

Ben Franklin Elementary PTO

January 2020 Meeting Minutes

WHEN: Wednesday, January 15, 2020

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

START TIME: 7:07pm **END TIME:** 7:59pm

| Topic and Spokesperson | Discussion Points |
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| Introductions Kim Naughton | Everyone introduced themselves and the grade and teacher of their child. |
| Principal Update Mr. Billy | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Thanked first grade parents for the Teacher Appreciation lunch. Teachers kept commenting that the food was amazing! There was enough food to feed all the teachers for TWO days so the first grade families really outdid themselves! -Two new student teachers are coming, one for Leventhal’s class and one for Gallagher’s class. -Abby Povell, a learning consultant at Ben Franklin, just came back on Monday from maternity leave. -Tomorrow, January 16th, is 80’s day. Dress kids up in 80’s clothes. Big hair and interesting outfits will be seen around school tomorrow! -Mulched the playground over the break so less mud now on the playground |
| PTO President’s Update Kim Naughton | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Family Fitness night has been moved to March 27th Kindness Challenge Clap-In 1/27 (8:40am) Mrs. Rutt is organizing this event. She is inviting parents and guardians to come to the school at 8:40am to line the hallways of the school. Younger siblings can also come. The students will be in an assembly and when they leave the All Purpose Room to go to classrooms, they’ll see family members clapping for them and holding up inspirational signs. -If you would like to participate, email Kim at naughtons2508@gmail.com because Mrs. Rutt wants a headcount. We are keeping track of attendees based on responses on Facebook, Twitter and by email. (*If you have already responded on Facebook, Twitter, or by email, you’re on the RSVP list already so no need to email Kim.) -Kindness challenges happening all week -Later in the year there will also be a kindness assembly to continue the kindness theme. The assembly is on May 27. The assembly is free if the school sells merchandise. Last year |

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| <p>PTO President's Update cont.</p> <p>Kim Naughton</p> | <p>the merchandise was yo-yos. This year it will be authentic African jewelry. Assembly will be learning about clean water.</p> <p>-June 1-5 the school will be selling the merchandise and flyers will go home around that time.</p> <p>-For more information on the assembly, please visit: http://www.kindnessadventure.com/the-program.html</p> <p>-We are here to work as a team to meet a common goal. The PTO Board wants everyone to feel welcome here because we are all a team. PTO board is happy that people came out to this meeting and that people come to PTO events and are very thankful for everyone who volunteers to help at events and/or chair events.</p> <p>-The BFPTO bylaws need to be updated. Typically every 6-8 years the bylaws are reviewed and changes are made to help keep up with the times. Originally there was going to be a vote on the amended bylaws at this meeting, however due to an oversight of a couple of Articles and not all board members being present during the board meeting discussion of the bylaws, the vote to pass the updated bylaws will take place at February's meeting. We will review the bylaws again as a board and present it to the PTO members for a vote at the February meeting. The current bylaws were vague and the PTO board wants to broaden and expand them and set the expectations of board members and PTO members.</p> |
| <p>Recaps</p> <p>Respective Chairs</p> | <p>Trunk or Treat</p> <p>-Rainy, but still a great turnout and people had a good time at this free event</p> <p>-A lot of families volunteered to do their trunks which was great</p> <p>Clothing Drive</p> <p>-Ran until October 31st</p> <p>-Made \$517.31 and collected 3,043 pounds of clothes</p> <p>-Please save your clothes for next year's clothing drive. If you want to clear out your house before then, email Lauren at laurenbethb@gmail.com and she will collect your clothes now and start storing them for the next clothing drive.</p> <p>Pasta Night</p> <p>-2nd year doing the event (last year 112 people attended and it made \$422 profit)</p> <p>-This year, 155 people attended and it made \$1,276.70 profit! (breakdown of profit: \$146 premium desserts, \$942 Teacher Experience raffles, \$188.70 catered pasta dinner)</p> <p>-Meatballs were a big hit. 60% of people ordered meatballs too.</p> <p>Fall Book Fair</p> <p>-Took profits from book fair in Scholastic Dollars. (\$2,080 in Scholastic Dollars)</p> |

