



BEDMINSTER TOWNSHIP SCHOOL

Parent Teacher Organization Meeting Minutes

September 21, 2021



www.bedminsterpto.org
pto@bedminsterschool.org

Start time: 7:01pm

President's Welcome and Comments – Danielle Fredella, President

Good Evening and welcome back to what we are hoping to be a fabulous year after the tough year we had last. Welcome to all of the new friends who are joining us tonight, a lot of new faces! The PTO has been working through the summer to stay on track and prepare for some exciting things in the school this year for the children.

Trying to keep PTO minutes to an hour or less this year as it worked out last year. If anyone has any questions pertaining to something not listed in the agenda please reach out to Danielle via the PTO website. www.bedminsterpto.org

Superintendent's Report – Jennifer Giordano

Hello and welcome back to the new school year. It is wonderful having your children back with us full days. We are going to be doing our best to be able to keep our doors open. Last year was a successful year as far as keeping our doors open and having the children in the building. There have been a few positive COVID cases and we have to do our best to keep everybody safe. That's always our first priority and most important priority. There have been changes with certain mandates and executive orders that we must abide by, it's not ideal for everyone but we have to do what is best for most. The children have been wonderful with wearing their face coverings and knowing when it is appropriate to take them off and put them back on. Thank you to YOU because they are learning this at home and we appreciate your support.

Sports and activities are beginning so please monitor your child's health on a daily basis.

This is critical. If your child is asymptomatic please do your best to refrain from sending them to school. If your child is symptomatic please reach out to your doctor. Also, you can always reach out to our school nurse, Nurse Sally. It is imperative to reduce the exposure to other students and staff while we try to keep the school doors open for our community. With vaccinations not required, we do work directly with families and of any unvaccinated children and unvaccinated staff members to create the most appropriate safe environment that we can at the school.

The safe return to school plan can be found on the school's website homepage. Please review this. It will be revised again with more information this month. This document shows all of the safety recommendations established by the CDC for face coverings, distancing, hand washing, contact tracing, and accommodations for students with disabilities, screening and continuity of services.

In the next few days you will all be receiving a copy of the chain of command. Reminder, if there is an issue in school in the classroom we please ask that you contact your child's teacher first then the appropriate supervisor or building Principal. At times I am the first person listed on an email along with a board member and one of the building Principals, Just know that in those instances you probably won't receive a response from the BOE or myself. In following the chain of command we ask that the building Principal should be given the opportunity to communicate with you directly and you first.

We have been working really hard on achieving certification for being a sustainable school in New Jersey. That certification just came through and we are really excited to be one of those recognized school districts in NJ for sustainable Jersey for Schools. We received a 2021 Bronze certification. We are really proud of this huge accomplishment as we have been working very hard on it for about 4 years now. We began building this through our wellness committee. This opens up a lot of grants that a district like Bedminster would never be able to even find out about. You are living and we are working in a wonderful district. You will hear more from us about sustainability committee. It is called the Green Team Sustainability Committee and Marissa Nolfi is going to be our PTO/Parent Representative of all things wellness. Any parents and/or students with ideas, please go through Marissa. We welcome any and all ideas you have.

As you know we have had a lot of upgrades to our building over the summer, we are excited that we are still able to get all of that done as well. 21 classrooms were tiled, all classroom doorways were painted, 9 roofs were put on the roof of the building this summer. We have new lights going up in the parking area up front. We are trying to maintain the building and do all of this while keeping your children safe and giving them the education that they deserve. I entertain any questions you may have for me at that district level. I will do my best to answer them.

Elementary Principal's Report: Corby Swan

Hello everyone, and welcome back to a new school year, I'm excited about this school year. This is going to be my first full year in this role (Pre-K through 4th Principal as opposed to Pre-K – 8th) and I'm excited to work with Dr. O, she brings a lot of things to the table. Shout out to Mrs. Leonti, for the first time ever we had an official Pre-K orientation. Typically we only have one for Kindergarten and new families/students. Mrs. Leonti had the idea where she really wanted to welcome these families in and it was great! Thank you for bringing this idea to me, I'm looking forward to doing this again next year!

