindness posters</p> <p>\$856.50 Nasco Math Supplies- prepaid and will be reimbursed from LTEF grant</p> <p>\$30.00 Wallaby Tales (additional cost for virtual show)</p> <p>\$53.00 additional PTO insurance coverage (balance remaining from Slackwood- split amongst all PTO's)</p> <p>\$450 virtual field trip for jenkinson's</p> <p><b><u>Deposits:</u></b></p> <p>\$554 Spirit wear sales</p> <p>\$47.83 Amazon Smiles</p> <p>\$40.30 Box Tops</p> <p>\$856.50 LTEF grant</p> <p>(PTO is looking to spend an additional \$10,000-12,000 for SNAP Space, outdoor equipment, and supplies)</p>
<p><b>Questions or Comments</b></p> <p>All</p>	<p>Suggestions for family activities to be sponsored by PTO: <a href="mailto:benfranklinpto2939@gmail.com">benfranklinpto2939@gmail.com</a></p> <p>There were no questions posed by the attendees.</p> <p>-Thank you all for coming and hope to see you again at the next meeting!</p>
<p><b>Next Meeting</b></p>	<p>Wednesday, May 12 at 7pm</p> <p>voting on PTO board members will be done at this meeting</p>

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