**Bedminster Township School**

**Parent Teacher Organization**

Meeting Minutes (Unapproved)

February 12, 2013

**Welcome and Comments -- Deborah Weiss**

\* Meeting called to order at 7:10 p.m.

**Approval of Jan. 2013 minutes -- Marisa Austenberg, co-secretary**

\* Minutes approved

**Board of Education Representative -- Jennifer Johanssen**

\* Board representative has been to one meeting so far. The budget is the major issue for the Board of Education presently. There is a lot of number crunching for unexpected expenses. There is a tentative date of March 6th at 7:30 for the public to attend. The regular Board meeting is set for February 21st.

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

\* Today was the 3rd grade production of “Alice in Wonderland” in which I played the part of the Mad Hatter. I enjoyed it very much.

\* Girls Basketball team won their first playoff game a few weeks ago; they then lost to the #1 seed in the 2nd round. It was a great accomplishment for them.

\* QSAC monitoring took place a few weeks ago. We did very well; they were checking on both current and past things. They were very impressed with our school and our district. Dr. Beverley Hettrick came back a second time in which we visited about 10% of the classrooms; she was impressed with what we do and our vision for the school and the district. My vision is that we are a premier and model K-8 district where people come to us to do what we do. Recommendations were to pay attention to curriculum, policy and school safety.

\* School safety. Wants to make sure everyone is identified when they come into the building by signing in and getting tags. Lifetouch badges are being worn by all teachers and staff. He is working in conjunction with Mr. Acosta to get proximity cards in the district instead of keys to enable tracking at five different doors of the building.

\* 8th grade/Faculty basketball game rescheduled to April 19th, Friday, so as to not interfere with Spring Fling.

\* Drop off procedures need to be followed by everyone. Drop off is at 8:45 due to lack of supervision until that time. Discussion ensued among the membership: questions regarding lack of parental knowledge about the policy, suggestion to put a sign up regarding drop off time outside in the morning, and addressing those parents directly who are in violation.

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

\* This is the last week of training for elementary teachers in Math in Focus and the Fundamentals program for elementary grades.

\* A new Wellness Council/Committee started involving teachers, nurses, Maschio’s Food Service and parents and Administration to foster a healthier community here at Bedminster. They are looking to meet in the next few weeks to set a mission, vision and an action plan to cater to educating teachers, parents and students.

\* The Anti-bullying team has met; the primary focus is maintaining the positive school climate and identifying trends and patterns of the HIB’s. We have one-half of the number of HIB’s this year than last. Guidance has put in a lot of work meeting with small groups and classes. We are reviewing our policies and reporting procedures and seeing where we can make changes. (Discussion from membership regarding the HIB policy being discussed in a workshop; policy is on the website; teaching conflict resolution to students done through Guidance; video presentation with bullet points put on the website as a resource for parents suggested; peer leaders are a part of the school program)

**Teacher Representative – Mr. Chuck Hogan**

\* Thank you for Kit’s Interactive Theater.

\* On behalf of Ms. Quinn: Preparations are under way for Read across America. A variety of guest readers scheduled, state officials, public officials and Sparky the Somerset Patriots mascot will participate on March 1st.

**Correspondence -- Lori Crowell, co-secretary**

\* Thank you’s sent from Miss Valentine and her class for Kit’s Theater.

**Spring Fling -- Steve Goldman**

\* We are 4-½ weeks until Spring Fling. Invitations are out; tickets can be purchased online, set up by Gary Johnsen; we are filling up the ad journal with former and new advertisers; donations are coming in daily; class baskets will number 30; volunteers are being solicited for “night of” and can sign up on my signup for help with basket ticket sales and casino ticket sales, etc. Baskets and merchandise needed.

\* Question from Mr. Hogan about placing an ad: contact Steve, payment by credit card or cash.

**Treasurer’s Report – Deborah Weiss for Jessica Pascale, treasurer**

\* Cash flow for Dec. 31, 2012 to Jan. 31, 2013 is: inflows-$51.55, outflows-$2,714.16, bank balance as of February 11th--$35,568.79.

**New Business**

\* Many new grants approved: Mr. LeFurge for the spring musical, Mrs. Palmeri, K-2 Fundations approved tonight, PE for Miss Thomas.

\* Mini grants: Miss Burke for Zooburst, PE equipment, all field trip bussing approved.

**Old Business**

\* SchoolKidz--Not a for-profit program for the PTO. It gives parents an opportunity to have their kid’s supplies provided for them on the first day of school. Lists are supplied by the teachers. Kindergarten forms are on back table. PK and grades 1-8 lists are still being made. March 25 forms will be distributed to home and online. This is a service for the parents.

\* Kindergarten Registration--Began today and continues tomorrow morning. Thanks to Kim Rich for organizing the volunteers.

\* Riding camps. River Edge Farms looking for teachers to teach their favorite subject, hobby or interest or the camp’s curriculum in arts, environmental science, photography, gardening, etc. It is an 8 week camp in the summer. Flyers on back table; see website and call Mercedes for information.

**Ongoing Committees**

\* Greenhouse Update. Vote to reallocate the $3,000 originally set aside for the Greenhouse project that is no longer viable. A determination is to be made at a later meeting on where that money will go. There was a question from the membership as to the nature of the vote being for re-allocating the money only. Question on the amount: $3,000 was the amount in clarification. Vote: by a show of hands, in favor to reallocate the $3,000.

\* Homeroom Parents -- Mary Kessler & Suzie Stevinson--No news.

\* Programs/Assemblies. Karna Johnsen said Kit’s Interactive Theater was great. Miss Valentine reported that her kids were playing kings and queens at recess; it had an impact on them. Living Voices took place the same day for the MS, reflecting on immigration. Coming on February 21st is NJ Shakespeare Theater will do “A Comedy of Errors”. Author visits: Brad Herzog for the elementary grades; for the middle school, Poetry Meets Percussion, March 19th, gr 5-6 at 9:15-10:15 and gr 7-8 at 10:15-11:00. Schoolwide event: discussion with Mr. Hazen and Mrs. Schecter to find an alternate date; details to be worked out with administration regarding splitting the day into two days to not interfere with academics. The theme is Sustainable Agriculture, involving Katy Rupert and Kori Edwards, tying in with the Wellness Committee. Question from membership regarding the need for parent volunteers: there will be a need for some. A determination will be made closer to the event.

\* 8th Grade Fundraising. Maureen Murphy said Snow Ball dance moved to March 1st.

\* Question from membership regarding getting parent volunteers for the K-2 lunch period directed to Mr. Swan. Discussion ensued among the membership, with Mr. Swan, about the issues surrounding the long lines on Fridays and the need to move the kids through the line, the need for security in the school, keeping the least amount of people in the school, the safety concerns regarding the kids. Mr. Swan to speak to Maschio’s about their role in fixing this issue; suggestion made to have the Kindergarten come in 5 minutes early to get a head start. Parental assistance used during the first week of school only by upper grade parents.

Meeting adjourned 8:07 p.m. Next meeting is March 12, 2013.