6 Day Cycle

- Elementary School Grade level teachers have the same prep period allowing for more opportunities if they want to meet as a team to initiatives and plan as a grade / this also allows me as the Principal to schedule grade level meetings with each of the teams since their prep periods align.
- If school is closed due to inclement weather, the next day that we return, the cycle day stays the same, so you do not miss a class (For example, we started school on Thursday, September 9th which was Day 1, the 10th - Day 2, the 13th - Day 3, the 14th - Day 4, the 15th Day 5, the 16th school was closed for Yom Kippur, so there is no cycle day, therefore the next day was Day 6)
- We have three lunches, two of which are all elementary and lunch is going very well
- K - 3 have specials 1x per day over a six day cycle
- Grade 4 has specials on a quarterly basis (3x per cycle), similar to what middle school students do. (Art, Music, Tech, Library)
- All students in grades K - 4 have Spanish once per cycle

Advisory Period (1x per cycle in grades K - 4) Students will learn about Social and Emotional Learning (SEL), Diversity, and Inclusion. Students meet our elementary school counselor, Mrs. Infante and discuss a different theme each cycle.

Genius Hour

Focuses on students exploring their own passions and interests while encouraging creativity in the classroom.

New Math Program

Our teachers are beginning to use the new math program i-ready Mathematics.

Recess

For the most part grade levels have recess together which is something that the students enjoy.

Back to School Night

Elementary Back to School Night is set for Thursday, September 30th.

Principal's Character Lunch Award

Will begin in November, which will give teachers time to better know the students to which they are nominating.

Middle School Principal's Report: Dr. Elizabeth Omega

Welcome to all new MS BTS families!

We are super excited for another great year, seeing students back in our buildings full time and getting ready for all the middle school has to offer!

We have a new schedule which we will share more about at BTSN which is September 29th at 6:30 which will be virtual.

We are excited for the return of sports and activities and to promote advocacy, independence, and a community of care within our middle school community.

Please make sure Genesis has your accurate email so you can receive my monthly digital newsletter and please reach out if you have any questions throughout the year as the BTS family is here to support you all.

Teacher Representative Patricia Leonti

I am so happy to be here, it is a very exciting year. A lot of wonderful new things are happening, I am very Blessed to work here. It is a wonderful school, awesome administrators, wonderful staff, and beautiful little children! Thank you for letting me join you.

Board of Education Report Giovanna Lamiera

We did not have an August meeting. If you review the agenda and minutes you can see that it was basically reviewing policies, funding, curriculum, different workshops and stipends that were approved.

Correspondence and Minutes Marissa Nolfi, Secretary

Thank you to all staff, administration, Board members and families for making this such an amazing community and district to be a part of.

- All PTO Meeting Minutes Reports can be found on our websites & social media
- A handful of Thank you's for teacher appreciation luncheon held at the end of last school year.
- Thank you's for this year's Welcome Back luncheon
- A wonderful amount of handwritten Thank you's from students who were selected as recipients of certain awards such as Spanish, Science, French, etc.

Motion to approve June 2021 Minutes. (Approvals cannot be from the PTO Board)

First: Ramsey Melendez

Second: Suzie Stevinson

Treasurer's Report Lisa Cohen, Treasurer

- Report is available on PTO website www.bedminsterpto.org
- Inflows: \$91.04
- Outflows: \$4508.04
- Main Account Balance 8/31/2021 \$56,611.83
- 50/50 Raffle Account Balance: \$300.00
- Total Cash Available: \$56,911.83
- PTO will be collecting memberships via PayPal friends and family at btsptotreasury@gmail.com Lisa Cohen

New Business

PTO Membership: Donations are always welcome!

Executive Board

- \$15 per Family
- Memberships fees will be collected virtually through PayPal friends & family using the email btsptotreasury@gmail.com
- Forms can also be found on our website.

