



BEDMINSTER TOWNSHIP SCHOOL

Parent Teacher Organization

Meeting Minutes

September 10, 2019



www.bedminsterpto.org
pto@bedminsterschool.org

Start time: 7:10pm

Welcome and Comments – Ramsey Melendez, President

- Welcome back everyone and thank you for coming this evening
- Welcome to all our new families, hope you had a wonderful summer break
- A change to the agenda this year will be the new PTO Norms, you will find a copy on the tables
- We have also added time to the agenda for questions and comments. Please keep all questions related to PTO, all other questions should be directed to the appropriate teacher or administration through normal channels

Superintendent's Report: Jennifer Giordano

- Welcome back everyone
- I would like to introduce the administration here this evening, Todd St. Laurent- Vice Principal/Curriculum Supervisor, Lauren Zugale- Supervisor of Student Services, Alicia Schauer-Business Administrator, and Corby Swan- Principal
- This year's two school goals are Achievement in Math and Social & Emotional Learning.
- The math goal is mainly for the middle school grades 5-8. Big Ideas is the name of the program,
- The math program is mostly based online so students really will not be bringing home texts books this year, because of this if you do not have access at home to internet or a computer please reach out to your child's teacher right away
- The 2nd goal is SEL - Social and Emotional Learning through College of St. Elizabeth's Center for Human and Social Development, School Culture and Climate Initiative.
- These goals were strongly based on the surveys that went out last year and responses from the parents and teachers.
- Safety has been removed as a goal this year but remains as a constant top priority in the school.
- Updates on the goals will be going out this year in either E-blast, Friday folder, or updates on the website.
- Wellness week will be the end of October 21st – 25th, there will be an allergy awareness assembly the end of October as well, there will also be an allergy awareness week in the spring.
- The 17th and 24th from 11-11:45 Meet the Administration, please feel free to bring a snack or brown bag lunch this is an informal time to talk and ask questions.
- Welcome to everyone and looking forward to a great year.

Principal's Report: Corby Swan

- Good evening everyone. Welcome back to a new school year to those of you whose children are returning and welcome to any new families that we have here as well.
- We started off just prior to the beginning of the school year by welcoming 4 new maternity leave replacement teachers and 7 paraprofessionals at our full-day New Staff Orientation. We look forward to working with them and welcoming them to Bedminster.
- We then welcomed 27 new students and their families at New Student Orientation and the following day we opened the doors to welcome 57 Kindergarten students along with their families as the Bedminster Township School Class of 2028.
- We then followed that with an Ice Cream Social sponsored by the PTO for both new and Kindergarten students.

- We are only four days in, but the school year is off to a great start. I would like to thank the PTO for coordinating volunteers to assist with morning arrival and afternoon dismissal. It has specifically helped our younger students establish a routine of where to go at these times.
- Please make sure that you are logging on to the Genesis Parent Portal and if you are having difficulties please send an email to techsupport@bedminsterschool.org.
- Please remember that school is closed on September 30th in observance of Rosh Hashanah. Thank you to the PTO for all that you do.

Teacher Representative – Chuck Hogan

- Thank you for the wonderful welcome back lunch
- The teacher lounge was a wonderful surprise thank you to the PTO for thinking of us and the wonderful gift
- Really looking forward to a great year and everything the PTO has planned

Board of Education Report – Suzie Stevinson report by Howard Wolkow

- Next meeting is September 19th @ 7:30pm
- We did have a meeting over the summer regarding legal issues
- A communication, to a BOE member, was received from a parent in the school with a request for a donation of \$3,000 be made from the PTO to the 8th grade DC trip. This correspondence was handed over and reported to the PTO for review.
- Looking forward to a wonderful school year

Correspondence and Minutes – Meghan Schulze, Secretary

- Mr. Hazen 7th grade class sent a thank you for the grade level program 'Snakes & Scales'
- Bernard's High Project Graduation thanked us for our donation
- Thank you notes- Ms. Mitchell, Mrs. Godfrey, Team awesome, 8th grade awards recipients, Mrs. Alfieri & Ms. Mancini

Treasurer's Report – Ralph Wojtech

- Available on tables
- Inflows: Somerset Valley Urgent Care (SF advertisement) and Amazon Smile (disbursement)
- Outflows- Teacher's Lounge, 8Th Grade post-promotion party and award ceremony, Barker Bus (RVCC Theatre, Dorney Park, Alstede Farms, USGA Museum), SF (stamps and thank you cards) St. Jude Children's Hospital (donation) Hip Hop Assembly (PE classes), Trump National Golf Course - SF Deposit (4/17/20), Kindergarten and New Student Ice Cream Social

New Business

2018-2019 PTO Gift to BTS: Meghan Schulze and Danielle Fredella

- We had a wonderful time showing appreciation to our great teachers and all they do for our children
- We painted the room a new light gray color, installed new cabinets, sink, countertop, coffee and tea bar. There are 2 new chairs and a high-top table for eating lunch or laptop work. New curtains for the windows and decorations for the walls
- We hope the teachers enjoy the new lounge and hope you were able to see the pictures on the PTO social media sites

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
- Both the directory and the web link (plaitpto.com) have been discontinued. After 2 years it was not sustainable

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

- Click link for the PTO volunteer time slots: <https://signup.com/go/qrvWHsj>
- Community service hours will be available as well
- The 50/50 tickets are on sale now and can be purchased at the farmer's market on September 21st, possible sale in front of Kings to be announced

- There will be a costume contests for adults, kids, and pets
- Inflatables, games, hayrides, and tons of fun
- 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 early; date to be announced

