**Bedminster Township School**

**Parent Teacher Organization**

**Meeting Minutes**

**December 11, 2012 (Unapproved)**

**Welcome Comments - Deborah Weiss, co-president**

\* Meeting called to order at 7:34 p.m.

**Meeting Minutes – Lori Crowell, co-secretary**

\* September 2012 minutes were approved

**Superintendent – Ms. Carolyn Koos**

\* Had a family obligation and could not be present.

**Principal’s Report – Mr. Corby Swan**

\* Happy to attend his fist “official” meeting as principal. Thanked everyone for their support and kindness.

\* Winter sports (girls and boys basketball) are in full swing. The staff is working hard, and has been very receptive to him and Ms. Giordano, and some of the small changes that have been made. He was at school during parent-teacher conferences and many parents gave positive feedback. He also has heard positive feedback about this year’s Holiday Workshop. Tomorrow night is band/orchestra concert.

\* On Friday Dec. 14th it is the first marking period honor roll award breakfast. About 190 students will be honored, and he hopes to have more students on the honor roll during the second marking period. It has been a great start to the school year.

\* One of his goals is to see the Bedminster School “Bulldog” better promoted/represented around the school. He would like to see the Bulldog icon more prominently displayed. It was mentioned from the membership that there is a bulldog costume in the PTO closet; the suggestion was made to wear the costume at sporting games and other school events to help promote school spirit.

**Supervisor of Instruction – Ms. Jennifer Giordano**

\* Upcoming events include spelling and geography bees on Jan. 10. Spelling bee is for grades 4 and 5; geography is grades 5 to 8. In years past kids never had a lot of time to prepare for the geography bee so they opened it up this year in order for kids to have a few months to study. Both items are on the school calendar.

\* Teachers are being offered a lot of professional development opportunities this year. If kids come home and say their teacher was out of the classroom for part of the day, wants parents to know that this is going to happen because of all the new initiatives; teachers need to be trained properly. In order to provide the best education for our students, it’s important that teachers are trained properly.

**Teacher representative – Mr. Chuck Hogan**

\* Thanked PTO for the Holiday Tea. Food was great and it was much appreciated.

\* He is sorry we didn’t have the Halloween carnival this year.

\* Book fair and holiday workshop also were excellent.

**Board of Education representative – Emily Casperson**

\* Thank you to Amy Herrick for hosting party.

\* Board of Education appointed Monica Burch to Board of Education. She will be on board through next December 2013, but can run for another term in November 2013 if she so chooses.

\* Next board meeting is Dec. 20. The board also will be meeting on Jan. 2 for reorganization. This year it will be a joint reorganization with township at Trump National Golf Course. A dinner is afterward, $30 per person but the public need not attend the dinner portion. She feels it is exciting to have both of the town’s governing bodies reorganizing together.

**Treasurer’s Report – Jessica Pascale**

\* First report read was from the November meeting that was postponed due to inclement weather. From the time period of 9/30 to 10/31, cash inflows were $170 and outflows were $8,265.29. The bank balance as of 11/26 was $43,732.97.

\* The December cash report is from 10/31 to 11/30, and inflows were $9,347.03 and outflows $297.99. Bank balance as of 12/10 was $48,587.97.

**New Business**

\* Deb took a test with Basil Scaperdas of the town’s boy scouts in order for the boy scouts to keep their charter. They took an online child abuse awareness course and they both passed it.

\* A PTO grant was awarded to Pat Palmieri for a nutrition program. A letter will be sent to staff explaining again about the grant program and how to apply. Deb said we want the teachers to take initiative and utilize the money that’s available to them.

\* SchoolKidz. As discussed at the last meeting, SchoolKidz is a school supply kit program that the PTO was looking into implementing for the 2013 school year. Each kit comes with all the school supplies a child needs, and is personalized with child’s name and grade. These kits will be waiting on the childrens’ desks on the first day of school and will include all the supplies that were provided by/approved by the teachers. The idea is to give parents one less thing to worry about at the end of the summer, for about the same cost as buying your own school supplies. This will not be for profit the first year. As soon as a list of supplies is received from the teachers, a price for the kit will be determined and announced. No minimum number of orders for committing to it.

By a vote of hands, it was decided to proceed with the program. Jessica will keep everyone up to date on the progress.

**Old Business**

\* Halloween events. Due to Hurricane Sandy, all Halloween events were cancelled. Gina Fernandez indicated that non-perishable items and games that were bought are in the closet and can be used next year.

\* First PTO Tea was a huge success. Deb thanked Kori Edwards and everyone who contributed and helped make the event a success. Teachers appreciated the gesture and had a nice time.

\* Book Fair. The book fair also was a huge success according to Jenn McAdoo, who complemented Ms. Quinn on doing a great job organizing and setting up. Total amount collected was $11,326.47. Amount the PTO earned after paying Scholastic back was $5,596.97, which will be given to us in book fair credits to be divided evenly among Ms. Quinn for the library and the middle school. It was asked what the profit would be if we chose to receive cash and not book fair credits; the dollar amount would be half the amount of the book credits.

\* Spring Fling. Steve Goldman could not be present. Volunteers are still needed to hand out flyers soliciting local business for ads and sponsorship. Volunteers also needed to address envelopes, etc. He also is looking for volunteers to help type up labels for mailings. Karna Johnsen mentioned she was having a meeting with Steve to go over solicitation and other important points related to Spring Fling. She said there actually is a mail merge Excel file and no one will have to type labels. She will get Steve on board with everything Spring Fling related.

\* Spirit wear. Profit was $966. It has been discussed possibly selling spirit wear again in the spring, and adding new merchandise such as blankets. Deb said it was also hard to find a Bulldog logo for spirit wear.

\* Helping hands. Ellen Reyda was contacted by NJ.com to do an article on our Helping Hands program. During Hurricane Sandy, Deb went to town hall and gave our Helping Hands information to them in the event anyone needed assistance.

\* Homeroom parents. There will be a homeroom parent meeting in January just prior to the regular PTO meeting at 6:30 p.m.

\* Programs and assemblies. Karna Johnsen said the next assembly will be January 17, and it will be kids’ interactive theater for the younger grades (a one-woman show). Grades 5 to 8 will be enjoying “The Living Voices” which is a social studies-based them focusing on immigrating to Ellis Island. In February, Shakespeare’s “A Comedy of Errors” is planned for middle school students. Karna said teachers have always been great with preparing the kids with material prior to the Shakespeare programs.

\* 8th grade fundraising. Holiday workshop just concluded. It was well supported and there were a variety of items this year; almost everything sold. Those in attendance at the PTO meeting also were reminded to consider participating in the ongoing Scripps gift card program.

Other upcoming fundraisers are chocolate sale in February/March and the student faculty basketball game. Maureen Murphy thanked administration for their ongoing support.

**Meeting adjourned 8:05 p.m.**