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| <p>Recaps cont.</p> <p>Respective Chairs</p> | <p>-<u>Scholastic Dollars</u> are used to buy books, indoor recess toys, and for teachers to use to add to their classroom libraries. Scholastic Dollars can also be used as a safety net to purchase books or other products Scholastic offers for school use.</p> <p>-<u>All For Books</u>: Mrs, Rutt, our guidance counselor, seeks out children on the reduced lunches and reaches out to the families to see if they'd be interested in receiving a \$10 All For Books credit for their child to use at the Book Fair. It is an anonymous program in which only Mrs. Rutt and the families taking part in the program are aware of these students receiving the All For Books credit. Credit is given through e-wallet which is how many families in the school pay for books at the fair.</p> <p>-The pencil pull made enough to pay for All For Books (18 vouchers given to kids totaling \$180) and made enough for All for Books for spring fair too.</p> <p>-23 homeroom teachers at the school and each received \$20 gift certificate to Scholastic that they could use on themselves or for a student in their classroom if they prefer (\$520 total). Many teachers used this \$20 gift certificate on one or more of their students in their classroom who may not have qualified for All for Books credit, but that the teachers felt would benefit from receiving a book at no-cost to the family.</p> <p>Teacher Appreciation Breakfast - sponsored by Pre-K/K</p> <p>-Collected money from Pre-K and Kindergarten families. Families were very generous with their donations so were able to afford a catered meal.</p> <p>-Vendor was Ben's Morrisville Deli</p> <p>-Vendor set up and came with all the sausage, pancakes, bacon, french toast etc.</p> <p>-Teachers enjoyed the food very much</p> <p>Applebee's Pancake Breakfast</p> <p>-Made \$226</p> <p>-It was a fun event with tasty food and Santa came for pictures</p> <p>Holiday Shop</p> <p>-Originally it was Holiday Jam and Holiday Shop, but had to cancel the Holiday Jam and PTO figured out a quick way to do just the Holiday Shop</p> <p>-Held it in the hallway which was nice because after the kids finished shopping, they went to play in the All Purpose Room while their parents were paying for the merchandise.</p> <p>-Everything was \$2 this year</p> <p>-Vijay Alam took free pictures at the event for the families. Pictures were in front of a festive background which also made it special</p> <p>-Made \$207.91</p> <p>Night Out with Mr. Billy</p> <p>-20 kids came to it</p> <p>-Made \$375</p> <p>-The kids, as well as Mr. Billy, had fun</p> <p>-If numbers grow next year, Mr. Billy will get more help to manage all the kids</p> |
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| <p>Recaps cont.</p> <p>Respective Chairs</p> | <p>Teacher Appreciation Lunch - sponsored by 1st Grade</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Teachers were able to eat the food for 2 solid days -Money and donations came in quick -Jersey Fresh was the theme and used cut-out Jersey actors and celebrities to play-up the theme -Bruce Springsteen, Bon Jovi, Mike “The Situation”, and James Gandolfini cut-outs made an appearance -Fun phrases used at event: “Yo da boss” “Where’s the gabagool” “You’re halfway there” |
| <p>Upcoming Events</p> <p>Respective Chairs</p> | <p>Chuck E. Cheese – Friday 1/17</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Chuck will be at the school at dismissal at 2:45pm on Friday, Jan 27th <p>Family Movie Night – 1/24 (doors open at 6:30pm)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Detective Pikachu won by a landslide <p>Cash Bingo – 1/31 (doors open at 6pm)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Invite everyone. Open to the public -\$30 entry <p>Yankee Candle Sale 2/12</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Spring catalog this year -Usually make 40% back from sales which is typically around a \$2,100 profit off this event so it’s a good money maker to help with field trips and buses <p>Science Night 2/24</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -3rd grade science fair -If your kid is into science and wants to do a project for Science Night, let Carrie know by emailing her at cspiteri0204@yahoo.com and she will reserve a table for your child **DATE CHANGE: Science Night has been moved to 2/24 to give students ample time to work on their science projects for the event |
| <p>Updates</p> <p>Respective Chairs</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -For third party fundraisers, families now must make check payments and PTO will no longer accept cash for these fundraisers. A Charleston Wrap order from a BF family never got to us and they paid with cash so going forward, with any 3rd party fundraisers like Charleston Wrap, coupon books, and Yankee Candle, the PTO needs to accept only checks instead of cash so that there is a record of it. <p>MLK</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Ms. Bormann is running this event. In previous years, it was a “Day-On” event held on the Monday the children have off from school to honor Martin Luther King, Jr.’s birthday. Ms. Bormann and some teachers felt it was too exclusionary to have it only on that day since many kids aren’t able to attend. Therefore, this year it is going to be an in-school service project held on Tuesday instead so that all students can participate. |

