BEDMINSTER TOWNSHIP SCHOOL

Parent Teacher Organization

Meeting Minutes

[www.bedminsterpto.org](http://www.bedminsterpto.org)

[pto@bedminsterschool.org](mailto:pto@bedminsterschool.org)

September 11, 2018

**Start time: 7:13 pm**

**Welcome and Comments** – Ramsey Melendez, President

* Welcome everyone to a brand-new school year
* Bedminster PTO is chartering a new co-ed Cub Scout Pack, #1749, two members of the pack, Abigail and Jake, along with Cubmaster Howard Wolkow presented the colors followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence in remembrance of 9/11
* Induction of new board members: Vice president, Danielle Fredella, Secretary Meghan Schulze, Treasurer Ralph Wojtech, and Ramsey Melendez, President
* We have redone our website and make updates to it daily. Please head over there for any and all PTO info.

<http://www.bedminsterpto.org/>

**Superintendent’s Report** – Jennifer Giordano

* The administration is very happy to announce there were no changes for the first time in almost 9 years
* Reminder that the BOE meeting is every third Thursday of the month at 7:30 pm
* Meet and greet days with the administration 9/18 11:15am pre-k to 4, 9/25 at 11:15 am 5-8, but please feel free to come either day for any grade and bring a lunch or a snack
* PARCC presentation might move to September board meeting instead of October, please check the agenda once posted
* We are having a building dedication this year for the 25th anniversary, looking for someone to run/help make it fun for the kids to celebrate 25 years, no date given yet
* Air quality issue
  + we have stabilized the down stairs.
  + Mr. Lefurge’s, music room on the main level has been closed due to this issue, NO students or staff have been in the room. The remediation team is coming to clean and remove the carpet and install tile, should be open by Back to School Night.
  + Over the next few years most of the main level will have tile installed during holiday breaks and summer vacations to help prevent air quality issues
* New district goals
  + **Wellness** Improve students’ social, emotional, behavioral and mental health needs,
  + Raise **student achievement** for all; provide support for students to reach his or her highest level of proficiency, focusing primarily on Math,
  + Improve **safety and security** of students and staff, please visit the school website under information for a more in-depth explanation

**Supervisor of Student Services -** Dr. Jane Petrozzino

* any concerns about your child’s needs whether emotional, academic, and/or special education, please reach out to the teacher and [jpetrozzino@bedminsterschool.org](mailto:jpetrozzino@bedminsterschool.org) 908-234-0768 x 290

**Principal’s Report** – Corby Swan

* Welcome to the new school year
* Thank you, PTO for Teachers' Luncheon, water filling station, sound system, Ice-Cream Social, and the kindergarten volunteers
* We have added 20 min recess for **all** students (K-8), we are a year ahead of the state-wide mandate, the kids are having a blast outside
* Double door buzzer on not only the main doors but also the doors by the cafetorium
* You must sign in at the front desk and receive the bright yellow pass and place it on your chest, (not on your pant leg or bag) again this is to keep the students and staff safe
* If you are late dropping your child off at school, you are now required to walk your child in and sign them in at the front desk for all grade levels
* We had 10 new hires in the district that we are very excited about:
  + Para-professionals Brianna DiMaggio and Kaitlyn Baccarini, special education teacher Bethany Swift, 4th grade teachers Natalie Basile, Jessica Carlin, middle school French teacher Jennifer Holzberger, maternity leave replacements Samantha Grundstrom and Emily Derico, office secretary Mary Anne Wilcock and nurse Mrs. McKeown (starting in October)
* Kick off assembly “All In” 9/12
* Next week daily announcements will now be available on the front page of the school website for 3 days, then removed. This will give you information on clubs, tryouts, sports, etc.
* School will be closed 9/19
* Back to School Night 9/26 pre-k to 4 @ 6:30 pm with a 1:30 pm school wide dismissal
* Back to School Night 9/27 5-8 @ 6:30 pm with a 1:30 pm school wide dismissal

**Teacher Representative** – Chuck Hogan

* Welcome back everyone, Thank you for the luncheon, Ice-Cream Social, water filling station, and the sound system
* Looking forward to the 25th anniversary for the school
* Looking to get 100 % teacher membership to the PTO again this year

**Board of Education Report** – Suzie Stevinson, deferred to Howard Wolkow

* special committee working on the safety guidelines and working with administration to keep our school safe
* recess policy no time is being taken away from instruction, thank you to the administration for all their help with the scheduling
* Next Thursday 9/20 teacher’s lounge for the first BOE meeting at 7:30pm

