



BEDMINSTER TOWNSHIP SCHOOL

Parent Teacher Organization

Meeting Minutes

October 15, 2019



www.bedminsterpto.org
pto@bedminsterschool.org

Start time: 7:06pm

President's Welcome: Ramsey Melendez

- Welcome everyone and thank you for coming this evening

Principal's Report: Corby Swan

- Last week we held the Week of Respect, with the following themes: Bulldogs Stomp Out Bullies, You Can't Take It Back - Words Can Hurt, Be the Change You Wish to See in The World, and What Makes You Unique. Thank you to Mrs. Infante for organizing the activities.
- We have two recipients of the Principal's Character Lunch Award thus far. If you are not familiar with this, it is something that I implemented at the school a few years ago to place focus on the six pillars of character. It is not Student of the Week. I want to be clear about that. It is solely based on students who are demonstrating the six pillars of character consistently.
- An update on our School Culture and Climate Initiative: Students and staff took a School Culture and Climate survey. The staff worked with Kathleen McClay during our Staff Development Day. She discussed praise and encouragement and focused on the differences between the two.
- October 6 – 12 was Fire Prevention Week so we welcomed Steve Dill from the Far Hills-Bedminster Fire Department to speak with us and show equipment to our students in Grades K - 2 on Friday morning.
- Over the next week, I will be speaking with all students about a service animal that we have in the school and discussing the differences between a service animal and a pet. We will also be discussing what we are able to do and not able to do regarding the service animal.
- Red Ribbon Week gives the students the opportunity to discuss what it means to live healthy and drug free. This year, we have collaborated with the Wellness Committee to combine Wellness Week and Red Ribbon Week in order to promote healthy eating, daily exercise, and making smart choices for our bodies.
- From October 23rd through October 31st, we will celebrate Red Ribbon Week which is the oldest and largest drug prevention program in the nation. For the past 19 years, we have received funding from the Municipal Alliance Commission to run this important program and many thanks to Mrs. Infante and Ms. Deckhut who lead this at our school. The 2019 National Red Ribbon Week Theme is "Send a Message. Stay Drug Free."
- Tuesday, October 29, we will be having back to back meetings of 6th grade and 8th grade parents. The 6th grade parent meeting will be about the Stokes Trip to the New Jersey School of Conservation at 6:15 pm in room 334 and the 8th grade meeting, about the Washington DC trip, will also start at 7:00 pm in room 315.
- For those of you with children in PreK - 4, soon you will be receiving information about our Halloween Parade on October 31st. It is very important that you read the information when you receive it as all rules will need to be followed with no exceptions.
- Please remember that school will operate on a Delayed Opening schedule on November 4th, 5th, and 6th due to Fall Parent Teacher Conferences and no school November 7 and 8 for NJEA Convention.
- Thanks to the PTO for all that you do!

Teacher Representative – Chuck Hogan

- 100% of our teachers joined the PTO.
- Students are looking forward to this week's Spooktacular and Trunk or Treat events

Board of Education Report – Suzie Stevinson and Howard Wolkow

- Absent, no report

Correspondence and Minutes – Meghan Schulze (Reported by Ramsey Melendez)

- September's Minutes were approved by Jessica Pascale and 2nd by Chuck Hogan.

Treasurer's Report – Ralph Wojtech

- Printouts available on tables. Balance as of 9/30/19: \$33,467.32
- Inflows: membership and car magnet sales

- Outflows- Teacher's Lounge, Barker Bus from Spring 2019, Mad Science deposit, Notte PE day, Welcome Back Lunch Kings payment.

New Business

Bulldog Monthly: Executive Board

- We will be looking for someone to take over publication for the '20-21 school year.

Bedminster Charities Fall Fest: Saturday October 26: Tara Mulcahy & Meriah Valente

- You can volunteer to help with the PTO tent [here](#).
- You can volunteer to help with Fall Fest events [here](#).
- There will be costume contests for adults, kids, and pets with prizes
- Inflatables, games, beer and wine tent
- Food trucks, music and a scavenger hunt
- Verizon is bringing a TV truck so visitors can watch college football and it will be set up near the beer tent
- There will be a Harry Potter Go game sponsored by Verizon with prizes
- Silent auction will be opening prior to the event, Saturday, October 19. [CLICK HERE](#)

Coat Swap: Sammy D'Antuono

- This will be a joint venture with Bernardsville Middle School HAS to share with students that may have financial difficulties in acquiring a winter coat
- Look for a donation box to come soon to the front entranceway of school

