

# Ben Franklin Elementary PTO

## November 2022 Meeting Minutes

**WHEN:** Monday, November 14, 2022

**WHERE:** In person and Zoom **Facilitator(s):** Bonne Giglio

**PTO BOARD:** Bonne Giglio, Petra Crevier, Rachelle Picarello, Nicole Bottrel, Kristen Paladino, and Megan Coopersmith

**ATTENDEES:** Principal Jay Billy, PTO Board, Ben Franklin Parents/Guardians

**START TIME:** 7:03 pm **END TIME:** 7:36 pm

<b>Topic and Spokesperson</b>	<b>Discussion Points</b>
<p><b>Introductions</b> Bonne Giglio</p>	<p>Bonne Giglio-PTO President, Petra Crevier-VP1, Rachelle Picarello-VP2, Nicole Bottrel-Corresponding Secretary, Megan Coopersmith-Recording Secretary, and Kristen Paladino-Treasurer</p>
<p><b>PTO President's Update</b> Bonne Giglio</p>	<p>PTO wanted to help supplement Ms. Cherry's food drive so the PTO is collecting frozen turkeys. If you have a free frozen turkey or have a grocery receipt with a free frozen turkey offer, please drop it off at the main office and the PTO will collect the frozen turkeys and give to BF families in need to enjoy for Thanksgiving. See <a href="#">flyer</a>.</p> <p>PTO is collecting books for the Book Exchange. Drop off your used books in the lobby of the school. We are collecting picture books, chapter books, graphic novels etc. During the Book Exchange event, every child gets between 2 to 5 books (depending on how many books have been collected for the event)</p> <p>There will be winter Teacher Clubs! So far we have a field hockey club, cheerleading club, and chess club. To get more clubs being offered, the PTO is also reaching out to LIS teachers to see if they'd like to come teach clubs too. Information will be coming out about clubs after Thanksgiving.</p> <p>PTO is sponsoring an assembly on November 29th. The assembly is called Eyes of the Wild. The school will be split into two assemblies for it- Kindergarten and 1st will be in the first assembly for it and then directly following, 2nd and 3rd will have their assembly.</p>
<p><b>Principal Update</b> Mr. Billy</p>	<p>Two school goals are set every year. This year the two goals are: (1) all students will meet or exceed their English Language Arts goals set by irready/growth goal for the year. Last year, we did well but didn't have every student meet it so it's our goal this year.</p>

<p><b>Principal Update (cont.)</b></p> <p>Mr. Billy</p>	<p>(2) increase students' self esteem. use self esteem inventory. pretested on self esteem inventory. District did a survey last year (NJ school climate initiative inventory) and only 3rd graders got scored on it. 3rd graders rated themselves lower than their parents or teachers did. The school is trying to increase how students perceive themselves and their abilities. Mr. Billy has initiated 3rd party compliments to help work at this. Kids have been writing 3rd party compliments to fellow classmates to help them feel good about themselves and help boost their self esteem. The school conducted a self esteem inventory (assessment) with the students this year. This will help identify kids at each grade level that need a self esteem boost. Our school has a lot of students who come from struggling homes and some of that is brought from home and some is that they've struggled with school. If low self esteem was identified on the self esteem inventory, the school sent home a note to give parents a heads up.</p> <p>There was a staff meeting today and it was discussed amongst the teachers and Mr. Billy that they want the multicultural days to come back. We want to bring back multicultural nights, multicultural dinners, Holidays in Harmony in which children made posters describing how they celebrate holidays. The staff meeting also discussed the importance of parent involvement to help kids feel good about themselves. They highlighted the importance of no cost events that are open during various times to help get more families in and be involved in school events.</p> <p>Mr. Billy also asked the attendees of the meeting about his idea of asking the district to change all the early dismissal days for conferences to one day off of school instead and have all conferences held on that one day off. He said all these early dismissal days really interrupt learning for the students and are inconvenient for families. He is considering sending out a survey to ask BF families if that would be something they'd like. The district makes the final decision on this matter, but Mr. Billy was curious if families would like the idea.</p>
<p><b>Treasurer's Report</b></p> <p>Kristen Paladino</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Treasurer's Report: November 2022</b></p> <p>PTO board had a meeting to discuss all the credit card fees we had for the credit card transactions thus far. The board decided we had to start charging a fee to families who are using credit card payments. This fee is to offset the cost the PTO incurs for these credit card transactions. You will notice going forward that if you pay by credit card, there will be a 5% fee. We want to keep the convenience of being able to pay by credit card, but we simply had to cover the costs to us for having this convenience for families.</p> <p>BF PTO has an Amazon Smile account set up. To set up BF PTO as the charity, please use this <a href="#">link</a>. Last year we weren't receiving the payments from Amazon Smile because the bank account changed and needed to be updated with Amazon Smile. The money collected last year has been saved with AmazonSmile and we will be receiving a check for those funds. The deposit will be around \$200. The bank account info has been updated</p>