**Correspondence and Minutes** – Meghan Schulze, Secretary

* Thank you from Jennifer Giordano- to the outgoing PTO board and welcome to the new board
* Thank you from Kathy Godfrey – Teacher’s Welcome Back Lunch
* Thank you from Mary Marone- for retirement gift
* Thank you from Kristen Deckhut- for Spring Fling tickets
* Thank you from the Gardening Club for all help they have received with special thanks to Anna Spitaleri and very generous Bedminster family.
* Thank you notes from the 8th graders that received PTO awards at the 2018 Promotion Ceremony
* Thank you from last year’s first grade for the visit of “Checkers” the penguin
* Thank you from last year’s 7th grade class for the exotic animals' assembly
* June 2018 minutes approved and accepted

**Treasurer’s Report** – Ralph Wojtech, Treasurer

* July was very quiet
* August spending increased as we gear up for the year
* Thank you to Howard Wolkow for donation from company matching program
* Inflow from smile.amazon.com which works with your established Amazon account

**New Business**

**“Bulldog Monthly"** – Board Members

* http://www.bedminsterpto.org/newsletter.html
* Newsletter went out as an email blast from the school to each family
* will come out at the end of every month
* please let us know if you did not receive it

**Chairpersons Needed**: Ramsey Melendez

* Back to School Night Hospitality- September
* Kindergarten registration – February

**PTO Membership & Directory**- Martin Johansson

* Website is up and running: https://bedminster.planitpto.com/
* Registering on-line is easy and quick
* if you have any issues please email Ramsey or Martin [melendez.family07@yahoo.com](mailto:melendez.family07@yahoo.com) or [mgjo2012@outlook.com](mailto:mgjo2012@outlook.com)
* Standard Membership: $10 per family or Upgraded Membership: $20 per family if you would like access to the directory as well as membership.
* If you would like to pay by check or cash please send your payment into school in an envelope marked “PTO Membership” along with the following information: Parent(s) first and last name, email address and phone number, as well as student(s) name(s) and grades. If you opt into the directory this information will be displayed.

**PTO Meeting Schedule:**

http://www.bedminsterpto.org/meeting-dates.html

October 9: 7 pm room - 315

November 13: 9:30am – Teacher’s Lounge

December 11: 7pm – room 315

January 8: 7pm – room 315

February 12: 7 pm – room 315

March 12: 7pm - room 315

April 9: 7pm - room 315

May 14: 7 pm – room 315

June 11: 7pm - room 315

**India Hicks:** Allison Gershon

* http://www.bedminsterpto.org/india-hicks---promo.html
* PTO fundraiser running now through October 28th
* 20% of all sales will go directly to the PTO
* Will have a table a Fall Fest for viewing merchandise in person

**PBA 2nd Annual Kickball Tournament**: September 15th (rain date 9/29): Stephanie Zultanky

* http://www.bedminsterpto.org/kickball-tournament.html
* The PTO will be sponsoring a team
* River Road Park 10 am start time
* 2 slots still open if anyone would like to play
* Fundraiser for the Bedminster Police Department

**Cub Scouts** **Pack #1749**: Howard Wolkow

* http://www.bedminsterpto.org/cub-scouts.html
* 9/17 First meeting and Sign up at 7pm in the Cafetorium
* For grades K - 5
* Open to both Boys and Girls

**Back to School Night Hospitality**: September 26 and 27: Kimmy Rich and Meghan Schulze

* http://www.bedminsterpto.org/back-2-school-night-hospitality.html
* Sept 26, Pre-K thru 4th @ 6:30pm
* Sept 27, 5 thru 8th @ 6:30pm

**Scholastic Book Fair:** Suzie Stevinson and Danielle Fredella

* October 1 – 5: http://www.bedminsterpto.org/scholastic-book-fair.html
* Children will go during their library classes
* Sign up for volunteers https://signup.com/client/invitation2/secure/2458469/false#/invitation
* There will be morning, afternoon and evening shopping hours for parents

**Halloween Events:** October 19

**Spooktacular**: 5-6:30 pm Danielle Fredella & Jen Cera- Johansson

* Please RSVP online <http://www.bedminsterpto.org/spooktacular.html>
* Flyers will be going home in a few weeks with rsvp form attached
* RSVP is necessary for our pizza order please
* Volunteers will be need for help during the event: [deefredella@yahoo.com](mailto:deefredella@yahoo.com)