Conference Hospitality: November 4 or 5: ^^Chairperson Needed^^

Halloween Events: October 18

- **Spooktacular:** Danielle Fredella
 - Pre-K thru 4th grades in cafetorium 5-6:30pm
 - Click [here](#) for info
 - Community service hours will be available (See Ms. Mitchell)
 - Games, prizes, music and pizza will be served
 - Parent volunteers will be needed please email Danielle deefredella@yahoo.com
- **Trunk or Treat:** Giovanna Lamiera
 - ~ 20 cars needed
 - Click [here](#) for info
 - 6:30-7:30pm @ the Old School Parking Lot
 - Email Giovanna if interested in decorating your car giovannalamiera@gmail.com
- **Pumpkin Decorating Contest (FHBFAS):** (Reported by Ramsey Melendez)
 - The squad will host a pumpkin decorating contest fundraiser, at the same time as our Trunk or Treat event, to raise funds to purchase pediatric EpiPens®.
 - \$5 to enter a pumpkin – No registration necessary, just show up with the pumpkin you decorated at home
 - Visitors can vote for their favorite. \$1=1 vote, \$5=5 votes, etc.
 - Prizes will be awarded for top 3 winners

Scholastic Book Fair: Suzie Stevinson and Danielle Fredella

- Total sales: **\$10, 213.13**
- Waiting on final amount on Scholastic Dollars for our teachers to spend
- Thank you to all the parent volunteers

Spring Fling: Friday, April 17, 2020: Laura Kamrow

- The Board would like to thank Laura for taking on this event and we are looking forward to another successful Spring Fling.
- Applications for 50/50 and basket raffles are in the process of being submitted for approval.
- Carolyn will work alongside and mentor Laura
- Please email any Board member if you are interested in volunteering in any capacity

PTO Meeting Schedule:

- November 12 - 7 pm - Room 315
- December 10 – 9:30 am – Teacher’s Lounge

Public Questions & Comments: This portion will be held to a 15-minute limit. We politely ask that each speaker limit his or her time to 5 minutes for comments and/or questions in regard to any Agenda point or any other topic related to the PTO. If any written documents are to be given to the PTO Executive Board, please email them to the Board Secretary 2 days in advance of meeting date. pto@bedminsterschool.org

- No questions or documents to report.

Old Business

Back to School Night Hospitality: Meghan Schulze (Reported by Ramsey Melendez)

- Event ran smoothly

PTO Membership: Executive Board

- Is open, please see the website or newsletter for the flyer to fill out and send in or give to any Board member

Ongoing Committees

Assemblies: Angela Gatto, Renee Hachey & Tina Dadas

- October 23: Prismatic Laser Magic (Anti-Drug & Alcohol Awareness/Red Ribbon Week)
- November 27: Brain Wash Game Show

Bulletin Board: Faith Costabile & Danielle Fredella

- A new board will be going up next week

Box Tops: Stephanie Zultanky & Mariana Wickizer

- Box Top is modifying their format, slowly phasing out physical tops. Existing ones are still eligible
- \$347 worth of Tops were sent in and we will receive a check in December.
- Please download the app to scan receipts with participating products on them

CIC, The HUB: Anna Spitaleri,

- Absent, no report

SH Municipal Alliance: Anna Spitaleri

- Absent, no report

Cub Scouts Pack #1749: Howard Wolkow & Steve Frantz (Reported by Laura Frantz and Ralph Wojtech)

- Camp Winnebago overnight was a huge success
- Scouts will be at Fall Fest selling popcorn
- Successful and fun outing “By the Light of the Moon” hike at Lord Sterling Environmental Education Center in Basking Ridge.

Donations & Corporate Matching: Executive Board

- PTO is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit charity
- Amazon Smile Program: Bedminster PTO can be chosen as your charity to receive 0.05% of qualified purchases

Helping Hands: Linda Fragassi

Homeroom Parents: Suzie Stevinson & Jen Calpin

- Not present-nothing to report

Bulldog Monthly Newsletter: Executive Board

PR / Social Media: Ramsey Melendez

- www.bedminsterpto.org
- Like us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter
- We have reached 450 followers on our Facebook page

Spirit Wear: Jessica Pascale & Melissa Kircher

- Fall sale October 28 – November 1: with a new local vendor
- Samples will be available at Fall Fest
- Flyers and order forms will be sent home with students

8th Grade: Karen Rosen

- Spring bulbs and ornamental cabbage will be available for purchase at Fall Fest
- Hunt parking will be available at the school on Saturday, October 19
- Pie sale in November with help from ShopRite

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Closing Notes: Ramsey Melendez

- Next meeting is November 12, 2019 at 7 pm
- All agenda information and event/committee details can be found on our website pto@bedminsterschool.org

Meeting Closed at 7:50 pm

COMMENTS – We welcome any comments from the floor. However, please direct any questions specifically pertaining to your child(ren) to the appropriate person after the meeting or to the appropriate administrator during school hours. This meeting is recorded for the purpose of writing minutes and to have a factual record of the meeting once minutes are submitted recordings are deleted.