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| <p>Updates cont.</p> <p>Respective Chairs</p> | <p>-To clarify again, there is no event on Monday, MLK Day. The service project will be done in school on Tuesday.</p> <p>-On Tuesday, there will be an assembly about Martin Luther King, Jr. and his message and every grade will come down to the All Purpose Room to do a community service project</p> <p>-Some of the projects will include packing snack bags and creating cards for kids at CHOP</p> <p>-Received an enormous amount of donations and tons of plastic bags</p> <p>-Ms. Bormann is still in need of 20 juice boxes and 20 fruit cups to complete the snack bags that are being assembled.</p> <p>Volunteer Forms</p> <p>-New families have come to school and families have left the school. At the beginning of the year everyone was asked to fill out a volunteer form indicating the PTO events they would like to help with. If anyone is interested in getting a new form to update the events you would like to volunteer for, please click here to download the paperwork and either email it to Dina at dcalu@comcast.net or send it into school in an envelope marked “PTO Volunteer Form - Dina Calu”</p> |
| <p>Treasurer’s Report</p> <p>Stacy Donohue</p> | <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Treasurer’s Report: October 2019</u></p> <p><u>Expenses:</u></p> <p>\$100 Legalized Games of Chance Control Commission- biennial renewal application for gaming license</p> <p>\$240 Starr Designs – extra bumper stickers/magnets</p> <p>\$78 Windsor Farm (field trip- Freas, Tagliarino, Basmagy classes)</p> <p>\$970.25 TheaterWorks USA – 1st grade field trip 1/29/20</p> <p>\$169.50 Amazon- laminate</p> <p>\$1134.90 Charleston Wrap (total raised \$1536.10)</p> <p>\$51.96 Colleen LaFlamme- Veterans ceremony donuts/coffee</p> <p>\$699.50 Chuckles – Pasta night expenses</p> <p>\$237.80 Megan Coopersmith- Pasta night expenses</p> <p>\$51.40 Corrine Rutt- Thanksgiving Food Drive</p> <p>\$46.63 Bonne Giglio- bookfair expenses</p> <p>\$2923.38 Scholastic Book Fairs</p> <p>\$85.00 Ipad Repair- math specialist</p> <p>\$560.09 Holiday Gift Shop</p> |

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| <p>Treasurer's Report cont.</p> <p>Stacy Donohue</p> | <p>\$29.87 snacks for Mr. Billy babysitter night</p> <p>\$549.67 LMS/LHS PTO- yearly insurance dues</p> <p><i>Deposits:</i></p> <p>\$296 fall spirit wear profit</p> <p>\$517.31 Clothing drive – Ameritex Industries</p> <p>\$400 Yoga – fall club</p> <p>\$2194 Pasta Night (total raised \$1256.70)</p> <p>\$226.02 Applebee's pancake breakfast (total raised \$226.02)</p> <p>\$1040.00 received from book fair (\$2080 taken in Scholastic Dollars)</p> <p>\$207.91 Holiday gift shop</p> <p>\$110 3rd Grade Committee (airpod raffle)</p> <p>\$405 Mr. Billy Babysitter (TOTAL RAISED \$375.13)</p> <p>\$200 donation made on behalf of Holmes family</p> <p>\$200 TGA – fall program</p> <p>\$512.10 Box Tops (fall check)</p> |
| <p>Questions or Comments</p> <p>All</p> | <p>-About \$28,000 in the PTO bank account for field trips, bus transportation, school improvements, free events, donations towards school events, and assemblies. Part of that money cannot be spent during the year and instead needs to be set aside and saved to be carried over to the following school year as a buffer for years where we spend more than we take in.</p> <p>-Last year PTO spent over \$19,000 for the year. Click to view the details.</p> <p>-Big fundraiser this year will be the carnival. Winter Blast is usually the big fundraiser each year, but this year PTO decided to cancel the Winter Blast ato switch things up so the carnival is going to be the big event.</p> <p>-This year the carnival will have raffles that normally are at Winter Blast. PTO is also hoping for a dunk tank, carnival games, food trucks, pie eating contest, as well as each grade contributing a class basket for auctioning/raffle. The Winter Blast attendance kept getting smaller and smaller because it is a more expensive event so PTO hoping this event will help bring in a bigger crowd since less expensive to attend.</p> <p>-Carnival is scheduled for June 20th. The time will either be 11am-3pm or 12pm-4pm (time is still TBD)</p> |

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| <p>Questions or Comments cont.</p> <p>All</p> | <p>-Code Night was really awesome. Planning on doing another one of those events</p> <p>-Math Nights: 3rd grade only 12 families attended, but typically the crowd increases with the younger grades. Upcoming math nights:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Thurs., Jan. 23rd 6:00-7:00 PM - 2nd Grade ● Thurs., Feb. 6th 6:00-7:00 PM - 1st Grade ● Thurs., Feb. 20th 6:00-7:00 PM - Kindergarten <p>-Thank you all for coming and hope to see you again at the next meeting!</p> |
| <p>Next Meeting</p> | <p>Wednesday, February 19, 2020</p> |