Back to School Night Hospitality: Meghan Schulze

- Everything is a go
- Coffee, tea and water will be available both nights
- September 25th, 5-8 @ 6:30pm (stop in the gym prior for schedules and to meet with Homeroom Parent)
- September 26th, Prek-4 @ 6:30 pm

Coat Swap: Chairperson needed

- Sammy D'Antuono volunteered
- This will be a joint venture with Bernardsville Middle School HSA
- Coat donations will be shared with students that may have financial difficulties in acquiring a winter coat

Scholastic Book Fair: October 1, 2, 3 and 4: Suzie Stevinson and Danielle Fredella

- Children will be going during their scheduled library times or with their ELA teacher
- A flyer will come home with information for e-wallet
- Afternoon and evening shopping time for parents will be available as well
- Both parent and community service (See Ms. Mitchell) volunteers will be needed. [Click Here](#) for parent volunteer times.

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
- **Far Hills-Bedminster First Aid Squad (FHBFAS)** Captain Nermeen Chaudrhy
 - 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 EpiPen®.
 - \$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

Spring Fling: Friday, April 17, 2020: Chair Team Needed

- Multiple chair persons are needed for different committees
- Carolyn will work alongside and mentor event organizers
- Please email any Board member if you are interested in volunteering in any capacity

PTO Meeting Schedule:

- October 15 - 7 pm - Room 315*
- November 12 - 7 pm - Room 315
- December 10 – 9:30am - Faculty Lounge
- January 14 – 7 pm - Room 315
- February 11 – 7 pm - Room 315

- March 10 – 7 pm - Room 315
- April 14 – 7 pm - Room 315
- May 12 – 7 pm - Room 315
- June 9 – 7 pm - Room 315

* Please note: October's meeting is a week later

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

- Audience was asked if there were any supporters of the request for the PTO to make a \$3,000 donation to the 8th grade DC trip.
- No hands were raised nor questions asked. Topic was released. Note: there were multiple 8th grade parents in attendance.

Old Business

Bedminster Farmers Market: Saturday, September 7: Executive Board

- Day was a great success
- Collected lots of family memberships
- Sold car magnets
- Joint tent with 8th grade (50/50 raffle)

Teacher Welcome Back Luncheon: September 3: Maria Banco

- The luncheon was great and the teachers really enjoyed the food
- Thank you Bedminster Kings for working with us to stay within our budget

Kindergarten & New Student Ice-Cream Social: September 4: Danielle Fredella & Ramsey Melendez

- We had a wonderful time meeting the new Bulldogs and their families
- Answered many questions and had multiple families interested in volunteering and becoming a part of the school community.
- Thank you to [McCool's](#) in Madison for donating all of the ice-cream

Barnes & Noble Book Fair: June 10: Laura Frantz

- Thank you to Laura, Mr. Lefurge, Mr. Schoch and the 7 & 8 grade volunteers for all of their hard work
- BTS families spent \$3,650 (2018=\$3,730.38)
- We received \$723.13 (2018=\$731.77)
- "Teacher Lucky Lottery" \$1,454.90 (books-videos-supplemental material)
- All items have been gifted to the teachers during the first week of school

Ongoing Committees

Assemblies: Angela Gatto, Renee Hachey & Tina Dadas

- Thank you to our committee for all of your hard work over the past few months researching and coordinating dates and time with Administration. We are very excited for the assemblies you have planned.
- September 17: Mad Science-STEM
- September 24: Hip Hop in all PE classes
- October 23: Prismatic Laser Magic (Anti-Drug & Alcohol Awareness/Red Ribbon Week)
- November 27: Brain Wash Game Show
- February 21: Mobile Ed: The Spirit to Overcome (Black History Month)
- March: researching a presenter for Women's History Month

Bulletin Board: Faith Costabile & Danielle Fredella

- Thank you, Danielle and Faith, for such beautiful bulletin boards to welcome back our students and staff

Box Tops: Stephanie Zultanky & Co-Chair(s) Needed

- Box Top is modifying their format, slowly phasing out physical tops. Existing ones are still eligible
- Please download the app to scan receipts with participating products on them
- Mariana Wickizer has generously volunteered

CIC, The HUB: Anna Spitaleri,

SH Municipal Alliance: Anna Spitaleri

Cub Scouts Pack #1749: Howard Wolkow & Steve Frantz

- <http://www.bedminsterpto.org/cub-scouts.html>
- For grades K – 5, new members are welcome anytime
- Open to both Boys and Girls
- Camp Winnebago overnight September 27-29

Donations & Corporate Matching: Executive Board

- We are extremely fortunate to have a handful of families that consider us when their companies offer a corporate matching program.
- 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

- Thank you to all that attended the meeting
- If you could not attend, please reach out to Suzie or Jen

Bulldog Monthly Newsletter: Executive Board

- Will continue for it's 2nd year

PR / Social Media: Ramsey Melendez

- www.bedminsterpto.org
- Like us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter

Spirit Wear: Jessica Pascale & Melissa Kircher

- Fall sale is being prepared

8th Grade: Karen Rosen

- 50/50
- Bulbs will be sold at Fall Fest
- Hunt parking will be available
- All events will be shared on PTO website and Facebook

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Closing Notes: Ramsey Melendez

- Next meeting is October 15, 2019 at 7 pm (Not October 8, which is an early dismissal)
- Please stop downstairs to take a look at the Teacher's Lounge
- All agenda information and event/committee details can be found on our website pto@bedminsterschool.org

Meeting Closed at 8:27pm

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.