PTO Meeting Schedule: (All meeting will be conducted virtually until further notice)

- **October 12, 2021**
- **November 9, 2021**
- **December 14, 2021**
- **January 11, 2022**
- **February 8, 2022**
- **March 8, 2022**
- **April 5, 2022**
- **May 10, 2022**
- **June 14, 2022**

Scholastic Book Fair: October 4th-8th. Danielle Fredella and Suzie Stevinson

Exciting news! The book fair will be back in person! All the money goes back to the teachers. The PTO is just a pass through, we usually sell about \$10,000 worth of books at Bedminster School. The school gets this back (roughly \$6,000) goes predominantly to the Middle School ELA teachers and the elementary school teachers, reading specialist and library. We give back to every teacher as well.

Kids will visit with their ELA class, Elementary will visit during their Library period.

You can pay with cash or check at the book fair. Checks can be made out to Bedminster School PTO or Cash.

PLEASE DO NOT MAKE CHECKS OUT TO SCHOLASTIC

There is also a new eWallet option, you can review the details on their website as well as on the email that was sent.

No Parent shopping days this year.

Teachers sometimes make Scholastic wish lists, Parents can send in a note stating the child can spend x amount on a book for the classroom as a donation from the family. You can also email Danielle or Suzie with this information.

Spirit Wear October 18-22nd

Jessica Pascale and Melissa Kircher

Danielle reporting-

Spirit wear flyer is currently being finalized. You will be able to shop online, pay online and your spirit wear will be shipped directly to your home.

Spring Fling: April 1, 2022

Laura Kamrow

Spring Fling is the PTO's main Fundraiser! We are keeping our fingers crossed that we can proceed normally with this event this year. This year will be our 23rd annual Fundraiser!

There are a variety of volunteer opportunities available.

Volunteers are needed!

Anyone interested in volunteering for Spring Fling committee, please email Laura at: LauradeZutter@yahoo.com

***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, Marissa Nolfi, 2 days in advance of the meeting date. pto@bedminsterschool.org

***Old Business**

Bulletin Boards

Danielle Fredella and Marissa Nolfi

Hope you were able to catch a glimpse of them. Pictures are posted on social media for those who have not been in the building.

Welcome Back Staff Luncheon September 8th
Danielle Fredella & Marissa Nolfi

The luncheon was very successful

Kindergarten/New Student Ice Cream Social
Danielle Fredella & Marissa Nolfi

Very nice to meet so many new families!

CardMyYard Marissa Havanec
September 8th-9th

“Welcome Back Bulldogs” sign was placed in front of the school building for the first two days back in school for students.

Marissa is a Bedminster resident and supports our community every which way she can. Highly recommend!

Ongoing Committees:

Assemblies

Sonia Marto

not present reported by Danielle Fredella

Stay tuned for information on new and exciting Assembly information.

Bedminster Charities Fall Fest

Stephanie Zultanky

Volunteers are Needed! Looking to form a new group to chair this event with Stephanie.

There is a meeting coming up, information to follow.

Donations & Corporate Matching

Executive Board

Still going on, reach out If your company has a match program.

Helping Hands

Suzie Stevinson

Nothing to report

Homerom Parents

Ramsey Melendez

Hoping to receive class lists soon.

All volunteers will be contacted by Ramsey and a meeting will be scheduled by Ramsey

PR/Social

Ramsey Melendez

September has had so much going on, social media has been very busy. If you need any information such as PayPal, Spirit Wear information, eWallet for Scholastic- All of this including links and QR codes will be found on our PTO website as well as Facebook and Instagram.

Please follow and Like us to see all the News and gather this Information!

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Closing Notes: Danielle Fredella, PTO President

Next meeting will be October 12, 2021 at 7:00pm

This meeting date is subject to change.

Meeting Closed at 8:01pm

****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 drafting a minutes report and to have a factual record of the meeting once minutes are submitted.***