**Trunk or Treat:** 6:30 pm, Giovanna Lamiera

* Need 20 families to decorate their cars [giovannalamiera@gmail.com](mailto:giovannalamiera@gmail.com) or

http://www.bedminsterpto.org/trunk-or-treat.html

* Must provide enough candy for 200-220, plus kids

**Bedminster Charities Fall Fest:** Tara Mulcahy and Meriah Valente

* October 27th, 11 – 5 pm @ River Road Park
* New events this year possible Halloween costume contest for kids and pets
* Volunteers needed across the whole event,

https://signup.com/client/invitation2/secure/2384642/false#/invitation

* PTO volunteers are needed as well for the PTO tent

https://signup.com/client/invitation2/secure/2467693/false#/invitation

* The event benefits 7 charities in Bedminster, PTO being one of them, we need volunteers to make the day a success

**Spring Fling:** Sandy Ruzicka & Carolyn Richardson

* http://www.bedminsterpto.org/spring-fling1.html
* Trump National Golf Club on April 26, 2019
  + Attendance at The Ryland Inn last April was down 20% from 2017.
  + Returning to Trump National give us more flexibility, more for our money, more space and keeps the event local which aids in set up and break down.
* Main fundraiser for the PTO
* Bigger than ever as this is the 20th anniversary
* Please visit the list of last year's business that donated and say thank you or say ‘thanks’ on their social media accounts “Thanks for supporting Bedminster PTO”
* Volunteer sign up will be coming out
* Any questions please email: sandy.ruzicka@gmail.com

**Old Business**

**2017-2018 PTO Gifts**: Anna Spitaleri

* Water filling station is up and running on the third floor
* Sound system – was installed and ready for use
* Outside bulletin board- new board came and is being installed before the week is out

**Teacher Welcome Back Luncheon**: Linda Fragassi- Thank you

**Kindergarten & New Student Ice Cream Social**: Lisa Cohen- Thank you

**Kindergarten Bussing Volunteers**: September 6,7,11,12: Ramsey Melendez

Thank you to the following volunteers: Howard Wolkow, Meghan Schulze, Suzie Stevinson, Sammy D’Antuono, Jessica Pascale, Matt Mulcahy, Rebecca Deleon, Meriah Valente, Laurie Anderson, Amanda Johnson and Ramsey Melendez

**Ongoing Committees**

**Box Tops**: Stephanie Zultanky, Lisa Cohen & Nicole Calicchio

* http://www.bedminsterpto.org/boxtops.html
* Please start saving
* Contest coming soon

**Bulletin Board**: Jodi Coleman & Faith Costabile

* http://www.bedminsterpto.org/bulletin-boards.html
* The boards look great, thank you Jodi and Faith

**CIC, The HUB**: Anna Spitalari

* http://www.bedminsterpto.org/cic-the-hub.html
* Vaping-information will be available for parents at the middle school Back to School Night on 9/27
* Middle School volunteer Thursdays- more to come
* Friday night music night for high school students-more to come

**Helping Hands**: Linda Fragassi

* http://www.bedminsterpto.org/helping-hands.html
* No family at this time

**Homeroom Parents**: Suzie Stevinson & Jen Calpin

* http://www.bedminsterpto.org/homeroom-parent.html
* Please contact us for your folders and any questions

**Social Media/Website:** Ramsey and Izzy Melendez

* Re-Vamped website: [www.bedminsterpto.org](http://www.bedminsterpto.org)
  + Lots of new information and helpful contact info as well
* Like us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter

**Programs/Assemblies**: Angela Gatto, Myla Williams & Renee Hachey

* http://www.bedminsterpto.org/programs--assemblies.html
* 9/12, “All In” Challenge, all about inclusion
* BMX Stunt Show, “Perfection on Wheels” is coming in October
* Brain Games will be returning in November

**SHEF:** Ramsey Melendez & Marisa Austenberg

* http://www.bedminsterpto.org/shef.html
* Nothing to report at this time

**Spirit Wear**: Jessica Pascale & Melissa Kircher

* http://www.bedminsterpto.org/spirit-wear.html
* On-line sale will be first 2 weeks of November. Keep a look out

**8th Grade:** Suzie Stevinson & Tina Costello

* Please help with all the fundraising as one day your child will also be in 8th grade
* ‘Save Around’ coupon books going on sale next week
* Hershey Chocolate – early October
* 50/50 raffle
* We will have a table at Bedminster Charities Fall Fest

**NEXT PTO MEETING**: **Tuesday October 10th, @ 7 pm, Room 315**

**Meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm**

**Respectfully submitted by: Meghan Schulze – BTS PTO Secretary**

**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 may be recorded for the sole purpose of writing the minutes.**