with AmazonSmile so going forward we will get a direct deposit of the funds into our PTO account.

Field trip budget has been adjusted. Since we haven't had field trips in a couple years, we were unaware of the exact budget needed to set aside for it. We realized we needed to increase our field trip budget from \$4,000 to \$7,500 to help cover costs of the busing for field trips which is the very costly part.

Fall Fest-net gain from Fall Fest was \$982.26

11/14 Meeting Summary	
1. Fall Fest Expenses totalled \$1175.39; Fall Fest Income totalled \$1454.50, PLUS \$703.15 in other Income at Fall Fest (Spirit Wear, 50/50 and Cash Donations). NET GAIN: \$982.26	
2. Received Signup Genius Deposit for Teacher Clubs (\$5,130) - Total Income \$10,875 (less \$124.09 in Clover Fees)	
3. Coin Wars - Added \$395.31 for \$1,236.75 total! (Spent \$46 on Popcorn)	
4. \$46.65 for Mr. Billy Gift	
5. Spirit Wear Payment check out (\$4,737.25)	
6. Funded Chicks for this Spring (\$475)	
7. Signup Genius Silver Subscription (annual) - \$107.89	
8. \$170 Deposit for Candelas; \$200 Deposit for Clover Bonus!	

**Committee Reports**

Event chairs

Book Fair

Kristen spoke

set up day is tomorrow

Volunteers are still needed. If you'd like to volunteer, please sign up [here](#)

Wed-preview day

Thursday-sales all day and evening conferences

Friday- sales during day only

Saturday- 11-2 event and free brunch will be served. Open to friends and family See [flyer](#) sales on Monday and Tuesday 9-3

Dine to Donate

Petra spoke

Chuck E. Cheese is Friday Nov 18th and running all day 11am-10pm. See [flyer](#) teachers would get a free meal or all you can eat salad bar! Just show school id.

PreK and Kindergarten Appreciation Lunch

Nicole spoke

huge thank you to all preK and K families that contributed teachers appreciated it being right after the long weekend

Parents Night Out

<p><b>Committee Reports (cont.)</b></p> <p>Event chairs</p>	<p>Rachelle spoke          Advertised in PTO newsletter and Mr. Billy's smore. Flyers also went home today. only 7 spots left out of 40 so looks like it will sell out fast. There will be pizza, treat, drinks served</p> <p><u>Third Grade Committee</u>          Bonne spoke          They will be setting a first meeting to begin planning.          Third Grade Committee handles the third grade party, third grade gift and yearbook          PTO gives some money to Third Grade Committee and committee fundraises for more money. For the fundraiser, there will be a raffle for VIP tickets to the 3rd grade concert</p>
<p><b>New Business</b></p> <p>Event chairs</p>	<p>Important Upcoming Dates          Book Fair- Nov 16-Nov 22          Dine to Donate- Nov. 19 Chuck E. Cheese          Parents Night Out- Dec 9</p>
<p><b>Questions or Comments</b></p> <p>All</p>	
<p><b>Announcements</b></p> <p>Bonne Giglio</p>	<p>-next PTO Meeting is December 12th at 7pm on Zoom</p>
<p><b>Adjournment</b></p>	<p>Thank you all for coming!          Stay connected with us:          Ben Franklin PTO Facebook: <a href="https://www.facebook.com/BFLawrNj">https://www.facebook.com/BFLawrNj</a>          Ben Franklin PTO Twitter: <a href="https://twitter.com/bfpto">@bfpto</a>          Ben Franklin PTO website: <a href="http://bfpto.org/">http://bfpto.org/</a></p>