**Bedminster Township School**

**Parent Teacher Organization**

Meeting Minutes

January 8, 2012

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

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

**Approval of December 2012 minutes - Marisa Austenberg, co-secretary**

\* Minutes approved

**Superintendent’s Report - Ms. Carolyn Koos**

\* Appreciation and thanks given to PTO board for their time on behalf of the school.

\* The school year is full of activities and mandates. January 25th will be the NJ Quality Single Accountability Continuum where the school is inspected and checked for correct documentation. Thanks to the District Advisory Committee who put in a lot of time researching evaluation tools for teachers by a vote 11-4 for the Danielson Framework also used by Somerset County. Thanks to Caitlyn Parker, Emily Caspersen, Monica Burch, Karna Johnsen, Mr. Swan, Ms. Giordano and Miss Vaught. Thanks to teachers Miss Valentine, Mr. Oliveri, Mr. Schoch, Mr. Puglia, Ms. Burke, Ms. Mitchell and Mrs. Palmeri for their time and hard work.

\* Our new administration team is working well with all of their responsibilities. Welcome to new BOE members Jennifer Cerra-Johansson, Laura Malley and Monica Burch. Board recognition month is January (applause). Thanks to retiring Board members Caitlyn Parker and Emily Caspersen for their countless hours, time and talents.

\* Energizing school Website to make it more user-friendly. Hope to incorporate our bulldog and school colors.

\* The budget work is in process; it will be a challenge. The calendar is in progress. We have had some crises to deal with, Hurricane Sandy and Newtown.

\* New Mission Statement “Bedminster: Developing World Class Learners and Global Citizens.” Goal is continuous improvement and our vision is excellence for all.

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

\* Friday Folder message regarding AM drop off is borne out of safety for the children. 8:45 is when children may start coming into the building. There is before care available for parents who need it. No one is there to supervise the kids in the vestibule before that time.

\* Geography Bee and Spelling Bee are this Thursday at 2 and 6 pm, respectively; both are to be held at school.

\* For safety concerns, changes regarding buzzing in have been made to make sure parents get to main office to sign in. New badges have been ordered from Lifetouch to replace stickers. Safety is the utmost concern.

\* Crisis Safety Committee will meet this month to discuss school safety and security procedures. Thanks to Jason Anagnostis for serving on that committee.

\*HIB reports are down significantly. Staff is working to teach students how to deal with their issues. Anti-bullying Safety Team will also be meeting this month. Thanks to Tracey Schuller and William Rosen, parent representatives.

\* Third and final writing workshop for K-4 teachers to be held in February. Final Math in Focus training for K-5 teachers will be in mid-February.

\* Wellness Family Consumer Science Professional Learning Community has been established. This will bring together families, PE and health educators, Maschio’s Food Service representatives, nursing staff and administration to discuss health and wellness issues.

\* Beauty and the Beast school production going very well. Mr. Swan has a cameo.

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

Not present; included in Principal’s report

**Teacher Representative – Mr. Chuck Hogan**

\* Looking forward to the upcoming assemblies this week. Thank you for the party last month; it was great and thank you for all that you do for us.

**Board of Education Representative - Caitlyn Parker**

(New representative to be determined)

\* The Board reorganized on January 2 with the Township Committee supporting a push for shared services. New members were sworn in and Board President Lou Casella gave a talk about upcoming challenges, including the budget. There have been a number of unexpected expenses incurred to affect next year’s budget. A new representative to the PTO will be appointed for next month.

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

\* A large number of thank you notes received from the staff and administration for the PTO tea. It was enjoyed by all; holding it with P/T conferences was much appreciated. Thanks to Kori Edwards for chairing this event.

**Treasurer’s Report - Jessica Pascale, treasurer**

\* Cash flow for November 30th to December 31st is inflows $6,078.99, outflows $13,211.44, bank balance as of January 8th is $37,296.10.

\* Income from Spirit Wear was $966 as profit; BCGC $5000; Book Fair profit was converted into book credits for the teachers and RLA teachers. We may do more Spirit Wear in the spring.

**New Business**

\* Jennifer McAdoo. Snowflakes for Sandy snowflakes were collected in the lobby for the Sandy Hook PTA to decorate the school there with a winter wonderland theme. They will be mailed on Wednesday, January 9th.

\* Grants approved for nutrition and health for the classroom for Mrs. Pat Palmeri; Costumes for spring musical for Mr. LeFurge. Requests for grants notice to be sent to teachers.

\* Spring Musical. Mr. LeFurge said a number of children either participate in or attend the musical; exposure to theater broadens in 5th grade. Dates are April 11 & 12 with Mr. Swan participating. Budget issues led to request for a grant, in addition to the money budgeted for the musical, due to the elaborate nature of the costumes required. Mr. LeFurge’s sister-in-law, a professional seamstress, will be helping as well with the costumes.

**Old Business**

\* Thank you to Kori Edwards for chairing the 1st PTO Holiday Tea; it was a great opportunity for our teachers to get together and enjoy each other during the holidays. Thanks to everyone who helped make it a success.

\* Spring Fling. Deb Weiss and Steve Goldman, chair, still looking for volunteers. Please contact him or Deb Weiss.

\* Thank you to Amy Herrick for hosting the December Holiday meeting at her home.

**Ongoing Committees**

\* Greenhouse Update. Karna Johnsen. Review of history of greenhouse project given. Alternatives offered due to complex issues surrounding installation of greenhouse. The desire is to stick with the theme of Agriculture/Garden State. Another alternative is the purchasing of an electronic sign for the lobby as was wanted by Dr. Rinko. Explanation was given to the membership of the various uses for the sign as it would benefit the students, teachers and parents in the school. The cost would be about half of the original money allotted for the greenhouse. The other portion of the money would go to purchasing portable greenhouses for use in the classrooms with one going to each floor or combination of classrooms, to be determined. The theme for the “day of” would be sustainable agriculture with these greenhouses being tied into that theme. Questions regarding reissue of grant money solicited from the membership by board president Deb Weiss; none asked. Vote to be taken at the February meeting.

\* Homeroom Parents Committee (Mary Kessler & Suzie Stevinson). Homeroom parent meeting held prior to PTO meeting.

\* Programs/Assemblies (Monica Burch & Karna Johnsen). Upcoming programs aiming to cover the core curriculum include Kit’s Interactive Theater for the elementary grades on Jan. 17: K-2 at 9:15-10:00 and grades 3-4 at 10:15-11. Living Voices will do a presentation called “The New American” about immigration related to history and social studies, from 1:45-2:45 on January 17. Coming on February 10 is NJ Shakespeare Theater’s “A Comedy of Errors.’’ RLA teachers do an amazing job preparing the students for their visit. Author visits: Brad Herzog for the elementary grades and 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.

\* Helping Hands. Ellen Reyda not present; quiet so far.

\* 8th Grade Fundraising. Maureen Murphy said Lisa Coakley and Amy Matinho will be holding the Snow Ball dance with DJ, snacks, activities and photos taken. PK-4 may attend with parents/guardians; date will be Feb. 8.

***Meeting adjourned 7:37 pm. Next meeting will be February 12, 2013.***