

Ben Franklin Elementary PTO

January 2023 Meeting Minutes

WHEN: Tuesday, January 24, 2023

WHERE: 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:** 7:45pm

Topic and Spokesperson	Discussion Points
<p>Introductions Bonne Giglio</p>	<p>-Bonne Giglio-PTO President, Petra Crevier-VP1, Rachelle Picarello-VP2, Megan Coopersmith-Recording Secretary, and Kristen Paladino-Treasurer -Nicole Bottrel (Corresponding Secretary) was absent from the meeting (Happy Birthday, Nicole!)</p>
<p>PTO President's Update Bonne Giglio</p>	<p>-Winter clubs are in full swing. We have added a reminder to the weekly email newsletter to please send a note and also at dismissal from the club, please go to the door to pick up your child-do not wait in the car. You must park and walk to the door to pick up your child.</p> <p>-Winter Clothing Drive is still going on. We will be dropping off the items on January 31st after school. The CEO of HomeFront will meet us there to take the stuff.</p> <p>-Book Exchange is accepting used books all year. Drop off books in the front lobby.</p> <p>-A cost-free fundraiser called iGive has been added in the newsletter. iGive is a fundraising website where, based on your online purchases, they share a percentage of sales with a cause of your choice. They offer hundreds of retailers, including chewy.com, walmart.com and Old Navy/Gap/Banana Republic.com. Click here to enroll and choose our school as your cause!</p>
<p>Principal Update Mr. Billy</p>	<p>Clothing Drive- Mr. Billy has hidden a lot of stuff on the stage so there is a lot more stuff on stage-about 20-30 bags. Mr. Billy has also been taking the donated books for the Book Exchange and bringing them down to the storage room so we are collecting a great amount of books.</p>

<p>Principal Update (cont.)</p> <p>Mr. Billy</p>	<p>DEI Night (Diversity Equity Inclusion Night): We are planning to have a DEI Night at BF like the info session the district had last week. We will be setting one up to tell families about DEI in our school.</p> <p>Productive Struggle piece written in newsletter last week- Mr. Billy has been meeting with a lot of families whose kids are struggling. Mr. Billy wants to assure families that kids are supposed to struggle a bit. There is no growth or learning without some struggle. Teachers know how to handle a student who is struggling-that's what teachers do. Parents want to fix everything right away and ask for homework to be sent home, more worksheets, and even to do the curriculum at home. Mr. Billy is trying to explain to let the teachers handle this. Teachers are educators. Some assessments are for the teachers to use as educators. No growth or learning without struggle. Mr. Billy is having more and more meetings with families worried about their children. This is what the school does. The school can handle this. Parents need to support their children and give the school time to handle the struggle that the student is having.</p> <p>If a report card says that the child needs to work on body control around his peers, it doesn't mean the child is a bad kid. It means that this is what the teacher is working on with the child. Teachers are good at what they do-let the teachers do it and we can fix it.</p> <p>We are in the middle of iReady assessments now. If there is a problem, you will hear if there is an issue with the scores (not growing as well as they should).</p>
<p>Treasurer's Report</p> <p>Kristen Paladino</p>	<p>12/6 PTO Executive Board Meeting Summary</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Paid Teacher Club Expenses, totaling \$6575 (not all has cleared yet). Eyes of the Wild (\$590) and deposit for PK/K Field Trip to Howell Farm (\$375) 2. Book Fair: Paid Scholastic \$4005.59, Deposited \$4058.13. Expenses Totalled \$231.62 3. Deposited \$776 from Principal's Night 4. Spent \$81.86 on Vet's Breakfast and Honey BEE Treats for Teachers in November. <p>1/9 PTO Executive Board Meeting Summary</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Collected \$10,176.75 for Teacher Clubs (Winter); \$522.49 from Dine to Donate; \$80 for Spirit Wear and \$95 to put aside for 3rd Grade Party. 2. Made \$700 Deposit for Trenton Thunder; spent \$335 for PTO Cart/Supplies 3. Paid out \$478.29 for Teacher Club Expenses (PomPoms, Card Shufflers and carryover from Fall Clubs); \$224.69 for Holidays in Harmony 4. Paid \$174.50 for Pizza at Mr. Billy Night (vs. \$776 collected, reported in Dec) 5. Insurance Reimbursements from other schools all done!

<p>Committee Reports</p> <p>Event chairs</p>	<p><u>Winter Fest</u> -Bonne spoke -snowed on Winterfest -quick and fun event</p> <p><u>Dine to Donate</u> -Petra spoke -PJs brought in \$200 -Meatheadz is the next Dine to Donate- this Wed and Thurs 15% of all proceeds. 4pm-8pm. See flyer!</p> <p><u>1st Grade Appreciation Lunch</u> -Petra spoke -Krista Gervon is chairing it -Super Bowl theme -Wednesday Feb 8 -1st Grade families that would like to contribute, please sign up here.</p> <p><u>3rd Grade Committee</u> -Kristen spoke -3rd grade party will be June 9th from 6:30-8pm-3rd graders are dropped off and we will need chaperones -Bonne is doing the class gift which will be shirts and a sticker- sending out tshirt size requests soon -Stephanie LaMont will be working on the party- researching DJ, food, face painter -Kristen is working on fundraising. Raised \$391 so far and candy grams are happening. Pay-jama day on March 31st. It is open to any student. pay \$2 to wear your pjs to school -Ilana Hernandez is working on the yearbook- created gmail account and getting photos from teachers and Mr. Billy. She has reached out to Picaboo for yearbook pricing.</p>
<p>New Business</p> <p>Event chairs</p>	<p><u>Spring Spirit Wear</u> -Rachelle spoke -we have designs set up for shirts and have come up with ideas of what to sell and got a quote from Aztec. Paper order forms will come out in March. -website will have size charts for some of the items to help families figure out what size to order.</p> <p><u>Updated Calendar of PTO events for rest of year</u> Science Night: Feb 23 at 6pm (3rd graders make science project that they can present at science night. Climate curriculum will have a table to teach about it and there will be STEM related activities for students to do. Book Exchange: March 2 St. Baldricks March 11 Fun Run: March 26 (Sunday) at the high school track</p>

<p>New Business (cont.)</p> <p>Event chairs</p>	<p>Teacher Appreciation Lunch sponsored by 2nd grade: March 30 Book Fair: April 18-22 Teacher Appreciation Lunch by 3rd Grade: April 20 Teacher Appreciation and Screen Free: May 1-5 3rd Grade Party: June 9 Trenton Thunder: June 15 End of Year Carnival date still TBD -Megan will be sending home in backpacks next week an updated Calendar of Monthly Events paper</p> <p>Mr. Billy wanted to remind families that there are 3 snow days built into the calendar if no snow before Feb 21, then we will have that day off. Other two days are: April 10: extra day of spring break May 26: friday before memorial day</p>
<p>Questions or Comments</p> <p>All</p>	<p>-Ilana asked for a multicultural night. Rachelle said we could work in in as a night during Screen Free Week</p> <p>-Camisha asked about attending parties as a Homeroom Helper. Rachelle said each teacher has their preference of how to handle who should come in to help with a party so every classroom will be different.</p> <p>-Dave Milford thanked the PTO for all the events and thanked Mr. Billy for being so involved</p>
<p>Announcements</p> <p>Bonne Giglio</p>	<p>-next PTO Meeting is February 13th at 7pm on Zoom</p>
<p>Adjournment</p>	<p>Thank you all for coming! Stay connected with us: Ben Franklin PTO Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/BFLawrNj Ben Franklin PTO Twitter: @bfpto Ben Franklin PTO website: http://bfpto.org/</p>